

Somerset Parent Carer Forum

Weekly update



Physical Impairment and medical support team, Hearing impairment and vision impairment events.

This week was week 2 of the events to discuss options of what the service could look like moving forward. Thank you to everyone who attended and shared their experiences and discussed how the service could be shaped moving forward. There is one more event next week and then the feedback will be reviewed by a working group which includes representatives of the forum, education, representatives from the 3 services, health, the national deaf society and parents who use the service. This week we will be adding the slides from the events to our website but following feedback at the events we feel this would be benefit from notes with more detail.

We are also collecting questions which will then answer all together after the last event. If you would like to feedback your views then please contact us at help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk or Emily Walters directly at EWalters@somerset.gov.uk.



PART TIME/REDUCED TIMETABLES

This week we launched a survey to collect evidence on the use of part time timetables.

If you have experienced this please complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/reducedtimetable.



FUTURE WORK PLAN

Over the next 6 months we will be focusing on the following areas

- The councils consultations on the proposals to reduce spend
- Wheelchair service
- SEN Transport
- Exclusions
- Ollie the Flamingo project
- Autism information packs

SOMERSET GUIDANCE FOR INITIATING A STATUTORY EHC NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-25

The forum have raised concerns around the guidance for schools about applying for an Education, Health and Care assessment.

Concerns have also been raised by families via the Engagement and Participation strategy survey and at recent events which has led the forum to have further discussions with the Assistant Director for Inclusion.

It has been agreed that the guidance will be reviewed in line with the necessary legislation and clear accessible information will be made available for schools.

ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION GROUP

The group reviewed the plans for the Unsung Heroes event taking place in October. We also discussed the Local Offer development and the future work on development.

The group spent the largest portion of the meeting looking at workforce development and what was needed to support practitioners understanding and implementation of participation into their work.

The online SEND modules have also been refreshed and these are available to staff with the council and can be accessed externally including by families. Please contact us for more information.

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