

Somerset Parent Carer Forum

Weekly update



Regional Meeting

This week 2 of our representatives attended the West cluster of South West NNPCF region. The cluster meetings give us an opportunity to discuss some of the challenges we are all facing and look at what good practice there is that can be shared.

One key area we looked at was the importance of feeding back to local parents about the work we are doing. Everyone shared the different ways they are doing this and practical tools that can be used. Another area was the quality of EHC plans being mixed throughout our region and the importance of moderation.

SENDIAS

The Forum met with the SENDIAS manager and an officer of Somerset County Council to discuss concerns that have been raised by local families. Although we have received some positive feedback about the service, families have raised concerns and the service appears to be stretched to meet the current demand. The manager is happy to talk with families if they have any concerns. The Sendias Manager is Helen Leach and she can be contacted on 07775027442 or email – hleach@somerset.gov.uk

We also raised the fact that since EHC plans included all agencies we felt the service should be jointly funding enabling capacity to address the increased demand.

MAISEY STEERING GROUP

The forum attending the steering group on Monday. We were able to talk about some of the positive feedback we have received over the last 6 months of Early Years provision.

The group are going to prepare a survey on the portage survey to collect your views good or bad.

SPEECH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION NEEDS

The group are continuing to look at Somerset's strategy for Speech Language and communication needs in light of the Bercow 10 years on report. The group also discussed the need for additional support in the post 16 group.

HIGH NEEDS FUNDING

A multi agency group met to discuss the continued pressure on the high needs funding block. Much of the discussion focused on the need to use money effectively to ensure good outcomes. There was also discussion around the banding which has been implemented (details on the Local Offer).



Plymouth Parent Carer Voice

This week we supported our sister forum in Plymouth. They were running a large event for parents focused on different areas of SEND. We ran 2 workshops on preparing for meetings and participation.



Short Breaks

The calendar for the short breaks summer activities will be posted out the week of the 28th June allowing you time to plan.