



## **UPDATE FROM PARENT CARERS CORNWALL**

Parent Carers Cornwall attend numerous meetings every month to ensure the views of parent/carers are heard. We often have families contact us or pick up information regarding concerns which parents raise through our social media platforms. During September and October, we have attended over seventy meetings meeting with leads of services on a regular basis either by one-to-one meetings or through various SEND Boards.

Key priorities which have been raised lately are:

Short break services - Cancellation of stays and lack of provision.

Education:

Challenges – those not going into school full time due to anxieties. Parents feel the schools have little understanding about this. Feeling threatened by the schools with Education Welfare Offices. children who are anxious about returning/ cannot cope with full time timetables/ discussions about home educating – concern they aren't aware of what this then involves. Families who feel there are ongoing needs – waiting for assessments/ diagnosis they are not receiving support they feel their child should get. Challenge following a period not in full time education and what support is available. These issues have been raised again recently with the lead for education and SEND. We will keep you updated on outcomes.

The lack of knowledge and skills school staff don't have to support those children/young people with SEND.

There is training available that staff in schools can attend and it is offered to them.

Lack of support for parent/carers while waiting for a diagnosis for their child.

Focus for meetings has been on areas such as school/college transport which is still an ongoing concern for many families. There is a lack of drivers for service providers to provide transport and personal assistants.

Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) meetings are continuing monthly to ensure a smooth transition happens between children and adult services. PFA Board are focusing on several areas such as training, employability, and housing.

We have coproduced a tool and resource document with the school effectiveness team. The document is to ensure schools/colleges work in partnership with families.



This is at the pilot stage and currently involves 16 schools. In 2022 it will be rolled out in all schools/colleges in Cornwall.

We received funding from NHS England and have produced a booklet for those families who have a child or suspect they have a child with Autism. The booklet will explain the pathway for assessment and what support is available before and after if their child is diagnosed. The booklet is available for both families and professionals.

We remain a key partner in the keyworker programme being funded by NHS England. The work is to avoid admittance avoidance for those young people 14-25 with mental health. The evaluations we held with the keyworkers has been very positive and the support they are offering families.

We are leading on the Autism in Schools programme where training is available for school staff, and parent carers taking a whole school approach.

We have held two workshops with Joanna Grace regarding Sensory Stories, which were well attended.

Worked in coproduction with Cornwall Council to hold the Aiming Higher conference in October which was well attended by parents and professionals.

These are just an example of some of the work we have been involved in, we always want to ensure the voice of carers and parents is heard.