

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE NEWSLETTER

October- December 2022

ABOUT SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE

Solihull Parent Carer Voice C.I.C. is an organisation run by parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

We listen to the voices of parent carers across Solihull, hearing what they tell us about the services that they and their families access and about the experiences that they have.

We use the voices to help us to inform change. We work with the local authority, health and other services across Solihull at a strategic level. This means we help them to design services and to change services to better meet the needs of people in Solihull. We work in a solution focused way- how can we use our collective experiences and the collective voices of families in Solihull to make things better.

Let your voice be heard.



SPCV is the parent carer forum for Solihull and is funded by the Department for Education.

We receive funding from the LA and health which funds the children and young people's forum in Solihull. The funding covers the employment of the project lead and youth worker, venues and resources required.

NHS England (paid via the local authority) give us funding which enables us to support the Autism in Schools project across Solihull.

We also receive funding from the All Age Autism Support Service to provide autism support groups in Solihull.



SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE THE TEAM

Management Team:

Heather - Director and Chair

Stephanie - Director

Samantha - Director

Kate- Steering Group member

Fozia- Steering Group member

Chris- Steering Group member

Tracy- Steering Group member

Gina- Steering Group member

Pete- Steering Group member.

Parent Representatives:

Zoe

Amy

Keeley

Su

We are delighted to be welcoming another 4 parent representatives to our team in January.

To find out more about the team please see the About Us page on our website- www.spcv.org.uk



If you would like to join our growing team, please email us at solihullpcv@outlook.com



SOLIHULL PARENT CARER

VOICE IMPACT

OUR RESPONSE TO PARENT CARERS VIEWS:

Parent carers have told us they would like a meeting in the North of the borough.

We have arranged a meeting with Tim Browne, Charlotte Jones and Joel Desous at the Fordbridge Centre on the 25th January 2023, 10.30-12.00, please see our website or facebook for more details, including details of how to let us know if there are any reasonable adjustments we can make to help you attend meetings.

Parent carers told us that there is not enough short breaks provision in Solihull.

We have worked with the Local Authority to look at this. SoLO have now received funding to provide short breaks in Solihull, and grants have been awarded to several small organisations/support groups to provide additional short breaks programs. These will begin early in the new year and we will publish more details of these shortly.



Parent carers have told us that access to health services can be very challenging.

We are working with Birmingham Women's and Children's Trust to look at improving accessibility. We have visited Birmingham Children's Hospital soon, along with a parent carer from Solihull who accesses the hospital on a regular basis, to do a 'place inspection' highlighting things that are done well and things that could be done better. We would like to extend this and go to University Hospitals Birmingham early this year.

We know that accessing health services whether it is GP's or hospitals is incredibly challenging and we continue to raise this regularly at various levels within health.

We are delighted that the Minor Injuries Unit at Solihull Hospital will reopen in 2023, this is currently expected to reopen in June.



SOLIHULL PARENT CARER

VOICE IMPACT

OUR RESPONSE TO PARENT CARERS VIEWS:

Parent carers told us that understanding what is available for themselves or their children and young people with SEND, who have long covid, is difficult.

We know that parents carers can be isolated and find it difficult to access services, and we also know that children and young people with SEND can be vulnerable to long covid. We have just been awarded a grant to do some work between January and March 2023 to help ensure that people know what is available and how they can access services and support.

Parent carers told us that they and their young people really found our Careers Event beneficial and they would like another.

We held a second Careers Event in October which was attended by even more young people and more colleges, employers and services.

We have been asked to make this an annual event, and subject to funding we will do our best to make this happen.




Parent carers have told us that they are unhappy about Solar waiting times.

We conducted a short survey and fed the results of this back. We know that there are some fantastic staff in Solar however waiting lists are too long and we know that Solar are struggling to recruit staff. We will work with Solar to try to support them to come up with more ways to support children and young people.

Solihull Councillors told us that they want a better understanding of SEND.

We wrote and delivered several SEND Awareness sessions for councillors in Solihull. This was very well received by the councillors that attended.

 **We're
Listening** 

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS

Autism in Schools.

This work is funded by NHS England, to help improve knowledge and understanding of Autism. Our project is across Solihull, Birmingham and Warwickshire and in Solihull we have developed a resource pack for schools to use with students to help them better understand themselves and the support that they need, and also worked with the schools and parents to create parent engagement groups within the schools.

In year 1 we worked with Alderbrook and Light Hall Schools. In year 2 we are continuing the work across these 2 schools but also developing a Primary school resource pack and we will be working with 2 Primary schools in Solihull.

Parent Engagement Groups.

As part of the Inclusion Strategy all schools in Solihull are asked to do some form of parent engagement. We have offered to work with schools to help set up parent engagement groups and to facilitate these groups. We are now working with schools all across Solihull and have more schools expressing an interest all the time.

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, this review is now starting so if your child/young person attends a special school in Solihull please do keep an eye out for more information regarding this. We and the Integrated Care System will be looking for YOUR voices and views about special school nursing.

Family Hubs.

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

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS

Local Offer.

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

SEND Community Organisations Roundtable

This group brings together 3rd sector organisations, support groups, voluntary sector groups so we can all work together. So far, this group includes 24 organisations in Solihull. The roundtable is open to ANY community organisation that works with or supports children and young people with SEND and/or their families in Solihull. We come together to network, support each other, and share views and knowledge.

Short Breaks.

Short breaks have been retendered, SoLO have been commissioned to provide short breaks, We have also worked with the local authority to provide grants to smaller organisations to enable them to create projects to deliver short breaks. Meaning that there will be more available short breaks and a wider variety available.

We are delighted to have been part of this process and working together we have awarded grants to some fantastic local organisations.



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.

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.

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS

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's 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.

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. This will include written information and videos.



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. Currently grants have been awarded across Birmingham and Solihull and their projects will be up and running soon. The service has also created a Directory of support services that are available in Birmingham and Solihull- www.allageautism.co.uk

If there is anything missing on this database please do feed it back as additional information and services are continually being added.

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS

Education Inclusion 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 is now live and can be found on the Local Offer. As part of this work, we are working with schools to set up Parent Engagement Groups in schools.

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.

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. Following some changes within health this board is now chaired by Linda Lockwood.

EdSEND Board.

This is a board looking at SEND and education provisions, it is chaired by and attended by schools, with representatives from the local authority attending to discuss SEND in schools.



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. A survey has been carried out to look at what progress has been made over the last year and information following this will be available soon.

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.

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS

Children and Youth Offer.

This group look at what is available for children and young people across Solihull- not just in schools but in the community as well.

Small Supports.

This is an NHS project that looks at offering bespoke packages and care in the person's home.

Family and Parents Advisory Group.

This is group works with Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospitals helping with engagement and doing place inspections.

Personal Budgets.

This is a group across Education, Children's Social Care, Adult's Social Care and health, looking to align how personal budgets work.

Maternity and Early Years.

Working to ensure that the Solihull Maternity and Early Years Strategy is embedded.

School Readiness.

Looking at creating a Solihull set of values for schools readiness, ensuring that schools are ready for children, rather than various different checklists of what children should be able to do.



Third Sector Assembly.

This is made up of two groups, the assembly and then a smaller panel. This is groups of voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups coming together to look at mental health across Birmingham and Solihull. (both adults and childrens)

Department for Education and NHS England.

We attend Solihull meetings with the DfE and NHSE and also East and West Midlands meetings with the DfE and NHSE.

EHC Panels.

We sit to observe EHC Panels every Tuesday- where permission has been given by families.

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS

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

Delivering Better Values.

Looking at the pressures on the High Needs Budget in Solihull, and what could be done differently/better to reduce pressures.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WORK.

West Midlands Region Parent Carer Forums Network.

Co-chair the west midlands region, bringing together the PCF's from all 14 authorities in the region.

Regional SEND Leads.

Working with SEND Leads across the East and West Midlands to see how things can be done better at a regional level to improve services and outcomes for children and young people.

Regional SEND Leadership Programme.

West Midlands parent representative on this programme and delivering coproduction workshops.

Local Government Association Training- NNPCF

Delivering training to elected Councillors from across the UK on SEND.



FACTS AND FIGURES

October - December 2022

Facebook reach:	120,510
Direct Contacts with Parents:	4642
Social Media Followers:	2907
Number of meetings:	125
Hours 'worked':	1618

SPCV membership:

Covers all wards of Solihull.

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

SOLIHULL PARENT CARER VOICE WORKSTREAMS

OTHER AREAS OF WORK

OUR VOICES HEARD:

Solihull Parent Carer Voice are funded to host the children and young people's forum for Solihull, called Our Voices Heard. This forum is run by a project lead and a youth support worker and focuses on gathering the voices of children and young people in Solihull and ensuring those voices are heard by services and informs and influences the design of services as well as making sure that the views of children and young people are at the heart of everything.



AUTISM SUPPORT GROUPS:

We have been awarded grant funding from the All-Age Autism Support Service, to create two specific support groups in Solihull.

One a group for autistic adults aged 18+ and the second a group for parent carers and family members of autistic individuals. These groups offer support and information and also invite in professionals to offer information and advice. As well as social events and activities.



We are delighted to have a fabulous member of staff- Emma Bowden managing this project and running the groups.

The groups have their own facebook page:

Solihull Autism Support Groups

and can also be contacted by email at:

autismsolihull.spcv@outlook.com



All Age Autism Support Service



SOLIHULL PARENT CARER

VOICE EVENTS

EVENTS:

17th January 2023: 12.20 - 1.20

Send Peer Review Meeting- on TEAMS
For any parent carer of a child/young person in Solihull who is on SEN SUPPORT.

In order for us to email you the link for this meeting please use the following form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/3p3r8PmK3u>

18th January 2023: 10.15 - 11.15

SEND Peer Review Meeting- Civic Suite, Homer Road, Solihull

For any parent carer of a child/young person with SEND in Solihull. To book please use the following form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/XDS3eMDFwk>

25th January 2023: 10.30 - 12.00

Fordbridge Centre, Solihull

Meeting for parent carers with Tim Browne, Charlotte Jones and Joel Desous.

To book please use the following form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/huZdmTWiM3>

1st March 2023, 10.00 - 1.00

Annual SEND Community Event, Crowne Plaza, Homer Road, Solihull. Meet with parents and professionals to look at progress made over the last year and where priorities should be for the next 12 months.

To book please use the following form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/x8tr2ck2Jb>

More details of our events are on our events page on our website- www.spcv.org.uk/events



CONTACT US:

solihullpcv@outlook.com

www.spcv.org.uk

Facebook: Solihull Parent Carer Voice

Twitter: @solihullpcv

