

together is better



Cheshire East
Parent Carer Forum

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Introduction and Housekeeping
- Short Breaks Update
- Interviews with providers of short breaks
- Q&A with short breaks team, providers and CEIAS
- Chairs' Report
- Treasurers' Report
- Elections for Steering Group Officers



Housekeeping

- Welcome to our second virtual AGM
- Please stay on mute during the session, 'raise hands' for any questions or feel free to write questions into chat box
- Today's session will be recorded
- Feedback & questions



Short Breaks Update and Providers



CEPCF -
Chairs' and
Treasurers'
Report



Update: What has
Cheshire East Parent
Carer Forum done in
2020-21



Participation

- Anyone that 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
- We have over 880 members (an increase in nearly 200 in the last 6 months),
- We have over 1200 members on our Facebook Group,
- We have over 500 likes to our nearly new open Facebook Page.
- All our **volunteers** are members of the Parent Carer Forum – **we are all parent carers ourselves**
- We have a steering group that works together to agree how we use our resources and volunteers to represent our members most effectively.
- ***We always welcome any new volunteer***



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: Since April 2020 we have:

- We have held virtual events for Cheshire East parent carers:
 - coffee mornings to meet your SEND locality team
 - an event to keep families updated with Covid restriction with CEIAS
 - offered parent training workshops to our members free of charge
- We have shared information, news, events and updates with Cheshire East parent carers:
 - Maintained our parent carer-only Facebook group as a safe space for peer support and advice
 - We have continued to use our public Facebook page to share information more widely
 - Sign-posted parent carers to support and information
 - Sent regular members' updates to share information, news, events and updates
 - Shared information about the SEND revisit with parent carers and widely promoted the inspectors' survey



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum:

During 2020-21 we have:

→ We have represented and promoted the PCF to members and services:

- Spoken at online carers events (x3), provided training for SEND team, health, social care, transport and SENCo's on parents perspective of having a child / young person with additional needs
- We have met with councillors
- We have also met with MPs

→ We have listened to our members and asked for their views & experiences

- Ran surveys on what 3 things are most important to our members, about EHCPs, and Autism pathways.
- Welcomed regular chat and updates from our members and followed up with individuals to make sure that our Parent Representatives can share a wider understanding than their own
- We sent a small gift to over 350 members to say thank you for their participation and well done for keeping going through this extraordinary time



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum:

During 2020-21 we have:

→ We have made sure that parent carers' views and priorities are heard

We need to know what's happening about transport sooner! Mid August is too late!

There's more to SEND than Autism!

I know the inspectors are bothered about time for needs assessments, but I want to know what's going on with my child's annual review

Brilliant to see improvements in needs assessments but need to look at annual reviews

I don't care about 12 weeks from referral to first appointment, I care about time from asking for help to getting actual help

Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: Also during the past year we have:

- To develop the forum we have:
 - Provided all schools/SENCOs in Cheshire East a copy of '*The Helpful Guide for Families with Disabled Children*' to help them support and signpost their families effectively, together with information and leaflets about who the PCF are and what we do
 - Linked in with other PCFs to share experiences and learn from each other
 - provided parent representatives with equipment to ensure they were able to participate in meetings and workshops
 - Invested in a new email system

Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum:

Parent Representative involvement over the last year

- Between April 2020 and March 2021, our reps have taken part in more than 265 meetings with Cheshire East SEND Partnership! We have delivered, supported or attended training sessions, interviewed new applicants for SEND services , taken part in working groups, coffee mornings, workshops, consultations and Q&A sessions and more....



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum:

Parent Representative involvement over the last year

→ Volunteer Parent Representatives participate in governance meetings and working groups across all areas of SEND: EHCP needs assessments, annual reviews, autism assessment and support, joint commissioning, Communication and engagement, home to school transport, CEIAS governance, working with charity organisations and support groups. Their role is to represent members' views, experiences and opinions to be a critical friend, identifying where things aren't working and helping to find ways to make improvements.



helped the LA to learn from experiences during the first school closures to provide better reassurance and information for families second time around

explained that after so much work has been done on EHC needs assessment, there now needs to be a real focus on improving timeliness of annual reviews and quality of existing plans

Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: Parent Representative involvement over the last year

→ Parent Representatives have:

- worked with Ruby's Fund to design and deliver training to SENCOs, SEND, Social Care, Health, and other professionals to give them a better understanding of how they can help the parent carers they work with
- Ensured that those delivering the Autism pathway monitored total time for the assessment rather than just time from referral to first appointment
- Learned from experiences during the first school closures to provide better reassurance and information for families second time around
- Agreed that after so much work has been done on EHC needs assessment, there now needs to be a real focus on improving timeliness of annual reviews and quality of existing plans



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum: What next?

We will:

- keep representing the views and experiences of parent carers in Cheshire East as part of the SEND Partnership
- Provide more training sessions and workshops for members (topic requests very welcome!) so they are informed and empowered
- Continue to share information, events and updates via members' updates, Facebook and regular blogs on our website to keep members informed of what is happening and what's new.
- Work to strengthen our relationships with other SEN parent groups/charities
- Keep listening to our members - if we don't hear from you we can't share your lived experiences, so please keep talking :)

Cheshire East PCF Treasurer's Report 2020 / 2021



Treasurer Report 2019-2020

- Summary of Income for the year
 - Department for Education parent participation grant.
 - Paid in 2 payments, one at the beginning of the financial year and one halfway through the financial year after grant monitoring is complete £15,000.00
 - Underspend from 2019/20 year £ 1179.00
 - Total grant moneys received £16,210.00



Grant Expenditure 2020-2021

Total Money Received: £16,210.00
 Total Expenditure £16,179.48
 Total Underspend £ 30.52

<u>Item</u>	<u>Budget (based on 15,000 grant)</u>	<u>Spent (based on 16,200 received)</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Events	£ 1000.00	£ -	£ 1000.00
Meetings	£ 1000.00	£ -	£ 1000.00
Staffing costs	£ 5800.00	£ 4584.54	£ 1215.46
Training	£ 1200.00	£ 1560.00	£ 360.00
Parent carer expenses	£ 1700.00	£ 358.37	£ 1341.63
Develop info and resources	£ 1000.00	£ 2619.27	£ 1619.27
Web development	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 500.00
Parent carer remuneration	£ -	£ -	£ -
Infrastructure	£ 800.00	£ 3098.26	£ 2298.26
Hard to reach	£ 800.00	£ 2193.00	£ 1393.00
Other	£ 1200.00	£ 1766.04	£ 566.04
TOTAL	£ 15,000.00	£ 16179.48	£ 1179.48





Formal appointment of officers and steering group

Quick reminder that we would welcome any new volunteers (link in the chat)

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Coming soon on the website:

- Today's reports, presentations, links etc
 - Feedback questionnaire

