

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with disabilities?

Do you have questions relating to Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)?

Are you finding it difficult to get the support you need for your child?

Would you like advice from other parents in a similar situation?

Do you just need someone to talk to who will understand?

If you have any query at all relating to Special Educational Needs & Disability, please contact us and we will always do our best to find an answer.

## SEND FAMILY VOICES

TELEPHONE  
**07469 746 145**

E-MAIL  
**[sendfamilyvoices@outlook.com](mailto:sendfamilyvoices@outlook.com)**

WEBSITE  
**[www.sendfamilyvoices.org](http://www.sendfamilyvoices.org)**

You can find details of upcoming open meetings, events and more on our website.

 @SENDfamilyvoice

 SEND Family Voices

Registered charity 1161298

Design: Amanda Ribbons

# SEND FAMILY VOICES

Working in partnership to give families a voice...

# SEND FAMILY VOICES



## WHO WE ARE

We are an independent charity run by a steering group of 20 volunteers; all of us are parents of children or young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND).

Many of us are also representatives from disability specific support groups or special schools; this gives us a strong network of skills and understanding.

### **We are all volunteers. We are all parents.**

We work across Kingston and Richmond with families of children and young people with SEND and seek to represent all families in our work. We always put the interests of the family at the centre of what we do.

We are independent of the service providers, including Health, the Local Authority and its commissioned children's services (Achieving for Children). However, we seek to work in partnership and as critical friends, offering both challenge and support where it is needed.

## WHAT WE DO

We bring people together into a community to improve services, share support and strengthen our common voice. By ensuring families are heard, we empower children, young people and their families to obtain the best possible care and services.

**All families belong to SEND Family Voices;** whether your child has a Statement of SEN, an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) or just needs a little extra help. All families are welcome to join our database for newsletters, or to contribute to consultations, or do more if they wish.

▶ **Co-production** - [Send Family Voices steering group](#)

▲ **Participation** - [our newsletters and register](#)

▲ **Information** - [everyone](#)

Our independence comes through our collective responsibility and our belief in collaboration through critical friendship. We receive most of our funding from a participation grant administered by *Contact a Family*. We use our grant money to empower families; through consultations, open meetings and co-production opportunities with service providers.

## HOW WE DO IT

We organise open meetings, forums and workshops where parents and carers can come together to voice their concerns, ask questions, look for solutions and support each other. We invite relevant professionals to come and hear directly what families have to say and to answer their questions.

We send out regular newsletters with updates on anything that could be interesting for families of children and young people with SEND. The information can range from changes in the law to details of a great new holiday club.

Our work influences the way that services are provided; we co-produce guidance, information and commissioning to ensure services give families what they need.

We attend many meetings and ensure that we are aware of current local services and the wider world of SEND.

We do our best to offer sources of support to anyone who calls us regarding their own individual situation.

**We put parents in touch with other parents. Families tell us that this is the most effective support that they receive.**