

Work Area:	Parent Carer Forum
Boards Attended by Rep Team:	See Report Below
Reporting period:	April 1 st to May 31st

Identified Themes:	Preparing for Adulthood Concerns, Support and Signposting Requirements, Cost of Living Crisis.
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FORUM VIEWS/ ISSUES/ PROGRESS

- Forum concerns/ issues
- Forum Plans
- Forum Actions (From Boards/ Meetings)

Family Voice Peterborough (FVP) is a local charity tht works with parent carers of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) aged between 0-25. We are the designed Parent Carer Forum and work across Education, Health and Social care. Our aims are to ensure that Parent Care voices are represented, and to work collaboratively with partners to improve services and provision for those with SEND. Our vision is to ensure parent carers have the services that they need, are informed, can contribute, and are empowered to support their child and peers, and can balance their carer role by accessing wider opportunities.

We have spent years on developing critically constructive working relationships with the Local Authority with the view to facilitating coproduction.

We continue to work with the Local Authority and have developed an evidence based approach to collecting, analysing and presenting data in an objective manner. Our parent carers present this information and seek feedback with the view to improving service provision.

Meetings attended

SEND Operations Group
 SEND Strategy Group
 SEND Executive
 Preparing for Adulthood independent living working group
 Statutory assessment monitoring service (SAM's) data discussion
 Accelerated progress plan meeting
 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Personalised care working group
 Independent Travel Training meeting
 Aiming High Group
 Joy mobilisation Task
 Finish Group
 Carers Programme Board
 Peterborough City Council SEND forum
 SEND health advisory group
 Preparing for Adulthood health group
 Carers Partnership board pre-meeting
 Cease to maintain working group
 Carers Partnership Board
 PCVS disability forum
 Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum

Five day offer
 SEND Green Paper Review
 All Age Autism Workforce and Training Group
 Children's and Maternity mental health wellbeing board
 Physical disability Partnership Board
 Wheelchair Partnership Group
 Preparing for adulthood steering group
 EHCP improvement group
 Multiagency EHCP audit group
 Young peoples and families coproduction collaborative
 Learning Disability Partnership Board
 Peterborough Health and Care Forum
 Adult coproduction collaborative
 School offer (William Law, Beeches primary school, Ken Stimpson School, Middleton primary, Botolph primary school)
 Health and Social Care wider agency professionals, statutory multiagency training
 SEND Partnership stakeholder meeting

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE VIEWS/ ISSUES

- Meetings attended (Title/ Number)
- Hours Devoted to forum work
- Methods used to gather parent carer views
- Number of parent carers being represented
- Any concerns identified by parent rep and who these have been fed back to

Rep Meeting Attendance

Number of Meetings	Duration of meeting in hours (please multiply duration by number of reps)	Travel Time (In Hours) - Please multiply by number of reps	Total Admin/Prep time In Hours
25	36	2	24

Boards & Meetings

Reports have gone to the following boards, and the same messages have been shared.

- SEND Exec Board
- SEND Strategy
- Planning Together

Rep Concerns

Concerns mentioned in the FVP annual report and last quarterly report have been fed back to commissioners, LA and Health partners in strategic meetings. The reports have been shared publically, and they detail what parent carers are telling the PCF team.

- Parent carer resilience is low
- Parent carers require more practical support
- Education in itself is not the primary concern of families
- Concerns regarding terminology and language used in meetings are not mindful of the audience or attendees.
- Parent Carers bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience this is not always recognised by other attendees or participants.

- Meeting governance would benefit from being more structured to enable equal engagement and participation.

Schools Offer

FVP currently offer support to schools that ranges from coffee morning attendance to training and SEN Information Report review. Parent reps are engaging currently with William Law, Beeches, Middleton and Ken Stimpson.

It is too early to provide a full progress report. There are some areas that will require focus, to ensure this work is successful. During the work we have conducted so far we have engaged with 15 parents and we have our first SEND dad's group due to be delivered. This piece of work has enabled us to engage new parent carers.

Data Gathering

Currently the main ways that data has been gathered have been:

- Three surveys
- Open Forum Sessions
- Parent Carer Hub
- Seldom Heard Community Forum
- Facebook
- Direct Parent Carer Contact
- Increasing participation from a diverse group of people

Since April 2022 **18** new parent carers have been added to FVP's records for parent engagement.

71 Parent carers have responded to surveys.

60 approx. parent carers have taken part in virtual or face to face sessions.

Green Paper

The team have held some meetings to look at the green paper consultation document and are scoping a joint response. The consultation document was broken down and each team member has had responsibility for collating a response under the area allocated to them.

Accelerated Progress Plan

A focus group took place with parent carers with current lived experience of PfA to help develop actions/ targets to be incorporated into the APP. Those parent carers who took part have not engaged previously.

PARENT CARER VIEWS/ ISSUES

- Views Via You Said – We Did
- Complaints/ Concerns
- Compliments
- Your Say Form

Contact from 26 parent carers with the concerns raised falling into the following areas.

- Short breaks
- Part time tabling
- Social Isolation/Parent Carer mental health and wellbeing
- Challenging behaviour – family impact
- Life skills support
- Social activities for young person with ADHD
- Requires EHCp
- Behaviour/self-harm
- What should school provision look like
- Parent support groups
- Family Relationships
- Financial worries

Survey Response Themes:

- Concern for the future
- What are the social care/ supported living options for young people
- How will bills be paid/ food be placed on the table
- High levels of anxiety and continued feelings of isolation
- Sense of lack of support – parents feel they are left on their own to cope/ navigate the SEND system
- Increase social anxiety as a result of the periods of lock down – still a fear of going out
- What happens beyond 18 for those with SEND

Cost of living concerns are also about personal hygiene, securing food for restricted diets, inability to access social activities, health based activities – how will family outings be impacted.

OTHER (IF RELEVANT)

- Feedback from other groups
- General feedback about wider issues/ services
- Planned changes/ work

General Work

- Work is ongoing to expand the team of parent reps
- Plans are taking place to increase the marketing of the forum, with a view to hopefully expand reach.
- The diversity of those who engage is under review, to try and increase the range of parent

carers participating

Financial Resilience

The Cost of living impact on parent carer resilience is significant, concerns with rising cases of social isolation and mental illness

Seldom Heard Engagement

As a system we need to recognise that ethnic diversity within the community varies such as:

- varied needs
- stigma
- cultural differences
- language barriers

These are not fully reflected in what is being offered in terms of training, parent carer support and services.

Sign posting and service provision must meet the needs of the ever-changing multicultural ethnic interface in Peterborough.

As a system in Peterborough, data sets regarding multicultural diverse communities, appear to be narrow and fragmented.

In order to meet these needs, we require a data set that will:

- Encapsulate diverse needs,
- Address cultural awareness of diagnosis,
- Address current provision including voluntary, statutory and private services and
- Address other factors like domestic abuse.

In some cultures the disability model is different and some disabilities and mental illness are not clearly defined and fully understood.

How to contact us

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