



OXFORDSHIRE
PARENT CARERS FORUM

The Voice of Parent Carers in Oxfordshire

OFSTED Feedback Session

New SEND Framework - Pilot Methodology Testing



What are the current priorities for Parent Carers in Oxfordshire?

Ensuring your child's needs are being met at school

CAMHS waiting times

Communication with SEND team

Lack of special school places

Parent blaming/no understanding of masking which leads to a lack of appropriate support for child and family

Lack of funding for vital services

Constant change of personal dealing with your child, such as SEN officers and the appalling communication around this

Who to speak to

Named contacts

Insufficient numbers of specialist places...

School based trauma

Accessing CIT

Lack of clarity for families on process...

Mainstream schools being truly inclusive:

Concern over how the push for attendance affects SEN families pre and post diagnosis.

CYP lost in the system and unknown...

EHCPs left in draft for prolonged periods of time following an AR...

Increasing numbers of tribunals and numerous other challenging experiences that our families are having.

Pre-diagnosis support

Accountability, support from council when needed

Clearer understanding about funding for children with SEND

Insufficient, accessible and affordable SEND childcare

Local offer issues....

Informal exclusions

The paperwork and understanding of it:

Families not getting responses within legal timeframes...

Honesty about timeframes and capacity

Blanket policy that "school is best" for children for whom EOTAS is (actually) best

Waiting times (eg paediatrician, having to chase ALL the time for everything)

Lack of accountability around the delivery of support in schools...



What are the current priorities for OxPCF?

**Strong
consistent
relationships
with strategic
leads**

**Gathering
feedback
from
families**

**Increasing
capacity
of SG**

**Integrated
care system
development**

**Recruitment
to the SG**

**Diversity
and
inclusion**

**Widening
participation**

**Strengthening
the forum**

**Training for
SG members
and for parent
carers in
Oxfordshire**

**Coproduction
with ALL
services**

**Maintaining
current list of
named
contacts**



What are our challenges?

Capacity of steering group members, particularly chairs

LA to understand the implications/impact of being a parent carer who is also actively involved in the forum

Relationships - seen as equal partners

Clearer idea of what's happening now and in the future and our involvement

For people to be mindful of emotional load we carry as parent carers and members of OxPCF

Constant change of personnel exhausting

Acknowledgement that we want to be involved and know about what's happening and to be informed/given the choice to be involved at the start, rather than being a tick box at the end!

Communication with services

Induction training for SG

Number of interim consultants - no local area understanding, no historic understanding and limited local area commitment



PCF aims for 2022-2023

**Access to
Adult
Mental
Health**

**Strengthening
of existing
partnerships**

**Reasonable
adjustments
in A+E for
Post-16**

**SEND friendly
environment in
hospitals/medical
appointments**

**EDI (Equality,
Diversity and
Inclusion)
work**

**Feedback
process**

**Baseline
survey**

**Post
16/Post 19
provision
and issues**



**PMLD -
connect with
more parent
carers and
improve
services**

**6 termly
events for
parent
engagement**

**Baseline
Survey**

**Highlighting
key issues
that we see in
the SEND
room**

**Positive
coffee
and chats**

**Local
Offer**

**Parent carer
nominated
awards to
promote and
highlight
good practice**

**SEND
Transport**

**EOTAS/Home
School links**

**Disparity
in access
to
services**

**Positive
coffee
and chats**

**Polls through
Oxfordshire
SEND room
for quick
feedback**



What do the PCF need from the wider partnership?

Transparency

For the wider partnership to take part in a coproduction session with CONTACT

Clearer joined up working with services

Improved communication

Access to the SEND data we have requested

Map of boards, steering groups, working parties etc

Clearer understanding of what coproduction is

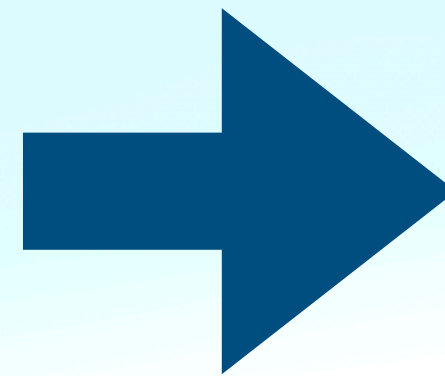
How to know what's coming up

Partnership working

Organised and timely approach regarding KIT meetings/CAMHS feedback meetings etc

YOU SAID:

- Information about SEND Law
- What is available for SEN Support?
- There is no social care offer for CYP for ASD and no LD
- Families benefit from peer to peer support
- Help us develop a shared understanding of EOTAS with the LA
- We struggle to communicate with our SEN officers
- Where do we stand, when our children struggle to get into school?



WE DID:

- Facilitated a SEND Law training session, delivered by SENDIASS which has now been delivered to the Key Worker team in Oxfordshire
- Delivered a Q&A session and co-produced a leaflet with SENDIASS
- We went to CSC and have started work on the development of an ASD offer for families
- We launched a Facebook which group which now has over 1100 parent carers in Oxfordshire
- Secured a meeting with the LA and have started gathering feedback from Parent Carers
- Informed the LA who produced a communication commitment and a clear route for escalation
- We're coproducing an information leaflet with SENDIASS

Questions for OFSTED:

- What will happen with the survey content ?
- Will it be shared with the LA and PCF ?
- What action will inspectors take, if it highlights significant concern ?
- Our experience to date, suggests a reduction in PCF involvement with the new framework. Is this the case ?
- Do either the LA or inspectors, feel that a learning opportunity has been missed, by not having a PC feedback session? *(Whilst we appreciate this is about methodology testing, several strategic leads in the LA, have no experience of a full inspection and therefore only limited understanding around how this session with parents fits into the process.)*

Example of parent carer response to letter regarding SEN Communication sent 29th June 2022

- This is just a typical LA reply, constantly making excuses for their incompetence, while ignoring the needs of our kids who are missing out on an education
-because other local authorities are experiencing the same it's ok?!
- This is nothing but a slap in the face, full of excuses, while ignoring the concerns of the parents directly impacted by the incompetence!!! All while our children are at crisis point
- Don't like leaving us waiting! I'm beginning to wonder if they even exist! Just another excuse in a long line of incompetence, they don't even answer emails, I feel like emailing OCC and cc'ing the Oxford Mail
- I understand case load, vacancies, staff illness but how does this help with the LA misses legal deadlines leaving vulnerable children with no post 16 school placement named, well into the last month before they have to leave residential. The LA are firefighting and receiving increasing numbers of appeals and judicial reviews, leaving even less capacity to manage the day to day work. It is not good enough and will just get worse until someone high up takes proper charge of the reality of the situation