



## Parent Carers Together Feedback Form

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Name: Louise Middleton

Meeting description: SW Regional Forum

Where was meeting held: Albermarle Centre, Taunton

Date of meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Start & finish time: 10:00-14:00

Any future meeting dates, if known:

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Feedback can be in any format; it should contain important points that came out of the meeting, your opinions, any related work that you think overlaps, action points that you might be involved with, any areas of concern. This will be shared with all PCT reps and committee.

Please email to [bethcallis@parentcarerstogether.org.uk](mailto:bethcallis@parentcarerstogether.org.uk) within 2 weeks of meeting

### **FEEDBACK & COMMENTS** *(please use further pages if necessary)*

#### **Update from NNPCF**

Schools White Paper due to be published soon, once this is published then the SEND Review Green Paper will be published (hopefully by beginning of April).

Funding for forums is secured for the next 3 years. Contact are the grant holders and will deal with all the grant applications and monitoring direct – doesn't go through DfE, so hopefully will result in a quicker turn around for forums receiving grant.

DfE are going to be using an organisation called Impower to deliver better value for SEND. There will be some co-design sessions in the pipeline. The workshop at the end of March being one. There is a lot of chatter on social media about the pros and cons of Impower – mostly cons – *however, is it better to be part of the co-design work to change from within than outside complaining about it.*

#### **Update from Contact**

Contact have made some minor changes to the forms, but nothing too major. Deadlines: grant monitoring 29<sup>th</sup> April (where we explain how we spent last year's money, what we achieved); grant application 6<sup>th</sup> June (but want to get it in quicker than this so not waiting too long to start work).

A question was raised (has also been raised on the past) regarding inclusion and diversity – in previous years the question was asked with regard to how diverse forums were. This has proved tricky to answer – forums pointed out that some of their members did not like, or see the relevance of this. Contact responded to say it is more about how aware are forums of the diversity of their communities, however to get the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of payment we will have to prove that we understand this. See *Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit* [here](#)

Contact want to work with 15 forums to coproduce and codeliver training and resources for other forums (and other parent groups) around challenging racism and health inequalities. Funded by Learning Disability England, Race Equality Foundation and NHS England.



Still some places left – no forums in SW have signed up as yet. Let me know if anyone is interested.

### Update from DfE

Keith Thompson DfE Adviser for South West

#### Presentation

Keith stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> priority (bullet points on slide 3) was becoming more important – Treasury views SEND as a moneypit.

Comments from the room: Universal Offer is a postcode lottery and funding and accountability systems ... could lead to more standardisation which is not necessarily a good thing. Where/what is the accountability of Local Authorities and health when it comes to Multi Academy Trusts?

The DfE funds 209 Educational Psychologists a year, however it takes 3 years to qualify. However, after a few years in local authorities they are worn out, and some leave for better pay and conditions elsewhere. 209 a year is not enough given the impact on the system.

What about training and qualifications for Case Officers, especially as they are responsible for writing EHCPs.

Keith couldn't answer these on the day but will feed them up the chain.

Helen Shore – DfE link for Mental Health Support Teams. Presently MHST in mainstream schools they are looking at how they roll this out to special schools also. *Asked about Home Educated – how do they access programmes like this? DfE are building partnerships with local community groups, football clubs etc to see if and how the programme can be delivered for Home Education groups.*

### Update from NHS

Mark Tucker SEND Lead, NHS Improvement South West

Mark spoke about the NHS moving away from being diagnosis led to needs led in various pathways.

There is additional NHS money to support SW teams – Mark (& team) want to do coproduction work with children and young people.

The SEND Review – there will be a larger role for NHS national team.

Funding for forums to do specific pieces of work – for example Swindon pcf received funding for a sensory library (I wasn't aware of this – we keep hearing that there is no money, so good to know). *I did speak to Mark and Reyanna (along with DPCC) about the forums not receiving any funding from Dorset CCG, despite being promised – myself and Elaine hope to have a catch up with Reyanna on 22<sup>nd</sup> March to go through this.*

Comments from the room: can we have clarity on what NHS mean by Learning Disability and learning Difficulty – the 2 terms are not particularly helpful, especially in previous years L.Disability linked to IQ which NHS trying to move aware from.

Disparity between NHS seeing young people as adults at age of 16 when moving from children to adult services, however LA and Social Care transition to adulthood is 18 years. As there is more collaborative work going on between LA's and health this needs to be looked at.

Mark introduced us to the Team:

Graham Carr has now moved to be Head of Programme for the learning Disability & Autism Programme.



He is looking at ideas for targeting resources, as they cannot continue to just throw money at things, with no checks on outcomes.

Gemma (forgotten her surname) is primarily interested in setting up self-advocacy groups for children and young people. She will also be involved in QA EHCPs and Annual Reviews, looking at the health contribution for EHCPs. She (rather foolishly?) asked if any forums would be interested in discussing health contribution – 15 forums said yes.

Rayanna Stephens – involved in Autism in Schools programme, Keyworking project (when it starts, hopefully this year), CAMHS, waiting lists and communications between Health and Social Care.

Both Rayanna and Gemma want to arrange a time to meet the individual forums, will let you know once dates are decided.