



Solihull Parent Carer Voice

Solihull Parent Carer Voice | Newsletter- 01/04/21 – 30/06/21

Working to ensure the views of parents/carers are heard to ensure positive change. Working in co-production to improve outcomes and services for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

About Solihull Parent Carer Voice.

As this is our first quarterly newsletter, we thought it would be wise to start with who we are! We are independent parents/carers, working together to raise awareness and improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (0-25).

We work with organisations that provide services such as education, health, and social care. We are completely independent of the Local Authority. Our aims are to raise the views of parents and carers to work together to improve services - we raise experiences, ideas, and challenge services to effect positive change.

We are strategic partners of both the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group. This means that we work with them on plans for services, we challenge where their views do not match those of families, we raise with them where things are going wrong and work with them to improve these areas.

As the strategic partners we will raise the collective voices of all families who live in Solihull or access Solihull services.

Our steering group is made up of parents/carers from across Solihull, from different backgrounds and with children and young people of different ages and with different special educational needs and disabilities.



What have we been doing over the last 3 months?



Work regarding **Children and Young People's Mental Health-**

We sit on the Children and Young People's Mental Health Board- this is made up of representatives from the local authority, clinical commissioning group, SOLAR, public health and meets regularly.

We have met with parents and with SOLAR to raise difficulties parents/carers have encountered with referrals.



Inclusion Programme Board-

This board is there to provide oversight, support and challenge in the development and implementation of an Inclusion Strategy and a Graduated Approach.



Learning Disability and Autism Keyworker-

Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group are developing a program to provide keyworkers for those with learning disabilities and/or autism who are at risk of admission to inpatient mental health or learning disability beds. We are working with the CCG, Barnardo's, the LA, Experts by Experience and others to ensure this service meets the needs of those young people.



Learning Disability Annual Health Checks-

Again within health, work is being done to improve annual health checks- improving the numbers accessing these checks and improving their quality.



Joint Additional Needs Board-

We sit on the Joint Additional Needs Board that has formed to bring representatives from the local authority (education and social care) health and parents/carers together to work towards improving SEND in Solihull. This work so far has been around looking at exactly where services are in Solihull and what needs to be done to improve them. This will form part of the SEND strategy.



Birmingham and Solihull Health SEND Parent Carer Forum.

This group meets regularly to raise concerns regarding health, raise parent/carer experiences and focus on improving outcomes for children and young people.



EdSEND-

EdSEND is an education focused board within the local authority, we sit on this board to provide representation from parents/carers and to ensure the voices of parents/carers and families are listened to.



Social Care-

We have met with both adults and childrens social care and will be continuing to do so. We are arranging meetings for parents/carers with representatives from both the adults and childrens divisions.



West Midlands PCF-

We are a part of the regional group of parent carer voices, this means that we can ensure that the voices of Solihull parents/carers are heard on a regional and national level. It also means that we can learn what is happening around the region and work with our colleagues particularly in neighbouring authorities.



Steve Broach Training- "The law on services for disabled children and young people, including short breaks."

We arranged for Barrister and Advocate Steve Broach to hold webinar training for parents/carers. This training was accessed by over 40 attendees and the slides and recording of the session will be sent to over 100 more!



3 Year learning disability and autism roadmap-

Each CCG has had to create a 3 year 'roadmap' to improve services within health for those with learning disabilities and/or autism. We are part of the project groups working on this to ensure that parents/carers voices are heard.



We have also:

Met with Tim Browne and Charlotte Jones (Local Authority) regularly.

Met with Deborah Carpenter (Local Authority).

Been part of the Inclusion Focus Groups.

Met with the CCG regarding ASD assessment waiting times.

Met or had conversations with: Health Visiting Lead, KIDS, Solihull Sendias, SATA, Social Life Opportunities, Local Councillors, Birmingham Parent Carer Forum, Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice and various support groups and community groups in Solihull.

Get involved.....

- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
- Look out for our surveys.
- Coming in July- apply to be a Parent Representative.
- Send us your views by email, messenger or direct message.
- Register as a member.



In Brief:

- We have worked an average of 85 hours per week.
- Have had a Facebook reach of 17,905.
- Direct contacts with 931 parents.
- Work with/have contact with- SMBC, BSol CCG, Solar, School Nursing Team, Health Visiting Team, Solihull Sendias, Local Councillors, Solihull Healthwatch, National Network of Parent Carer Forums, support groups and community organisations.
- Spent 301.75 hours in meetings.
- Carried out a survey ahead of a CQC visit regarding Mental Health Services.
- Carried out a survey regarding school transport.
- Gathered parents/carers views regarding inclusion.
- Have collated transitions resources to share with parents/carers.
- Provided social care legal training to parents/carers.

On Wednesday 14th July 9.30am- 11.00am we are holding a coffee morning at the Magic Bean Coffee Shop in Solihull.

Please join us to learn more about what we do and talk all things SEND in Solihull.

We will also be joined by Solihull Sendias!

Please let us know if you are attending and we will provide you with a ticket for a free tea or coffee.

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