



Rutland County Council

Rutland Parent Carer Voice and Rutland County Council – agreed ways of working together.

PURPOSE: We work together to promote co-production and partnership with the aim of becoming more efficient and effective across the strategic priorities and objectives specified in Rutland’s Send and Inclusion Strategy and in the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

BACKGROUND: Parent Carer Participation is a partnership process where parent carers are valued members of a team shaping and delivering services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability, and their families. Effective participation happens when parent carers have conversations with and work alongside professionals in order to design, develop and improve services.

The SEND Code of Practice makes specific reference to parent carer forums, confirming that they are a representative group of parent carers who work alongside Local Authorities, Education providers, Health provision including NHS and Integrated Care Boards and other partners in planning, commissioning delivering and monitoring the needs of children, young people and their parent carers. {ref 1.13}

{ref 3.18} Parent carer forums will take joint ownership and leadership and at a strategic level, partners must engage children, young people and parent carers in commissioning decisions. Local Authorities, ICB’S , NHS England and other partners must develop effective ways of harnessing the views of their local communities so that commissioning decisions on services for those with SEND are shaped by user’s experiences, ambitions and expectations. To do this, Local

Authorities and ICB'S should engage with local Healthwatch organisations, patient representative groups, Parent Carer Forums, groups representing young people with SEND and other local voluntary organisations and community groups.

RUTLAND: Rutland Parent Carer Voice {RPCV} is an independently constituted organisation for parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs/Disability [SEND]. The forum is committed to making parent carer participation an integral part of services in Rutland, working through and with the National Network of Parent Carer Forums and directly with local decisions makers in the Local Authority and their partners. Rutland County Council are committed to engaging and consulting with families and local communities in order to listen, learn and co-produce future and new proposals for services.

The Aim of this agreement is to set out how RPCV and RCC will work together to achieve the empowerment of parent carers of children and young people with SEND so that there is effective parent carer participation in the shaping of services and provisions of information and support.

When the term RCC is used it represents any service e.g., SEND department, Public Health, Children's and Adult Social Care that are provided or commissioned by the Local Authority. RCC will also encourage all other partners to work with RPCV in this way.

1. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RCC AS A PARTNER:

Rutland County Council will recognise the value of the Forum being independent and the importance of the Forum in the decision-making process that places the interests of its members first and foremost.

Rutland County Council will work with RPCV to ensure that the wider and collective views of parent carers are heard at a strategic level.

Rutland County Council will identify opportunities to engage and participate with the RPCV where parent carer reorientation and coproduction is required in the development of services and provision for children, young people and their parent carers.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RUTLAND PARENT CARER VOICE

The Forum will ensure that all representatives will sign a Parent Representative Agreement form, which specified how they will conduct themselves when representing the Forum. All representatives will behave in a professional way and work within partners data protection and confidentiality protocols, declare a conflict of interest if needed, or register an interest if appropriate.

The Forum will consult as widely as possible through surveys, newsletters, workshops and events, and produce regular communications through email or by social media. The Forum also is a vehicle to gather concerns of common themes amongst the SEND community and raise them with the relevant partners.

As outlined by Contact the role of the parent carer forum is to:

- Work with LA and Health Services to improve the quality of provision.
- Collect views from wider parent/carer community – on what is working and what could make it better.
- Facilitate opportunities for parents to meet those who provide services.
- Undertake some work streams working directly with young people through the Disabled Youth Forum.

RCC will work with RPCV to develop relationships with other services such as SENDIASS, NHS and Healthwatch so that there is an opportunity to all work together on the provision of advice, information, and other services to support parent carers and children and young people with SEND.

Signed.....Rutland Parent Carer Voice Leadership Committee On behalf of RPCV

Signed  On behalf of RCC

Dated: 18th April 2023