

# Somerset Parent Carer Forum

## Weekly update



This week the forum attended the Choices for Life event part of the Careers fair for young people in Somerset. The Choices for Life area focused opportunities for young people with SEND. This included college place, internships, apprenticeships and job coaches. The event was well attended and helped young people and their families see what's on offer.

### MEETING WITH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR INCLUSION

We had our regular meeting with Annette to look at the work taking place, future plans and feedback from families. We raised our concerns about the 20 weeks for EHCp not being met and were pleased to hear that new staff are being put into the SEND team including new caseworkers and a new SEND strategic manager has been appointed.

We also discussed the feedback from parents that they would like more opportunities to meet face to face with decision makers for the local area. We will be arrange roadshows end of January/February where there will be lots of opportunities for you to feed back your views directly. Please email us at [help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk](mailto:help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk) if there are any key areas you would like us to try to include.

#### FIT FOR MY FUTURE

Somerset Parent Carer Forum representatives attended several of the Fit for My future events being run by adult social care and the Clinical Commissioning group.

The program is sharing its work so far on reshaping provision with Somerset and these events give an opportunity for you to find out more and give your feedback. There are more events planned in the next few week along with live Facebook sessions.



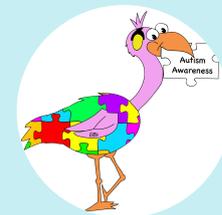
#### Coffee mornings

This week we ran our monthly coffee mornings at Wincanton and Taunton. At our steering group in January we will be looking at locations for next year and guests. Please email us if you have any suggestions.

#### ASSESSMENT, PLANNING AND REVIEW GROUP

The duty line for the time appears to be working well with a large volume of calls being taken.

An electronic portal for EHC requests and annual reviews has now launched and there are plans for this to be developed to include a portal for parents. This will allow you to see how the process is going and what evidence has been submitted. This should make the process more transparent.



#### SENDIAS

On Monday we met with the manager of SENDIAS to look at how we can work more closely to ensure we are collating data to evidence common issues that are coming through. This should help us identify what is working and challenge areas that are not. We also plan to use this to help influence the development of information for the local offer. For example if we hear families are struggling with understanding the process of annual reviews this would be a priority.

#### Useful information

Lots of useful information is available on Somerset's local offer available at [www.choices.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.choices.somerset.gov.uk).

Please use the feedback function to tell them if anything is missing, not where you would expect it to be or things that are not correct as still being developed.