



## **PARENT CARERS CORNWALL**

This report summaries the work Parent Carers Cornwall have been involved with for the period July-early October 2023

81 meetings took place over this period, parent carers were invited to attend both locally and national meetings.

We are involved in the work for the Neurodevelopment Pathway, meeting monthly with leads to ensure the pathway is fit for purpose for families. This will help reduce waiting times for families who are waiting for a diagnosis for their child. The project aims to

To improve access to the right support, information, and advice for families

To optimise the join up of services to support families

To make the best of the resources that Cornwall services have available and invest where required.

Parent Carers Cornwall as a leader for the Autism in school programme which commenced work in early March. Phase one training was delivered to eleven secondary schools who expressed an interest in becoming involved. The training was delivered by the Autism Education Trust whose lead is based in a SEND school in Cornwall. Young people had workshops delivered by Dreadnoughts. This programme will roll out to more schools through evidence of need and will now include primary schools.

We have delivered for parent/carers of children with SEND wellness sessions to ensure parents look after their own wellbeing and emotional health. These will continue to ensure parent/carers are supported and signposted to relevant services.

Families have had information and training days delivered, these were aimed at hidden families or those new into county. Feedback from evaluations were these were valued and were informative to families. Many workshops have been delivered and offered in subjects selected directly by families.

The Parent Carers newsletter has continued to be welcomed by both families and those professionals working on the frontline with families. E-bulletins are also sent out monthly.

We are continuing to work in partnership with the Time to Move programme who deliver activities to those children on free school meals. Parent Carers Cornwall ensures that all relevant information is collected for children through contact with families and passed to service providers. This allows services to make sure everything is put in place for the child to attend fully inclusive activities.

Aiming Higher Conference on October 3rd.

144 people attended on the day, with a good mix of parents and professionals.

The conference was co-produced between Parent Carer Cornwall and Cornwall Council Children's Services, with workshop themes being identified by parents. The workshops were:

- Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) and the decision-making process.
- The support that children can receive if they are out of school settings.
- Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID).
- Update on Cornwall's neurodevelopmental strategy, including autism assessments.
- The Autism Team and social thinking and communication in education settings.
- Post 16 Services and Preparation for Adulthood.

In addition to the workshops, there were presentations by young disabled people, including the Shiners, Active 8, Imogen, Luke and Harrison. Dr. Sarah Crombie also gave a presentation on Breath Easy and Lower Limb robotics research. Throughout the day, there was an opportunity to browse stalls from a range of providers to gather new information or just see what services are locally available.

The overwhelming feedback was positive, with people commenting on the young people's presentations as being thought-provoking, enjoying the opportunity for networking with a wide range of parents, professionals, and people in both voluntary, independent, and statutory sectors.

We have already set the date for the 2024 conference.