

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE NEWSLETTER

ABOUT SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE

We are independent parents/carers, working together to raise awareness and improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (0-25). We work with organisations that provide services such as education, health, and social care. We are completely independent of the Local Authority. Our aims are to raise the views of parents and carers to work together to improve services - we raise experiences, ideas, and challenge services to effect positive change.

We are strategic partners of both the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Let your voice be heard.



This means that we work with them on plans for services, we challenge where their views do not match those of families, we raise with them where things are going wrong and work with them to improve these areas.

As the strategic partners we will raise the collective voices of all families who live in Solihull or access Solihull services.

Our steering group is made up of parents/carers from across Solihull, from different backgrounds and with children and young people of different ages and with different special educational needs and disabilities.

SPCV is funded by the Department for Education.

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE IMPACT

OUR RESPONSE TO PARENT CARERS VIEWS:

Parent carers told us that they don't always fully know what should be in an EHC plan and what should be in which sections.

We met with the EHCP Service Manager and SENDIAS to coproduce a workshop for parents.. This has been delivered to parent carers and is available on our website for any parent carer or professional to access.

Parent carers told us that annual review paperwork is confusing, some schools use different versions and things can be missing.

We worked with the EHCP Service Manager, Sendias and schools to coproduce new annual review paperwork that is clear and easy to understand and provides a step by step guide for schools. We have received positive feedback from both schools and parents on this. We are now working to co-produce the request to assess paperwork.

Parent carers told us that they feel that Councillors do not always understand SEND, and that they were concerned about this.

We wrote a SEND Awareness workshop for Councillors, this was delivered to Children's Board in October and is now going to be delivered to all Councillors.



Parent carers have told us that they don't feel that professionals always consider their child/young persons needs when they are communicating.

We have spoken with the Local Authority who have asked that ALL professionals now ask children and young people "How would you like me to communicate with you today?"

Parent carers told us that they didn't feel they knew who the professionals were in the borough and didn't have relationships with them.

We organised a SEND Community event that was attended by 66 parent carers and 26 professionals, from the Local Authority, Education, social care, educational psychology, specialist inclusion support service, inclusion and public health. Local Councillors, school staff health commissioners, mental health and designated clinical officers.

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE IMPACT

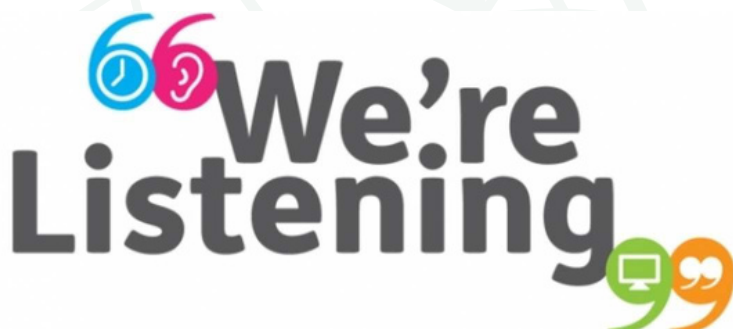
OUR RESPONSE TO PARENT CARERS VIEWS:

Parent carers told us that they don't always understand the process for applying for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment and that they are often told different information.

We have produced an informational video for parent carers which explains the law about applying for an EHC Needs Assessment, how requests for assessments can be made, who can make them, what the Local Authority have to consider when making their decisions and also some myth busters. This is available on YouTube, our website, Facebook page and Twitter.

Parent carers told us that the waiting list for child autism assessments in Solihull is unacceptably long.

We met with commissioners from the Clinical Commissioning Groups to discuss the lengthy waiting times. We pushed for more to be done to address the waiting times. As a result of this funding was approved to commission Healios to undertake some assessments in Solihull to help reduce the waiting list.



Parent carers have told us that there is little support for their own mental health and wellbeing. Parent carers mental health is adversely affected by the strains there can be in ensuring that their children and young people get the support that they need.

We have made a commitment to help parent carers wherever we can. In 2021/2022 we received funding to man a telephone line for parent carers. Instead of hiring people to man this phone line we manned it voluntarily and used the funding to give 200 wellbeing packs to parent carers in Solihull.

We are also training to deliver a Healthy Parent Carer Course to parent carers that is designed to help parent carers with their wellbeing. This course will be delivered free to any parent carer who lives in Solihull or whose child accesses services in Solihull.

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS

Autism in Schools.

This project is funded by NHSE, locally it involves 4 areas- Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire.

There are two parts to this project: a coproduced training package around Children and Young People's understanding of their own autistic identity. School staff have been trained in the package which is now being delivered to pupils. The second part of the project was for parent carer forums to work with parents and schools to set up parent engagement groups.

In Solihull the Autism in Schools project is currently being delivered in Light Hall and Alderbrook.

We currently are applying for year 2 funding roll this project out further.

Parent Engagement Groups.

Partly to do with the Autism in Schools work, but also due to the Inclusion work we are also working with other schools to set up Parent Engagement Groups. We are currently beginning to work with Triple Crown, Lady Katherine Leveson and Langley Primary.

We are also looking to expand into more schools.

Children's Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny.

SPCV sit as a Co-opted member on this board, working with Councillors to scrutinise the work of all children's services in Solihull.



BSol Service Review Reference Group.

This group looks at reviewing health services and how to improve them. The first service that is being reviewed is the Special Schools Nursing Team.

Birmingham and Solihull Strategic Vision for Learning Disability and also Strategic Vision for Autism.

We are working as part of a multi-agency team across both Birmingham and Solihull to coproduce the strategic visions for both learning disabilities and autism.

Family Hubs.

Solihull has been awarded funding to create family hubs. We are working as part of a multi-agency team to look at where these will be, what support they will offer and how they will work.

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

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Community Therapies Referrals.

There is work being done to combine all of the community therapies referral forms into one form, we are working with the teams to produce this referral form.

Local Offer.

We are working with the LA to improve the local offer- the look, functionality, and the information on this.

GP Handbook.

This workstream is about coproducing a SEND guide part of the GP handbook, to ensure that GP's know who to signpost to in what circumstances, to talk about ensuring carers are correctly registered and that those with SEND are correctly registered so that GP's know how to support them.

SEND Community Organisations Roundtable.

We have created this roundtable to bring together 3rd sector organisations, support groups, voluntary sector groups so we can all work together. So far, this group includes organisations such as Inclusive Sports, Ordinary Magic, Urban Heard, Healthwatch, Resources for Autism, Safe Space, Tippy Toes, Solihull Down Syndrome Support Group, SoLO, Smithswood Access to Services. We are currently waiting for confirmation from other organisations such as Solihull Mind, SATA, Carers Trust, North Solihull Additional Needs Support Group and MAPA.



Equal Treatment, Challenging Racism and Health Inequalities in Solihull.

As part of our work to reduce inequalities in health we have been working (Supported by Learning Disability England) to look at ethnic inequalities. We are also expanding this to look at inequalities. We are finalising a report and action plan as to how we are going to challenge services to address these inequalities.

Situational Mutism.

We have been working with partners across Birmingham and Solihull to create a robust resource pack for both parents and professionals. This will be publicised on the local offer in both Birmingham and Solihull and shared with schools.

Short Breaks.

Short breaks are currently out to tender, we are part of the tender process so that we can ensure that services are better placed to support our children and young people.

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Children and Young People's Mental Health Board.

This board looks at the mental health offer in its entirety; the mental health in schools' teams (MHST) the commissioned offer from Solar including the partner services Barnardo's and Autism West Midlands.

This is a multi-agency board including health, public health, schools, educational psychology, SISS, VCSE and more.

Learning Disability and/or Autism Keyworker Project.

This is a pilot project funded by NHSE and has been running since September 2021. This project provides children and young people aged 14-25 with a learning disability and/or autism who are currently on the Dynamic Support Register, a keyworker. The DSR is for those who need intensive support from crisis teams through Solar, Forward Thinking Birmingham or Adult support hubs, or those who are inpatients. The keyworker with work with the young person, their family and the services to help navigate services and ensure services are working together to best support the young person.

Enhanced Care Service. (M-Power)

This is a service that in Solihull is known as M-Power (DICE in Birmingham). This team will look to help children and young people with mental health difficulties, aiming to reduce the need for in-patient admissions.

In Solihull, Solar are currently recruiting staff for this team.



All Age Autism Support Service.

This is a Birmingham and Solihull Service that we offer pre and post diagnosis support, to all ages. The service has been coproduced and will be run by Landau. The service will aim to signpost individuals to the right support, and where there are gaps in support help organisations fill these gaps. Organisations can bid for grants to build capacity, upskill staff, develop new streams of work and build on work that they are already doing. Grants will be awarded based on a panel decision with the panel including Parent Carer Forum reps and Experts by Experience.

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF)

We work with SMBC to ensure that the providers for this programme are receiving SEND training and support to ensure that they have a good awareness of the needs of those children and young people with SEND that they support and that they are able to ensure that all eligible children and young people are able to access activities.

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Inclusion Programme Board.

We have had a seat on this board since its inception, this board is working to improve inclusion in Solihull, not just for SEND but for all. The Strategy for Inclusive Education in Solihull has been out to consultation and will be launched at the Headteachers Conference in September.

As part of this work, we are working with schools to set up Parent Engagement Groups in schools.

Graduated Approach.

As part of the work around inclusion and improving SEND support in schools, we are working on the Graduated Approach, this is the approach that schools should take to support children and young people, including making reasonable adjustments, putting in place interventions and seeking support from outside agencies such as the Solihull Inclusion Support Service and the Educational Psychology Service. Information will be coproduced and will be available for both professionals and families and will be published on the local offer.

Early Years Speech, Language and Communication.

We are working with partners to look at the speech, language and communication needs offer in Solihull. We know that since Covid there has been an increase in referrals to Speech and Language Therapy so we are looking at how we can ensure there is a better and wider offer in Solihull, also involving the whole community.



Joint Additional Needs Board.

This board has two arms, the JAND Board and the JAND Delivery board and SPCV sit on both. They are both multi-agency boards looking at additional needs for those aged 0-25 and how we can improve services across Solihull and therefore experiences and outcomes for children and young people.

The Additional Needs Strategy was launched in December 2021 and from this an action plan and workstreams have been developed.

Dingley's Promise.

This project is offering training to early years settings, looking at improving early interventions, the SEND offer and improve knowledge about SEND and early identification. 10 Local Authorities were selected to be a part of this project including Solihull. There is also a parent rep project team as part of this.

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Birmingham and Solihull Health Forum.

This is a strategic health forum where Birmingham Parent Carer Forum, Solihull Parent Carer Voice and Health partners work together to improve health services. As part of this we have then worked on task and finish projects around things such as Selective (situational) Mutism, Mental Health Crisis and more.

Children and Families Prevention and Early Intervention Board.

This board aims to bring together multi-agency partners to promote partnership working. Enabling partners to work together more effectively, in collaboration with local communities, to ensure a more cohesive approach to service delivery across agencies



FACTS AND FIGURES

April- June 22

Facebook reach:	124.528
Direct Contacts with Parents:	3589
Social Media Followers:	1430
Number of meetings:	111
Hours 'worked':	1424.25

SPCV membership:

Covers all wards of Solihull, generally in line with population data although there is an over-representation in Chelmsley Wood, Lyndon and Olton and an under-representation in Smiths Wood, Knowle, St.Alphege and Silhill.

SPCV membership is 22% BAME, against a Solihull population figure of approx 15% (2019)

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

EVENTS:

Meeting for parent carers with Social Care.

Wednesday 6th July 10am - 12pm at The Hub in Touchwood, we have representatives from Children's and Adults Social Care joining us.

This is: YOUR opportunity to find out what is being done to improve services in Solihull. YOUR chance to ask questions. YOUR chance to talk about the Children's Disability Team- what do they do? YOUR chance to find out how Social Care in Solihull can HELP you. If you would like to join us please complete this form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/4L78TrbWqR>

Preparation for Starting School Event

Do you have a child who is starting school (Nursery or Reception Year) in September?

Would you like to know more about how to help your child be school ready? Tips about how to help them, or about how to talk to school about things that they may need extra support with when they start school?

If so please join us on 14th July 10am - 12pm at The Hub, Touchwood, Solihull.

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZdheJkEyar>

Cerebra Workshop

The aim of the workshop is to support families who are encountering difficulties in relation to the provision of health, social care and education services. This session will include information on direct payments, respite, disabled facilities grants, residential placements and school transport.

Monday 11th July, 10am - 2pm and will be held in the Community room in John Lewis in Solihull.

<https://forms.office.com/r/AUnbgnZqGG>



CONTACT US:

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www.spcv.org.uk

Facebook: Solihull Parent Carer Voice

Twitter: @solihullpcv

You can also join us as a parent representative and help work with us to make a difference for children, young people and families in Solihull.

