

# PARENT CARERS TOGETHER



## **Bournemouth Christchurch Poole**

the voice of parent carers of young people with  
special educational needs and disabilities

### **Dear Parents and Carers,**

We have created this statement to help everyone understand the role of Parent Carers Together, what we do and how we ensure the 'voice' of our SEND community shapes services locally and nationally. We feel it is important for you all to know what we do, how we do it and how as a parent carer you can make a real difference.

### **Background:**

Parent Carer Forums are not new – they have been busy working to improve the lives of children who are disabled and their families in most areas of England since 2008. Forums work as strategic partners with their respective Local Authorities and Health Services.

Parent Carers Together is recognised by the Department of Education, the Department of Health as the strategic partner working with **BCP Council and Dorset NHS**.

We are members of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF). You can find out more about the NNPCF [here](#)

### **How we achieve partnership working and co-production:**

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (para 1.13) says:

*“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”.*

(the charity Contact have created a YouTube video to explain more about [parent carer forums](#).)

We do this by in a wide variety of ways. These include, listening to parent carers about their experiences of services and support through one-to-one conversations, conferences, consultations events, social media etc. We provide special educational needs and disability (SEND) related information to our parent carer network, we recruit, train and support parent carer representatives, and we use surveys to gather parent carer experiences/views on services, and lots more.

We also work in partnership with Dorset Parent Carer Council (the forum for Dorset) and wherever possible Dorset Parent Carer Council and Parent Carers Together have agreed to work together to bring about positive change for all children and young people with SEND age 0 -25 years living in all areas of Dorset County.

We approach all the work we do with education, health and care in a way that focusses on finding positive solutions and improving outcomes for our children and their families.

## Our joint work includes:

**Pan Dorset Development & Behaviour Pathway** - The overall aim of this work is to improve outcomes for children and young people aged 0-25 years with Neuro-Developmental conditions.

**SEND Workforce Development & Awareness Training** – The training is aimed at all staff across education, health and social care who need to have an awareness of their day-to-day responsibility with regards to children and young people 0-25 with SEND.

**SEND Local Offer Health:** This section of the Local Offer has been produced in partnership with parent carer groups, the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), BCP Council and Dorset Council. The aim is to make it easy for parents to find all the information they need on local health pathways and services for children and young people aged 0 to 25 with SEND.

## How you can make a difference.

To ensure parents and carers have a strong and effective voice your Forum really needs your support. There are lots of ways you can do this but simplest is by joining your local Forum.

Forums rely on volunteers, parent carer representatives and other roles - no contribution is ever too small! To find out more about what is involved and how you can help please click on the forum's website for the area which you live in.

If you live in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole [join us](#) here

If you live in Dorset, then [Dorset Parent Carer Council](#) is your forum.

Your Forum is working hard on behalf of all parent carers who have children or young people with special educational needs or a disability (0-25) across the County and we really need your participation and support to continue making a positive difference.

Thank you for reading – we really appreciate your time.

Kind Regards *Parent carers Together Steering Group*

