



# Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice Newsletter September 2023

## Introducing our team

**I am mum to a son with a rare epilepsy syndrome and an acquired intellectual disability. He has attended both mainstream school, specialist independent provision and special college.**

It's not been an easy journey, tribunal proceedings, out of school with no educational provision for over a year and difficulties securing therapy, etc, similar to the experience of many parents.

I have worked in the independent education sector with commissioners supporting young people with complex needs to secure education, health and care support and currently work for NHS England.

The forum is here to support, inform and empower you as parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

We aim to represent your voice by:

- conducting surveys on different issues and feeding this back to professionals at strategic forums to improve services
- offering informative learning and development sessions and
- providing opportunities to meet others in similar situations to you.



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**I'm passionate about parent carers having choice, sharing decision making and co-producing solutions.**

**Cyrilene**



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**I'm passionate that parent carers have a voice to work with partners to drive improvements that benefit children and young people.**

**Claire**

**I have a young daughter at primary school with SEND and have direct experience of complex additional needs, health and social care. As a full-time carer, like most members of DPCV I am involved in many interactions with professionals.**

When it became apparent that our daughter had additional needs in pre-school, I realised how difficult it was to get the help we all needed. Attending parenting groups, I heard the same thing again and again. I decided to get involved in parent participation with DPCV as a way to channel the negative issues our family experienced in a constructive way.

I have found the forum friendly, welcoming and flexible in supporting my availability around my daughter's needs.

First-hand lived experience of parent carers of children with additional needs is critical to our parent care forum. If you'd like to get involved, we would love to hear from you and we are happy to answer any queries you have.

## JOIN US

We are always looking for new members and we are currently recruiting Trustees. It is an exciting time to join us with lots of opportunities to influence planned changes in services for children and young people with SEND. There are many ways to get involved and we can offer training and support for anyone who wants to get involved in parent participation.





## Call for new members

**DPCV is the county's parent carer forum - a charity run by and for parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), 0-25 years. Parent carer forums are recognised in the SEND Code of Practice.**

Membership of the forum will enable access to:

- **Events - workshops and specialist speakers**  
Information is power - we aim to keep you up to date with speakers on education, health and social care related matters.
- **Surveys - Have your voice heard**  
Contribute your thoughts and views. We feedback to our partners reflecting the real concerns of the parent carers across Derbyshire.
- **Information** Face to face, online, newsletter, social media and support sharing information with you.
- **Peer Support** Some of the best support and ideas come from talking with others in a similar situation who can empathise and share what works for them.

Scan here to join us



## Free member training

We are planning some exciting training for our Trustees and members covering everything you need to know about becoming a parent representative.

It will be aimed at people who are:

- new to our forum and thinking about getting more involved
- interested in becoming a parent rep to represent other parents' views on strategic groups
- already a parent rep and want to refresh their knowledge and to gain more confidence in the role
- interested in learning more about the roles and responsibilities of a parent representative.

These workshops will run later in 2023 to help new and potential forum members to feel more supported in their roles as they take on more responsibility and feel more able to cope with any conflict that may arise.

## SEND system developments

There are many changes underway to address the delays to processing EHC Plans and improve the process. DPCV parent carers are also represented on eight SEND strategy development groups:

- Sufficiency
- Ordinarily available
- Transport
- Multi-agency working & co-production
- Transitions
- Process
- Data & dashboard
- Finance



Find out more about how the SEND system has changed and what to expect by joining us for a presentation by Dan Careless, Strategic DCC Lead for Schools and Learning in October. Bookings are open now via our website.

## Cost of living support

Many Derbyshire families are still feeling the impact of increases in the cost of living. Information and advice, designed to ensure that you're getting all the help that you're entitled to is available at: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/costofliving)

If you are really struggling to pay for food, energy or essential living costs then you may be able to get support from the Household Support Fund, which offers help to Derbyshire residents facing financial hardship by providing grants and other financial support. The fund is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.

To apply for a grant, visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund) or call 01629 533399



# New drop-in ND Community Hubs

As part of the Joined Up Care Derbyshire transformational changes around neurodivergence, NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (DDICB) are leading delivery of four community-based hubs to support children, young people, families, and carers impacted by or living with neurodivergence. The hubs are located in:

- South Derbyshire
- Derby City
- Central Derbyshire
- High Peak

Neurodivergence (ND) covers a range of hidden neurological conditions such as: autism spectrum, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, foetal alcohol syndrome, dyspraxia, and social anxiety. Early identification can help children and young people and parent carers to get timely support and to understand themselves, which is crucial in preventing escalation of needs.

The hubs will be open for drop-in visits for advice and information, without requiring a formal referral. For more info contact:

- **Derbyshire Autism Services** - [enquiries@derbyshireautismservices.org](mailto:enquiries@derbyshireautismservices.org) for High Peak, Central Derbyshire and Derby, and
- **Citizens Advice Mid Mercia** - [ch@citizensadvicemidmercia.org.uk](mailto:ch@citizensadvicemidmercia.org.uk) for South Derbyshire.

## Your voice made a difference

DPCV worked in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council, Derby & Derbyshire Integrated Care Board to secure funds from NHS England to co-design and implement two new projects.

### Keyworking

Affinity Trust were recently commissioned to deliver the new service locally from August 2023. The Keyworking service will focus on supporting young people up to 25 with a learning disability and/or who are autistic who are inpatients in Tier 4 mental health hospitals and those most at risk of admission.

### Autism in schools

This project aims to improve the experience of mainstream education for autistic pupils in 10 schools across Derbyshire. Schools involved have completed Autism Advocates training and held mini parent-carer forums to improve communication and some secondary schools have created a SEND specific transition video.

Listening to feedback from DPCV and parents and carers, a range of new resources were commissioned. All good practice and resources created will be shared more widely on completion of the project.



## Peer leadership

The Peer Leadership Development Programme supports people with lived experience to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to become effective Peer Leaders for personalised care.

The programme is open to people from all walks of life to share their personal insight and contribute to developing an inclusive programme of peer leaders who are active at a national, regional, and local level.

The course will provide you with insight on terminology with videos and stories from people, to support some of the learning points. It is particularly useful to provide understanding of change, commissioning and legislation and your opportunity to help shape this.

The Peer Leadership Development Programme will also cover that people with long-term conditions should be viewed as the experts by experience. It will inspire you to learn from others, hear about services that have improved and how such learning can be transferable irrespective of a person's own health condition.





# Events Coming Soon!

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>Tuesday 3 Oct 23</b>	11am - 1pm	Meet and Eat (Health)	Glossop Business Centre, The Old Co-Op Building, 10/11 Railway Street, Glossop SK13 7AG
<b>Monday 9 Oct 23</b>	11am - 1pm	Meet and Eat (Health)	Special Needs Circle, The Annex, Gresley Old Hall, Gresley Wood Road, Church Gresley, Swadlincote DE11 9QW
<b>Tuesday 10 Oct 23</b>	7pm - 8pm	Irwin Mitchell Education, Health and Care Plans – Know Your Rights	Online Event DPCV is not responsible for this event.
<b>Tuesday 17 Oct 23</b>	11am - 1pm	Meet and Eat (Health)	Belper Town Football Club, Christchurch Meadows, Bridge St, Belper DE56 1BA
<b>Wednesday 25 Oct 23</b>	10am - 11am	SEND System Developments Presentation Derbyshire County Council	Online Event
<b>Monday 13 Nov 23</b>	11am - 1pm	Meet and Eat (Social Care)	Brick Café, 2 South Avenue, Buxton SK17 6JZ
<b>Friday 17 Nov 23</b>	11am - 1pm	Meet and Eat (Social Care)	St Thomas Centre, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield S40 3AW
<b>Friday 24 Nov 23</b>	11am - 1pm	Meet and Eat (Social Care)	Special Needs Circle, The Annex, Gresley Old Hall, Gresley Wood Road, Church Gresley, Swadlincote DE11 9QW
<b>Saturday 9 Dec 23</b>	11am - 1pm	Christmas Cinema Event Elf (20th Anniversary) PG	Cineworld Chesterfield, Alma Leisure Park, Derby Rd, Chesterfield S40 2ED

## JOIN OUR EVENTS

Scan the QR code to gain free  
access to all of our events.



Contact us: 01629 533666 • [info@derbyshireparentcarervoice.org](mailto:info@derbyshireparentcarervoice.org)  
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