

# PARENT CARERS TOGETHER



Bournemouth Christchurch Poole

## What is a Parent Carer Forum and what does Parent Carers Together do to represent you?

The SEND Code of Practice (para. 1.13) explains the purpose of parent carer forums:

*“Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other services providers to ensure that the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families”*

Parent Carers Together (the official parent carer forum for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole-BCP) have a strong and committed [steering group](#) of volunteers who have been working hard over the past year to become an active forum in BCP. Our part time administrator Beth helps us function effectively.

### What We Do:

**Parent Engagement** – the forum finds out from BCP parents and carers what the issues are so that we can be well informed. We sometimes do this by hosting coffee mornings (face to face or virtually via zoom). We are also developing good relationships with other organisations, support groups etc (this is not about us doing everything) and we also have direct engagement with parents and carers through our school outreach work and via social media platforms ([Facebook](#) and mailchimp communication).

**Partnership Working** – we work with both the local authority (BCP Council) and Health (Dorset CGG), sending parent representatives to meetings to inform partners of the challenges faced by families in our area and collaboratively work on reviewing and developing strategies for improving services. We aim to not only raise the issues faced by families but also be part of the solution by offering a parent carer perspective on workable solutions.

In the past year, our representatives have attended many strategic meetings and boards and given parent carers feedback on a variety of issues including school transport, the Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) pathway, the [BCP local offer](#). There is more we as a forum want to do, but we are reliant on parent carers giving us their time to get things done. The more volunteers we have the more we can achieve together.

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**Statistics on the Number of Strategic Meetings and Hours of Parent Carers Together Representation between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 1st September 2020:**

<b>Local Authority (BCP Council)</b>	<b>Health (Dorset CCG)</b>	<b>Joint LA/Health</b>	<b>Total</b>
41 meetings	27 meetings	1 meeting	<b>69 meetings</b>
90 hours	80 hours	2 hours	<b>172 hours</b>

**Statistics on the Number of Hours of Parent Carers Together Representation in Direct Engagement with Parents & Other Activities between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 1st September 2020:**

<b>Direct Engagement (coffee mornings etc.)</b>	<b>Forum Oversight (SG meetings, webinars, training etc.)</b>	<b>Forum Regional Days</b>	<b>Total</b>
26 events	24 events	2 events	<b>52 events</b>
77 hours	49 hours	11 hours	<b>137 hours</b>

## **YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

One voice can be easily drowned out and unheard. Can you imagine the impact of thousands of voices??

Together we are so much stronger and collectively we can make such a difference so please [join us](#) and become a member of Parent Carers Together.