



Barnet Parent Carer Forum

November 2020



Who are we?

- ▶ Barnet Parent Carer Forum was set up in November 2014 by a group of parent carers in response to the change in legislation (Children & Families Act)
- ▶ All members are parent carers of children and young people aged 0-25 years.
- ▶ Funded by the Department for Education to engage with the Local Authority.
- ▶ We represent families' views and help to shape and improve services for our children and young people.
- ▶ Part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums - national perspective





What does membership involve?

- ▶ Basic membership - members receive regular email updates on events, training opportunities, surveys and other items of interest
- ▶ Steering group - around 10 parent carers who jointly decide the priorities of the forum, attend workstream and other strategic meetings and work closely with the Local Authority
- ▶ Parents who sit on feedback groups independently.





Benefits of membership

- ▶ Stay informed about local SEND services and events
- ▶ Training opportunities eg writing a good EHCP, person centred planning, using the Local Offer
- ▶ Supportive environment with a group of like minded people
- ▶ Empowerment that comes with effective action
- ▶ A chance to make a difference to the services our children receive





How has COVID-19 affected the way we work?

- ▶ Information is circulated by email
- ▶ Virtual meetings e.g. Zoom
- ▶ Emphasis on digital feedback - e-surveys
- ▶ Difficult to stay connected
- ▶ Have we lost the personal touch?





BPCF engagement with the LA during the past year

- ▶ Autism strategy - development and implementation
- ▶ CAMHS transforming care project
- ▶ Trailblazer bid which has led to MH support teams in schools
- ▶ Therapy services - ongoing development
- ▶ Social Care - Open Spaces and short breaks
- ▶ Return to school and remote learning
- ▶ Workstreams - some carrying on remotely
- ▶ Representation at Board level including BELS
- ▶ SEND assurance visit October 2020





BPCF future priorities

- ▶ Stay connected!
- ▶ Establish our independence
- ▶ Improve and update our website
- ▶ Increase communication with our members
- ▶ Establish a social media presence
- ▶ Build on our strong representation with the LA
- ▶ Virtual training opportunities for members
- ▶ Online surveys - tell us what matters to you
- ▶ Strengthen and diversify our steering group
- ▶ Increase our membership - how to do this remotely?





Add your voice! Join BPCF

Contact us:

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