



Families in Partnership

A voice for parent carers of children and young people with SEND living in Worcestershire

NEWSLETTER



FiP SURVEY 2023

Families in Partnership are embarking on a series of surveys to find out what is happening with our SEND families across Worcestershire. We are encouraging anyone who cares for a SEND child, whether they are the parents, grandparents, guardians or adult sibling carers to tell us how they feel right now. It is also an opportunity to re-engage with existing members and get to know our new members too. We want to capture the voice of the parent carer and use your up-to-date real life experiences to inform strategic partners on what is working well and what needs improving.

Family circumstances change and many factors impact on family life. By creating a more accurate image of how our SEND families currently feel, it will help us to understand how better to engage with you.

Please complete one survey for each child with SEND and if there are multiple carers within your home, please ask them to complete one too!

Please follow the link here:

Child 0 - 3yrs old

<https://forms.office.com/e/Z02LWXqgwr>

Child 4 - 11yrs old

<https://forms.office.com/e/wFRAF84nYg>

Child/Young Person 12 - 15yrs old

<https://forms.office.com/e/KKjzg3NnQG>

Young Person 16 - 18yrs old

<https://forms.office.com/e/9RDCKs6t41>

Young Person 19 - 25yrs old

<https://forms.office.com/e/w2VLE1BvVc>

Internships

We are looking for a Member interested in becoming a Parent Representative for a current project around [Internships to Work](#).

If you are interested contact: engagementfip@carersworcs.org.uk

Community Engagement

We are looking for Members interested in becoming a Parent Representative for projects around [Engagement for Parent Carers](#).

If you are interested contact: engagementfip@carersworcs.org.uk

TOP STORIES

FiP SURVEY 2023

We want to hear from everyone!

NNPCF & CONTACT

Conference, Bristol 2023

FiP SEND Conference,
Perdiswell Children Centre

Facebook | Twitter

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates and helpful information.



Coffee Morning



Do you get together with other Parent Carers on a regular basis or would like to know where they meet in your area?

FiP want to build a directory to share with those feeling isolated and needing support with all things SEND. Let us know.

FiP would also like to be able to come too from time to time. Please email:

engagementfip@carersworcs.org.uk

Workshop

Cerebra Sleep Workshop
Tuesday 2nd May 2023
10am - 2pm

Worcester Countryside Centre
There are 20 places.

More information on page 3.

What is Families in Partnership?

Quite simply, we are a forum formed of parent carers who want the best for our children.

We understand the impact that being the parent carer of a child with additional needs has and how it can be totally life changing. We allow parent carers to have a voice amongst the professionals – to tell it like it really is – about the challenges faced, the hurdles and the highs and lows. We learn from our experiences and each other which informs our strategic work.



Frequently Asked Questions...

Who can join the forum?

The forum is open to parent carers, family members, guardians and foster parents of children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities 0-25 (no diagnosis needed). If you live in Worcestershire or access services from education, health or social care in Worcestershire, we would love you to join us.

Does it cost to be part of the forum?

No. Parent Carer Forums are FREE to join. You will not be charged to be part of the forum. You will receive a newsletter which shares information about events and ways you can share your views and experiences of services.

Ways you can get involved.

There are lots of different ways to get involved from completing a survey or attending an event. Everyone is welcome. There are also roles such as a parent carer representative within the forum. The more people that get involved, the more we can accurately represent what it is like for children, young people and their families.

How do we help to make services meet children's needs?

Our forum promotes parental voice to influence change through events, discussion groups and working groups. We gather the views of local families and work with the council, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements.

Is the forum a campaign group?

No, campaigning is not aligned with the forum's ethos to work with services to help them understand the experiences of families and find solution to issues. In addition, the funding we receive from the Department for Education cannot be to campaign. We influence change through working together and constructive challenge service providers. The forum acknowledges the important role that campaign groups have in helping to get the voice of parents heard. We are happy to work with campaign groups by feeding back the issues they raise and providing them with information.

Worcestershire Children First (WCF) SEND update

Since the local area SEND revisit in November 2021 by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) has been implemented for the 4 remaining areas of weakness which are:

1. The variation in the skills and commitment of some mainstream schools to provide effective support for children who have SEND.
2. The lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of children and young people.
3. Fragile relationships with parents and carers and a lack of meaningful engagement and coproduction and collaboration.
4. The poor quality of EHCPs and limited contributions from health and social care along with the process to check and review the quality of EHC plans.

There are 4 workstream groups now responsible for each area. WCF meets monthly with their Department of Education (DfE) advisor and are reviewed every 6 months to assess their progress against the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) by the DfE and NHS England. The second of these reviews will be taking place at the end of March. FiP will be providing data extractions from the anonymous surveys (see front page) to feed into this second review. Please complete it if you have not already done so.

- A number of extra Educational Psychologists and Assistant Educational Psychologists have been recruited, this means the team is now at full capacity.
- There have been 7 additional Case Worker Officers recruited in the SEND Statutory Team so the team is now at full capacity. This will mean the team will have a more manageable caseload and this will continue to be monitored. The team are transferring all of their cases on to an online portal which means there will be a clear overview of the cases and it will be a more joined up approach.
- There have been changes made for people who are applying for an EHCP. This will now be done via a professional portal and enables parents and carers to log on and see where they are in the process, this will allow families to have a much better idea of what is happening and be better informed of the process.

News & Events

NNPCF & CONTACT Joint Conference 2023

This year sees the return of the NNPCF and CONTACT Annual Conference in Bristol, the first Face to face event in three years. This is following on from the virtual workshops that ran between 28th January and 1st of February. Shortly after the conference, the live sessions will be available to watch on YouTube- details will be shared after the event and we will post them on our social media channels as a quick link.

Families in Partnership will be attending the Bristol Conference and are looking forward to connecting with fellow Forums. The topics covered are based on parent carer feedback which the Department for Education, NHS, Ofsted / CQC, and partners in the charity sector use these to influence the full conference program. The conference in Bristol will be attended by Key Note Speakers including Claire Coutinho, Minister for Children, Families, and Wellbeing. There will be a Q&A panel including **Alison Ismail**, Director for SEND and Alternative Provision at the Department for Education; **Tina Pagett**, HMI, further education and skills from Ofsted; **Phil Brayshaw**, Acting Head of Children and Young People, National Learning Disability and Autism Programme NHS England; **Amanda Allard**, Deputy Director for Health, Council for Disabled Children. **What questions do you want us to ask on your behalf?** Please email: enquiriesfip@caresworcs.org.uk

Cost of Living

As part of the Government Household Support Fund CAB are currently working with the County Council to distribute £75 vouchers to eligible pensioners NOT in receipt of Pension Credit, people with disabilities or a long term health condition, of any age, and carers of any age. Pensioners on Pension Credit will be getting a letter from the County Council.

WAC are working with CAB to distribute payments to carers - who have a substantial and regular caring role. You do not have to be on Carers Allowance to access this fund.

One FiP member told us: *'usually you seem to have to fight to be awarded any form of financial benefit such as DLA/PIP etc. but this was so easy to access and the advisor was really helpful'*.

Families in Partnership SEND Conference Friday 17th March Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Club, Worcester

Tickets are now available to book on Eventbrite:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/send-conference-tickets-549228405947?fbclid=IwAR2OfIuStYEF70e-cQklpvYQ_0ENMRp-R-q6LPI6xI6--DknxGlXKkMxvM

FiP will be bringing together key speakers and a host of services and information points for Parent Carers.

Speakers include:

Melanie Barnett,

Director for All Age Disability with a Worcestershire Children First SEND service update;

Patsy Holbrook, when it comes

to understanding different

perspectives Patsy has all bases

covered. Having been 'not fine

in school' due to her own

undiagnosed neurodivergence,

she made a vow to give children

with autism and ADHD the support

she needed. Following a successful

career as a Learning Support

Manager and SENDCo Patsy

founded **Key2Confidence**

<https://www.key2confidence.co.uk/>

an autism, anxiety and ADHD

support service for children and

young people. As well as helping

hundreds of children to date she

also supports a neurodivergent son and granddaughter. Whether your child's divergence is diagnosed or suspected, Patsy's practical strategies will help you provide the structure and predictability your child needs; **Onside Advocacy**.

Information stands include: representatives from **SENDIASS**, Worcestershire Association of Carers (**WAC**), **Worcestershire Parent & Carers Community (WPCC)**, **Wellbeing & Emotional Support Team in Schools**, **Starting Well Partnership**, **Worcestershire Children First Young Adults Team** and others. **Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.**

We will provide a light lunch and refreshments throughout the day. For those unable to attend we will be posting the presentations after the event on our social media and web pages.

Members and non-members are welcome. Members will receive a goody bag on arrival. There will be the opportunity to join the forum. Maree, FiP Participation & Engagement Officer will be available throughout the day. This is a great opportunity to meet professionals working in Worcestershire to support your SEND child AND meet other parent carers all in one place.

CEREBRA Sleep Workshop

FiP are hosting this Sleep Workshop on: **2nd May 2023 10am - 2pm** At Worcester Countryside Centre. There are 20 places. The tickets will be released after half term on Eventbrite.

Understanding and supporting your Children's Sleep. The main focus of the workshop will be on how to:

- **Build on your knowledge and understanding of sleep and what impacts/improves it**
- **To increase your skills when addressing issues of settling, night waking, early rising and sleeping alone**
- **To improve your confidence to apply information gained to your own situation.**

Cerebra are a national charity helping children with brain conditions and their families discover a better life together.

Get Involved

There are many benefits to becoming a member of Families in Partnership. By filling out the membership form you will receive updates on consultations, surveys, questionnaires and have the opportunity to have your say on what matters to you as a parent carer.

To become a member please click on the link here membership form:
<https://www.carersworcs.org.uk/get-involved>



ASD training for parents and carers of autistic teens.

As part of a pilot service supporting 14-18 year olds, with a recent autism diagnosis, Autism West Midlands will be delivering free online training for Herefordshire and Worcestershire parent carers:

Autism and the Teenage Brain

- Thursday 2 March 2023, 10am - 11:30am

Autism and Anxiety

- Wednesday 8 March 2023, 10am - 11:30am

Supporting your Autistic Teen

- Thursday 16 March 2023, 10am - 11:30am

Navigating the System

- Wednesday 22 March 2023, 10am - 11:30am

To book, parent carers can visit AWM's events page at: <https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events>



WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST






WCF are looking at the current webpages of the Local Offer and looking for feedback. Please follow the link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWtidmDppd9oQjCOj_C-NG9L9wHZHskn3ZdrX2Hy77NSLeOw/viewform



How can I find out more?

-  www.carersworcs.org.uk/parent-carer-forum
-  www.facebook.com/familiesinpartnershipworcestershire
-  @FiPWorcs

You can also contact us by email:

Enquiries: enquiriesfip@carersworcs.org.uk

Engagement: engagementfip@carersworcs.org.uk

Please note that the forum is made up of volunteers and part time staff and may not always be able to respond immediately.

Working in partnership with:

