

# Somerset Parent Carer Forum

## Weekly update



### Transitions

Thank you to those who have fed back their experiences of transitions at different stages. This week started with a full day workshop on transitions. We looked at what the current experiences of families are by using feed back from local families and surveys we have done in the past 12 months. It was evident that the experience is variable and the group felt this needed to be addressed. It was felt that a transparent standard of what should happen, would help provide clarity and provide a level of accountability.

The group reviewed examples from other areas to look for good practice and how this can be used locally. From this an action plan is being drawn up to produce guidance which will also be included in the Local Offer.

### Changing outcome measures for social care

The Forum have been approached by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and families, to be involved in a research programme. It is a large and inspiring project looking at the changing priorities for children & young people in social care/ services and they want to hear from parent/carers of their ideas and thoughts of this. We will be hosting a workshop in September (TBC). Please contact us at [help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk](mailto:help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk) or 01458 259384 if you would be interested in being involved.



### Assessment, Planning and Review

The group reviewed the current work on statutory assessment. The majority of statements were transferred before the deadline with about 10 being carried over. This has impacted on the number being completed in 20 weeks, currently 51%.

There were also discussions about the importance of annual reviews. The forum raised that we had concerns these were not consistently happening and that plans were not reflecting the reviews. The forum also felt there appears to be an inconsistent understanding of the processes by settings.



### COFFEE MORNINGS

This week we attended 3 coffee mornings. Coffee mornings provide a really good opportunity to meet up with like-minded people.

### SEND INTERVENTION GROUPS

The SEND groups have been reshaped to reflect current priority areas as follows:

1. Engagement and Participation
2. 0-5 Early years
3. Inclusive Schools
4. Assessment, Planning and Review
5. Joint Commissioning

### LOCAL AREA IMPROVEMENT NETWORK

The group met to oversee the activity of the 5 SEND intervention groups. There was focused discussion on how the groups can align to a common priority theme e.g. Annual reviews.

The groups are now currently working on their respective action plans.