



**HAMPSHIRE
PARENT CARER**
NETWORK
enabling voices to be heard

Join Hampshire Parent Carer Network as a Representative!

What is the purpose of a forum?

Parent Carer Forums are an organised group of parents and carers from a local area, with children and young people aged 0-25 with a disability or any additional needs including mental Health.

Their aim is to work in a solution focused way to make sure that services in their area meet the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

Forums provide the opportunity to tell the Local Authority, Health and other services, what life is really like based on real lived experiences.

Using in-person get-togethers, surveys and online support we work to gather views - Together we are enabling voices to be heard.

Legislation and why we do what we do

As part of the Children and Families Act 2014 part 3, and sections 1, 3 and 4 of the SEND Code of Practice – Parent Carer Forums work with services to ensure that the voices and experiences of children, young people and their parents are not only heard, but are listened to and considered when services are being planned, designed, implemented and reviewed



The role of parent representatives

- To help inform decision makers about the experiences of parent carers
- To ensure that parents' views are fed into decisions about children's services at a strategic level.
- Aim to reach a common understanding between professionals and parents about how effective local services are for children with disabilities.
- The hope is the combined information and perspectives can result in joint planning and co production opportunities that can help lead to more effective services.

What it may involve to be a parent rep:

- Attend meetings or events which relate to your specific topic, with another member of Hampshire Parent Carer Network, if possible
- Providing and circulating written feedback from those meetings you attend, within a 2 week period
- Respond to requests for our input, where they relate specifically to your topic
- Helping out generally when Hampshire Parent Carer Network are running an event
- Training, where relevant
- Promoting the organisation to help us raise our profile

Hampshire Parent Carer Network will

- Support you in this role, with advice and practical help
- Pay your expenses for the work that you do, your mileage to attend meetings, parking and/or transport costs.
- Provide training and personal development

Can you help?

In terms of time commitment, it's entirely dependent on what you are able to offer. We know many of you will be juggling caring responsibilities alongside other commitments. So even if it's one hour a month, that would make a difference. Participation training and support will be provided