

PARENT CARERS TOGETHER



Bournemouth Christchurch Poole

Dear BCP Parents and Carers,

Parent Carers Together recognise the last six months have been difficult balancing the role of being a parent, home schooling, paid/voluntary work and other commitments.

Every member of our Steering Group is a SEND parent and although we may not share the same experiences as you, we can relate to feelings of frustration, anxiety and at times isolation.

As we prepare for schools and colleges to reopen and students to return to education, we wanted to reflect on our steering group's voluntary work on behalf of you.

You told us that you were unclear on certain topics and we listened by updating the information and support section of our [website](#) with local and national resources in regards to Returning to School, Preparing for Adulthood and Power of Attorney, Wills and Deputyships.

You told us that the Preparing for Adulthood pathway was unclear, we listened and we co-hosted a question and answer session with BCP Council where a number of parents posed questions to Lindsey Sloan, the BCP PfA Coordinator for SEND and Stacey Harvey, the BCP PfA Team Practice Manager for Adult Social Care.

You told us that you wanted more information about sleep issues and we raised this on your behalf at one of the SEND Newsletter meetings, which resulted in an article about sleep in the next BCP Family Information Newsletter.

You told us that you wanted a virtual space to rant, seek emotional support and advice from other SEND parents. Once again, we listened and set up our [members only support Fb page](#). We have held several zoom coffee and chat sessions and a virtual quiz night to support our member's mental health and reduce feelings of isolation.

Since the start of COVID-19, we have attended virtual meetings with both the NHS Dorset CCG and BCP Council to discuss topics including the SEND improvement Board and the SEND Development Plan Review.

We have co-hosted several topic specific zoom sessions with SENDiass4BCP, Rutters Solicitors and Diverse Abilities Advice Team and we are planning more sessions for the future.

When parents have contacted the forum, we have where appropriate signposted them to services, reassured them we are taking their feedback seriously and fed all concerns and questions to BCP Council and the Dorset CCG in a timely manner.

To ensure we reach as many BCP SEND families as possible, we have worked with the People First Forum and developed our welcome leaflet into an [easy read guide](#) with photosymbols.

Now we ask something of you...

We encourage you to tell your SEND friends and colleagues about us. The more members we have, the more we can influence change when its needed.

So please share our Facebook and [website](#) details, share our welcome leaflet and if you have any feedback about local SEND services you would like to give us anonymously, please [email](#) us.

If you would like to receive our email communication, please [register with us](#) for FREE.

So as we come to the end of what has felt like the world's longest summer holiday, the forum would like to praise you all for your strength during the last few months and we look forward as we are sure you do, to some new level of normality.

From

The Parent Carers Together Steering Group Committee:

Nikki
(Co-chair)

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