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| Solihull Parent Carer Voice | Newsletter- 01/07/21 – 30/09/21 | |
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| *Working to ensure the views of parents/carers are heard to ensure positive change. Working in co-production to improve outcomes and services for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities.* | |
| 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. 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. | |

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| **How SPCV is funded.**  Solihull Parent Carer Voice is funded through a grant from the Department for Education, the grant is used for things such as holding events- including room hire, any materials needed for these, remuneration for parent/carers attending meetings (currently the steering group do not receive any remuneration only expenses) organising and paying for training for families. As well as paying for day to day running costs such as insurance, laptops and software and our website. We pay 10 hours a week for admin but all other work done by the Directors and Steering group at present is on a purely voluntary basis.  **How SPCV gathers voices.**  SPCV works to gather voices from as many parents and carers who live in Solihull or whose children/young people access services in Solihull as possible and we do this in various ways.  We have facebook and twitter accounts where we post information, ask questions and talk about events happening. People can message us through these accounts or put comments on them.  We have a website with some of our information on.  We have an email address where parents and carers can contact us.  We hold regular coffee mornings for parents and carers to meet with us and give us their views.  We are in regular contact with support groups in Solihull so that we can hear what families are saying.  As of September we have 2 telephone lines for families, there are 2 dedicated time slots for these and families are welcome to text or leave messages if these times are not convenient and we will arrange a call at a convenient time.  We aim to hear voices from all across the borough, from individual families and from support groups. We gather all the views and then take them to the local authority, health or other relevant services. We may say to them- there is an issue in a particular area, how can we work together to improve the situation. We will always offer to work with services to help them improve- we want to ensure that when we are telling the services that there is an issue that we work with them to find solutions that work for families to ensure the best outcomes for our children.  **How SPCV feeds information back to parents and carers.**  We always want to ensure that everyone has access to the same information at the same time (Equal and Equitable access) to do this we ensure that we put information on our Public Facebook page so that everyone can see it.  We put information on twitter, share it with other groups and also send information out through schools and through our newsletter. We also put information on our website and are trying to build our use of this at the moment.  We are also going to be holding termly meetings for parents with representatives of the Local Authority, health and services. | |
| **What have we been doing over the last 3 months?** |  |
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| Work regarding **Children and Young People’s Mental Health-**  We sit on the Children and Young People’s Mental Health Board- this is made up of representatives from the local authority, clinical commissioning group, SOLAR, public health and meets regularly.  We have asked Solar if they can provide information about their current waiting times so that we can share this with families.  We are working with Health Services on the Learning Disability and Autism Keyworker project (see more below) and also looking at Crisis Support.  **Inclusion Programme Board**-  This board is there to provide oversight, support and challenge in the development and implementation of an Inclusion Strategy and a Graduated Approach. Focus groups have been held to look at the current picture and what needs to happen to start to make Solihull a more Inclusive place. A Head of Inclusion (Michelle Sadler) has also started in post in the Local Authority and we look forward to working with her to improve inclusion for all.  **EdSEND-**  EdSEND is an education focused board within the local authority, we sit on this board to provide representation from parents/carers and to ensure the voices of parents/carers and families are listened to.  **Learning Disability Annual Health Checks-**  Again within health, work is being done to improve annual health checks- improving the numbers accessing these checks and improving their quality. Work is continuing on this to improve the consistency and quality of checks and to ensure that everyone eligible for an Annual Health Check knows about them.  **West Midlands PCF-**  We are a part of the regional group of parent carer voices, this means that we can ensure that the voices of Solihull parents/carers are heard on a regional and national level. It also means that we can learn what is happening around the region and work with our colleagues particularly in neighbouring authorities.  **Autism in Schools-**  NHS England has granted funding to Birmingham and Solihull CCG and Coventry and Warwickshire CCG to run a joint piece of work around Autism in Schools. The 4 areas will each be working with 2 schools to look at increasing young people’s confidence in their identity, increase schools understanding of autism and also to build relationships between the schools and parents and carers. | **Joint Additional Needs Board**-  We sit on the Joint Additional Needs Board that has formed to bring representatives from the local authority (education and social care) health and parents/carers together to work towards improving SEND in Solihull. This work so far has been around looking at exactly where services are in Solihull and what needs to be done to improve them. This will form part of the SEND strategy. The draft strategy will be published for consultation in October and on 2nd November at 10am we are hosting an online meeting for parents/carers with Charlotte Jones the Head of SEND, so that families can give their feedback. If you would like to join this meeting please email us at solihullpcv@outlook.com  **Birmingham and Solihull Health SEND Parent Carer Forum.**  This group meets regularly to raise concerns regarding health, raise parent/carer experiences and focus on improving outcomes for children and young people.  **Learning Disability and Autism Keyworker-**  Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group are developing a program to provide keyworkers for those with learning disabilities and/or autism who are at risk of admission to inpatient mental health or learning disability beds. This service is being provided by Barnado’s and is just starting. We are continuing to work with the CCG, Barnardo’s, the LA, Experts by Experience and others to ensure this service meets the needs of those young people.  **Social Care-**  We have met with both adults and children’s social care and will be continuing to do so.  The Children’s Disability Team will be providing us with some Frequently Asked Questions to share with families.  We are also working with the social care team and children’s commissioners to look at short breaks and also a Social Care Framework.  **3 Year learning disability and autism roadmap-**  Each CCG has had to create a 3 year ‘roadmap’ to improve services within health for those with learning disabilities and/or autism. We are part of the project groups working on this to ensure that parents/carers voices are heard.  **Education, Health and Care Plans-**  We are working with the Local Authority to look at the annual review paperwork, to make sure this paperwork ensures school’s hold annual reviews that accurately look at the child/young person’s needs and what support is needed. This will also help to ensure that following the annual review meeting the LA can complete the process in a timely fashion. |

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| **Coffee and Chat-**  We have held two coffee mornings for parents and carers and it is fantastic to see how well attended these have been. We have also had members of Scrutiny Board attending as well as Solihull Sendias and the new Children and Young People’s forum- Our Voice’s Heard project lead.  **Selective Mutism-**  We are working with representatives from Educational Psychology, SISS, the SEND Designated Clinical Officer, Birmingham Parent Carer Forum, Birmingham Local Authority and North Solihull Additional Needs Support Group on creating a pathway to show how families and schools can access support for children and young people who may have selective mutism.  **Get involved……..**   * Follow us on Facebook and Twitter. * Look out for our surveys. * Apply to be a Parent Representative * Come to our coffee mornings. | **Autism assessments-**  We have raised with health services the increase in waiting time for autism assessments in Solihull and requested that they look at outsourcing some assessments. Funding for this has now been agreed and Healios will be meeting with the SAS lead next week. The Specialist Assessment Service now has a new lead- Claire Howell as Shirley Heatherington has retired and they have also recruited some new staff. The waiting time currently is 87 weeks.  **We have also:**  Met with Tim Browne and Charlotte Jones (Local Authority) regularly.  Been part of the Inclusion Focus Groups.  Met with the CCG regarding ASD assessment waiting times.  Met or had conversations with: Solihull Sendias, Local Councillors, Birmingham Parent Carer Forum, Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice and various support groups and community groups in Solihull.   * Send us your views by email, messenger or direct message. * Register as a member * Call us on 07878806354 or 07878808873. * Join our termly meetings with representatives from services. |

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| The Last 3 MonthsIn Brief: | |  |  | |
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| * We have worked an average of 97 hours per week. * Have had a Facebook reach of 84,706. * Direct contact with 1,987 parents. * Work with/have contact with- SMBC, BSol CCG, Solar, School Nursing Team, Health Visiting Team, University Hospitals Birmingham, Solihull Sendias, Local Councillors, Solihull Healthwatch, National Network of Parent Carer Forums, support groups and community organisations. | |  | * Spent 401.75 hours in meetings. * Gathered parents/carers views regarding inclusion, return to school, school transport and more. * Have organized a transitions event for 5th October (please see our Facebook for further details) * Shared surveys for families (including children and young people) regarding Solihull. | |
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| **On Tuesday 2nd November 10-12 we, along with Charlotte Jones are holding a Parent Consultation Event to gather parents’ views on the draft Joint Additional Needs Strategy. Please see the events pages on our website or facebook for joining instructions.**  **On Thursday 4th November 9.30-11 we are holding a coffee morning at Magic Bean Coffee Shop in Solihull, please do join us to talk about all things SEND in Solihull.**  **On Tuesday 30th November 10-12 we are holding a meeting for parents with Charlotte Jones (Head of SEND) and Michelle Sadler (Head of Inclusion), we are just finalising the location for this so please do keep an eye out on our facebook page and website for more information and details about how to register to attend.** | | | | |

**Website:** [**www.spcv.org.uk**](http://www.spcv.org.uk) **Email: solihullpcv@outlook.com**

**Twitter: @solihullpcv Facebook: Solihull Parent Carer Voice**