

## July/August Summary

SPCF held our second Open Forum event on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, this one having a Health theme. We saw representatives from Health and the new NDD pathway as well as the voluntary sector support services.

Meetings attended around the NDD Pathway have included the formulation of literature, flow charts, application forms and producing a video to explain the pathway. We have also been part of the oversight group where we share any feedback we have received from those accessing the pathway. So far, we have received feedback to say that it is working well for the families and some signposting for clarification has been done by SPCF.

The Department for Education returned to Suffolk for a 6-month review. We presented the data from the survey which was published in Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July (<https://suffolkpcf.co.uk/feedback/>) as well as a verbal update. As per the last visit, we continued to emphasise the experience on the ground for too many children, young people and their families has not improved and in some instances declined. Our attendance and the reporting of parent carer experiences was appreciated by all and will be taken into evidence for the decision-making panel. We were advised that they would be seeking further clarification from colleagues including SPCF for which, we will of course, make ourselves available. The DfE did reinforce that they cannot consider any evidence outside of the accelerated progress plan points. The decision as to whether the formal monitoring will cease will be made by September 2022 and all parties will be notified when the decision is made.

We also discussed the survey results during the SEND Accountability Board meeting and shared them with all attendees so that they were aware of the lived experience our families were facing. (Formal minutes and paperwork for this meeting should be available soon).

During the July meetings for SEND Priority 1, 2 & 4 we are asked to choose the 3 milestones within the strategy that it would be best to focus on. There has also been 1 'I' statement selected. Concerns were raised by SPCF due to the lack of attendance during the SEND Priority meetings meaning that work could not be progressed or moved forward. Concentration will now go onto the 3 selected milestones to ensure these are moved forward. We have representatives that sit on all 4 SEND Priority meetings and share the lived experience reported by our parent carers either verbally, via our feedback methods or through our partner organisations. Priority 1 is the Local Offer – Feedback from SPCF has been that the layout at times is confusing and that the search function brings out a lot of irrelevant information. This has been worked on with a new platform being produced. We would encourage parent carers to have a look: [Local Offer](#) and provide feedback either directly with the LO page or via SPCF. Priority 3 is Provisions & Services – SPCF raised that there is a lack of communication with parent carers around the provisions available and that our survey indicated that there were still children without a place for September. There will be a new short breaks and respite programme from April 2023 so a survey has been put out by the department to collect parent carer feedback to shape the offer. SPCF has shared the survey but it can also be found [here](#). Priority 4 is Preparing for Adulthood – SPCF has raised

concerns about a lack of leadership which has meant that a lot of the work isn't progressing. This has resulted in an action for the Programme Manager to find a replacement Priority Lead to ensure this moves forward. Work has been completed on the new Transitions Guide and there was a visit to Purple Phoenix at City College by the FE committee to see their offer and how this could be offered in Suffolk.

July saw us attend many meetings for the new Key Worker Function. This has included the steering group and various task/finish groups. Currently easy reads have been produced for the Dynamic Support Register and Key Worker Function as well as consent forms for both. The information capture forms are in the process of being finalised with the website content discussions already underway. SPCF provided a lot of information around accessibility of the documentation as well as feedback around the way that families would like to be supported through the function and what that would ideally look like.

SPCF reps have attended meetings for the All Age Autism Strategy. One of the parent reps has Autism themselves so has been able to share lived experience from an adult perspective as well as from that of a parent carer to help put together the strategy. It will be going out for procurement this month so we hope to be able to provide more of an update soon.

SPCF also sit on various oversight and steering groups where we will ensure that parent carers and children/young people with SEND are kept in mind and that information or activities are accessible for them.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our parent representatives who do attend meetings on behalf of SPCF. We do have reps that have additional needs and/or disabilities themselves and would encourage any parent carers who are interested in becoming a rep to contact us as we are able to support with removing any barriers to access. Parent carers are remunerated for their time attending strategic meetings and expenses covered. Reps would be subject to the signing of the parent representative agreements/policies.

### Future Meetings

Next month will see us attending all the SEND Priority Meetings again so if you are able to feedback on the local offer page or the survey, that would be most appreciated and Priority Leads will see a report of the output from each of the meetings which will include the new 3 milestone focus. SEND Accountability & Programme Board will also be attended. We have asked that the minutes and paperwork for these meetings are made available to public. We will attend steering/oversight meetings for CYP Mental Health, Speech Language & Communication Needs, Key Worker, Learning Disabilities & Autism and the NDD pathway. We would encourage all parent carers to feedback using our usual channels so we can be sure to share any trends highlighted.

## Upcoming Events

Accessing Public Services Workshop: Cerebra will be providing a virtual workshop on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 22 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm to support families who are encountering difficulties in relation to the provision of health, social care and education support services. This is FREE and will come with a learning pack so we need those interested to sign up by 23<sup>rd</sup> October 22. You can get a place by emailing: [info@suffolkpcf.co.uk](mailto:info@suffolkpcf.co.uk)