



Cheshire East
Parent Carer Forum



**CEPCF AGM & COFFEE
MORNING**

Tuesday 11 June 2019
10:00 am to 13:00

Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: Who are we?

Anyone who is a parent carer with a child or young person (age 0-25) with additional needs, living in Cheshire East can join the Parent Carer Forum

There are more than 600 members of Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum

All our **volunteers** are members of the Parent Carer Forum – **we are all parent carers ourselves**



Cheshire East
Parent Carer Forum





Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: What do we do?

- We work with services in Education, social care, health and charities
SEND team, NHS, Transport, CEIAS, SEND Partnership, Commissioning, Cheshire East Carers' Hub, Cheshire & Warrington Carers Trust and many more
- We represent the views and experiences of our members, and co-produce services to find ways to make them work better
We use surveys, our Facebook Group, chatting with other parents at coffee mornings and direct feedback from members to make sure representatives have a good understanding of the issues affecting us
- We share information from these meetings to keep our members informed
We put on Open Forum events to share updates and give members the chance to ask questions.
We send out members update emails, share links and information on our Facebook group
- We arrange training and workshops for our members



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: What else do we do?

- We hold monthly steering group meetings
Parent volunteers and associate members meet each month to share information and updates and to discuss the PCF's priorities and actions. It's a chance to take stock and discuss any issues that members have raised
- We pay members' expenses so that participating doesn't cost you money
- We offer all our members a free max card as a thank you for participating
- We promote the CEPCF at events to try to reach even more parent carers
- ... behind the scenes: Our treasurer keeps the accounts, we answer emails & phone calls, give out Max Cards, co-ordinate our volunteers, hold planning meetings, update the website, signpost members, create surveys, run volunteers workshops to improve how we work
- We are always looking for more parent carers who'd like to get involved (...hint hint!)



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: What don't we do?

- Represent ourselves or our individual children
We need to be mindful that our own experiences and priorities aren't the same as everyone else's. Using surveys, feedback, the Facebook group and conversations with our members gives us a wider understanding
- Take on members' individual complaints
We will do our best to sign-post our members to information, support and proper complaints processes, but it is not our role to take on our members' complaints. We will try to identify areas where several of our members are experiencing issues so we can see if there is an underlying problem with the process that can be addressed
- Just agree with the professionals!
We try to be a *critical friend* – we will be honest about our experiences, we will challenge and ask questions (even if we think they might be silly questions!)



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: What did we do last year?

- Parent Representatives took part in SEND Partnership meetings, workstreams and working groups
 - * In 2018 – 19 reps contributed to 78 meetings with Cheshire East SEND Partnership *
- Parent Representatives have raised members' issues and worked with services to make find ways to improve them
- Co-production
 - * In 2018 – 19 reps were involved in co producing training, leaflets, processes, information packs, letters, policies, events and more.... *



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: What else did we do last year...?

- Representing and promoting the PCF to members and services

We have been to events organised by other Carers' groups, motability events, school parents evenings, the Cheshire East SENCO conferences and recently some of our reps were to be invited to the first CANDDID conference in Chester.

*** CEPCF have increased our membership by over 150 in the last year! ***

*** In 2018 – 19, CEPCF has welcomed over 50 different services and organisations to our meetings ***

- Information events and training for Cheshire East parent carers

*** Mental Health Open Forum & AGM * SEND co-production summer picnic * Home Education, school refusal and EOTAS for SEND Open forum * Learning disabilities and behaviour workshop * Parent training on assertiveness * Parent training on effective participation in SEND meetings * EHCP post inspection update open forum ***



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: What next? Events and training in 19-20

- *Planning your Future* Drop in information event about transition & PfA for young people & their families (Thursday 4 July, 12 noon to 8pm at Holmes Chapel Community Centre)
- Autism Open Forum – update from the SEND Partnership to share the work they have been doing following the Local Area SEND inspection last year (details TBC)
- Three events for parents to meet the new SEND team for their localities (details TBC)
- More parent & professional coffee mornings like today – termly?
- What do you want? We welcome members' suggestions for future training and events



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: What next? Co-production & participation

- Parent reps will continue to contribute to the workstreams and working groups
 - We have been invited to participate in assessing bids for the Capital Provision Fund
 - We are working with CWP to co-produce online training modules
 - We have been asked to co-produce elements of the training for the new SEND team
- We will work with the SEND Partnership to find ways to improve parent engagement – and today is part of this



Listening to you

What is today all about?

- Learning from other PCFs; it's an idea that has worked well in some other areas – if it goes well we'd like to keep these going on a termly basis
- The inspection last year identified a gap between the service providers' expectations and the users' lived experience
- Learn from the EHCP open forum in March – make sure the issues affecting our members are heard – this is an opportunity for parents and providers to work together to bridge that gap
- Individual issues – not the place to sort out complex issues, but hope that everyone who has come with an issue or a question will at least leave today knowing how to move forward