

Somerset Parent Carer Forum

Weekly update



This week we started our week by attending the NNPCF regional development day here in Taunton. Parent Carer forums across the South West met to look at how we can strengthen our network to provide support to one another. By sharing information and co-ordinating our efforts we will be able to support work at a regional and national level. As we have seen evidenced recently locally some of the challenges we are

facing, such as funding for SEND, need to be tackled at a national level.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND NHS ENGLAND VISIT

Wednesday was the regular monitoring visit from the SEND regional DFE and NHS advisers. The meeting involved the Assistant Director for Inclusion, Strategic Manager SEND, Service Development and Clinical Engagement Manager (CCG) and forum representatives. The forum raised areas of concern including the recent financial proposals, compliance with 20 week for EHCP's, schools inclusion and issues around a lack of clear information/pathways to services. These are all issues that the area has agreed to work to improve and these are written into the SEND action plans for improvement. The 2 new positions reported last week, along with the new Designated Clinical Officer will help to ensure these action plans are implemented.

SCRUTINY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES POLICIES

This week was a call in on the proposal CAF 14A. A Somerset Parent Carer Forum representative attended the meeting to present the questions on the getset proposal. The forum challenged the use of Early Help Assessment figures as there is evidence that individuals using the tier 2 getset service are not always referred in. You can find details of the questions we have raised at the various meetings and the responses on our website.

YOUNG CARERS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Forum representatives met with Somerset Carers Voice, Compass Disability, School governors, friends of Somerset Young Carers Project and other interested individuals to discuss the proposal to change the provision for young carers in Somerset.

The group discussed the current demand, issues around young carers accessing support, other provisions available and formed an action plan to collect data and information to help form a report.

The Young Carers project helped us to understand what they currently deliver and the impact the work is having.



Finding Your Way Yeovil

This week we were joined by Rhiannon Gough a Chartered Financial Adviser. Rhiannon talked how to make arrangements to make sure your child is provided for and not left vulnerable, when you are no longer here. Rhiannon will be visiting our other groups to help families understand the choices they have.



Coffee morning

We run lots of coffee mornings through the month. Take a look on our website for dates and venues. You will also find details of afflicted groups and other local groups that provide an opportunity for you to meet like minded people.