



## MARCH NEWSLETTER

### WHAT IS INSIDE?

- WHAT WE DO AND HOW YOU CAN HELP (PG.1)
- FORUM GOALS (PG.2)
- AUTISM NEEDS LED SURVEY (LINK)

### SUPPORT FOR YOU

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO FIND OUT MORE

- PARENT CARER FORUM SUPPORT GROUPS
- MANAGING ANGER (ONLINE)
- AUTISM COURSES (ONLINE) 0-7 & 8-18 YRS
- AUTISM COURSES (IN PERSON)

### HAVE YOUR SAY

- CLICK HERE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, GOOD OR BAD, USING OUR NEW SERVICE



### WHAT DOES A PARENT CARER FORUM DO?

In our last newsletter, we let you know that the forum has a new Chair and a new Vice-Chair along with a new Treasurer. We all have children with SEND and we all live in Bristol, but for a long time none of us was quite sure what a parent carer forum did!

A parent carer forum is a group of parents and carers of disabled children whose aim is to work with the local authority (Bristol City Council), Social Care and Health partners in order to make sure the services in Bristol meet the needs of disabled children and their families.

In order to ensure that services meet the needs of families, we need you to chat with us and tell us what is working well and perhaps what could be improved upon. If you don't tell us, we could suggest changes in the wrong area. We need to **shape the future together**.

We know setting aside time to go to meetings or filling out another survey can be tricky. But lying awake at night is something we are all too familiar with. Share your thoughts, day or night, with our new feedback service.



# WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

In August 2021 we ran a short parent carer survey to identify the 5 priority areas parents and carers in Bristol feel need to be strengthened. The outcomes from the survey have informed our goal setting for 2022.

## **We want every child, young person and family in Bristol to: BE INCLUDED IN EDUCATION IN A WAY THAT MEETS THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE**



We will help families understand the Ordinarily Available Provision document ([link](#)) produced by Bristol City Council (BCC) and their rights around reasonable adjustments, part-time timetables and use of Alternative Learning Provision (ALP).



## **HAVE A SCHOOL SPACE SUITED TO THEIR NEEDS AVAILABLE WHEN THEY NEED IT**

We will help families develop knowledge of the graduated response to SEND which will in turn help identify those families which need EHCPs and help BCC with school planning. We will work with BCC to understand what is being done to create more spaces for children and young people that need them.

## **HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES THAT PROVIDE BREAKS AND CARE**



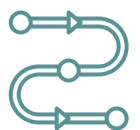
We will create a new website that details in a clear and accessible way which services are open to which families. We will use this information to feedback to BCC on possible areas for development in this area.



## **RECEIVE HELP & ADVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM ALL SERVICES ESPECIALLY HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

We will work with North Somerset and South Gloucestershire forums on health issues and help develop a needs-led support system for families on the autism waiting list. We carried out a survey on this which you can read [here](#) and have some upcoming ASD support webinars, see page 1 of this newsletter for more info.

## **HAVE SUPPORT AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THEIR EHCP JOURNEY WITH AN INCREASE IN TIMELINESS**



We will create information for families who are going through the Education, Health and Care plan process with a contact list of who to reach out to if delays are experienced. We will work with BCC to understand and improve timeliness.



Click here to follow us on social media & find out what we're up to

To receive updates or information on joining Bristol Parent Carer Forum click here

For more information on services in Bristol click here for FLORA team

