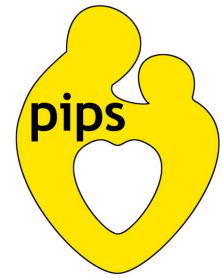


**Parents in Partnership Stockport
Review of the Year
2013 / 14**

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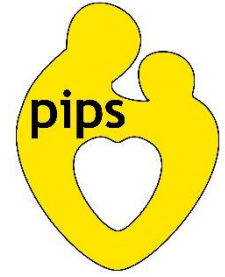


Our Mission

Our purpose and ethos can best be defined by our mission statement:

"Our mission is to bring about positive change for families of children and young people with any additional needs or disabilities. We achieve this by empowering parent carers in effective participation to shape services and provide information and support."





Message from our Co-Chairs

It is a huge honour to Co-Chair this dynamic parent carer Forum. This is an exciting time of massive change but also constrained by austerity, and at a time when parent carer involvement has never been more important.

'Empowering parents in effective participation' can be difficult to define on paper but when you see it happen in the light of day, it's powerful and empowering for all - children, families, 'services' and ultimately the community of Stockport where we live.

Effective participation takes all of us to work together. This Forum Report shows the massive range of different things we have been part of or have done to support effective solution focused parent participation. Examples of our work and achievements are included.

This is the place to acknowledge and thank you all for supporting, enabling and taking part, not by name but from your importance to this relationship.

Thank you to:

- **Our members;** Thank you for joining, for sharing your individual stories and your 'lived family experiences' and adding to the collective voice of families of children and young people 0-25 years with disabilities and additional needs in Stockport.
- **Our active parent carer representatives;** who regularly go to meetings with professionals, take part in discussions and give a wider parental view, speak at training events and are committed and actively involved. Six of these parents are on the Management Team.
- **To the professionals who engage and welcome the opportunity to work with us.** Professionals from Education, Health and Social Care.



How we engage with our families

PIPS consult with parent carers on a regular basis as it is at the core of all the work we do. This is done by mainly the Steering group, parent representatives & ambassadors who have been trained so they can gather the views in lots of different ways so that we can engage with many far and wide.

Here is a list of the many ways that we engage with parent carers:

- Coffee mornings, afternoons, evenings & weekends
- Soft play sessions 3 x week in different areas across Stockport.
- Social media: facebook open/closed page, twitter, website & email
- Weekly or fortnightly newsletter depending on information & events coming up
- Workshops, training, events & PIPS Information Day
- Carers information day run by the local carers organisation
- Face to face drop in sessions across the borough
- School, College and Specialist provision via email or coffee mornings
- Private, Voluntary and Independent sector organisation's events & meetings

Parent carer involvement

Approximately the number of parent carers who:

	Approx. number at March 2014
Database of contacts	2,586
Number on Steering Group	9
Number of active representatives	16
Number giving their experiences of services to PIPS	Over 1,500



Wider communication

The approximate number of people with whom the forum can communicate, if applicable or known.

- 13,997 unique visitors to the PIPS website
- 486 open Facebook page members (averaging 6,400 reach per week)
- 195 closed Facebook members.
- 1,156 Twitter followers

Social media fora that has earned the confidence of parents and carers as source of trustworthy advice and empowerment. Membership continues to grow steadily on facebook and twitter





Training

PIPS were involved in facilitating talks on participation and co-production which meant that there were much more informed and inspired parents/carers and professionals, better able to provide appropriately and successfully for children and young people with disabilities.



More confident parents/carers who have benefited from peer support and can consult professionals on their own terms. New parent representatives have been really empowered and inspired to become more involved through mentoring and shadowing other parent representatives in meetings and by watching them facilitate and present.

A much better understanding of the benefits of co-production and positive experience for parents and professionals. This has been achieved by making nearly all our training and coffee mornings open to parent carers and professionals. We still have a long way to go as this is a whole cultural change, however we have made a significant impact over the last 12 months and we can now build on this for next year.

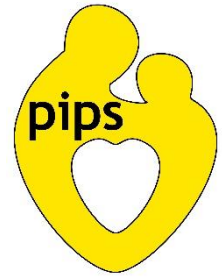
Professionals who understand better how to work positively alongside families with children and young people with disabilities 0-25 years by doing things together.

5 parent representatives are now trained and able to support schools in engaging the wider parent carers to advocate person centred reviews and one page profiles for all children and young people in Stockport.



Parent carers that attended different training/workshops/events on SEND reforms hosted by Cerebra, Short breaks Network, Catalyst Psychology's feel much better informed and it has kept them up to date with what's happening nationally to support them locally which then gives them more confidence to talk to other parent carers and professionals within Stockport.

The CDC expert parent workshop was oversubscribed, with 23 parent carers attending who thorough enjoyed the day and felt that they had gained a lot from attending this day.



We delivered a very successful 6 session Parent Participation for Life training course, where we had 42 parent carer's on average attending, representing 8 North west Forums. Some of the outcomes from the event were that parents carer's gained confidence, felt they were empowered to engage, they were inspired, as well as making connections with other parents and forums.



6 parent representatives were able to attend the free Early Support training and are now part of a pool of trainers that will be co-delivering keyworking and working in partnership training to professionals in Stockport



Events

Our annual Information day was again a huge success with just over 300 parent carers and professionals in attendance with over 60 market stalls of local organisations. Young people with disabilities that present on the local radio station opened the day and also interviewed throughout the day, this inspired parent carers and professionals to think out of the box and aspirations for our young people. Invited over 40 local organisations to have a market stall.



As we had bought the extra t-shirts for new parent representatives it was easy then for people to identify all the volunteers for PIPS. We gave people that filled in a feedback for a PIPS pens and the bags for life to any new members that filled in our membership forms and became part of PIPS. Professionals understand better how to work positively alongside families with children and young

people with disabilities

We were able to host in total 157 coffee meetings over the 12 months which is more than we have ever done and through this gained many new members. We were able to use the coffee events to keep families informed regarding the preparation for and implementation of new SEND legislation and we were able to build relationships with professionals and other parent carers.



Parent carer reps have benefited hugely through attending the North West regional network meetings on a regular basis by funding their expenses. On average three parent reps attended on behalf of PIPS at these meetings. This has enabled parent reps to learn a lot more about parent participation and how other forums are structured across the North West. Also this has given them many new ideas and inspiration through networking on these days.



Work on the 0-25 SEND reforms

Parents in Partnership Stockport received an allocation of monies of £10,000 for the period of April 2013 to March 2014 from Stockport MBC for the participation and engagement of parent carers to assist in the development and shaping of services and policies so that Local Authority can meet the requirement and obligations of the new legislation of the Children and Families Act and associated Code of Practice.

Stockport MBC acknowledge the role the parent carer and the essence of working in a co-produced way and thus the grant is to acknowledge the parent carer attendance of meetings, consultations, training events etc and involvement associated with the 0 - 25 Reforms Programme. Parents in Partnership Stockport have representation within all aspects of the 0 - 25 Reform Programme, from Board level through to Workforce Development.



The £10,000 expended on the programme relates to 175 meetings and events attended by PIPS Parent Representatives and expending 1072 hours. There were 13 different PIPS Parent Representatives that contributed to the programme. Within the man-hours figure there is an allowance to represent the time given by a number of parent representatives that declined taking any remuneration for their attendance at meetings together with their preparation time / administrative work. Also within the allowance there is an acknowledgement that although Parent Representatives have claimed for administrative work and preparation time, it is not the full extent of time they have expended in carrying out their various roles.



We thank Stockport MBC for their commitment in ensuring that the parent carer and family's views are listened to and heard in the development of the reforms. Also that they embrace and ensure that the working practice of co-production is at the heart of the reforms within Stockport. Parents in Partnership Stockport would like to thank our Parent Representatives for their commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to ensure that family's voice and views are represented in the programme. We would also like to thank the project leads on the various workstreams for them embracing the essence of co-production and ensuring the parent representatives are welcomed and an integral part of the workstreams.



Working with Local Health Providers

This year we have been able to work closer with local health providers, especially on the design and delivery of services through the new Clinical Commissioning Group. This is the first time in all the years the forum has been running that we have been able to demonstrate working with Health.

We have been working with the local CAMHS service so that it can be a better experience for families and have a place on their Diagnosis pathway steering group.

PIPS were asked to go into speak to 37 mental health practitioners on the parent forum and how it feels for parent carers attending CAMHS. We also did a piece of work with them on the top ten tips on mental health and wellbeing which went out to the media.

We are now involved in children & young people sub group Health Watch. This is really positive as we have not been involved at any level before. We were asked to dedicate 1 day a week to Health Watch, however our capacity is stretched to the limit with the SEND reforms so it is just not possible and it is a significant amount of voluntary work to commit too. However we may be able to in the future if we can increase our capacity

We have been working with the local Clinical Commissioning Group in formulating an Adult ASD Pathway diagnostic service 16 years plus. This is a much needed service as to get diagnosis over 16 you have to go to Sheffield and it will be a much more seamless process when this service comes into place.

Also we have just been asked to do some work by the Children's commissioner on community learning disability services.



Balance sheet as of 31st March 2014

Income		Expenditure	
Department of Education grant 2013/14	£10,000.00	DfE Grant	
Discretionary grant	£ 6,620.00	Participation Training	£ 4,607.78
Allocated monies from Stockport MBC For parent participation 0-25 reforms	£10,000.00	Training	£ 2,251.05
Additional payment from 2014/15 Stockport MBC allocated monies	£ 517.60	Resources	£ 1,078.99
		Equipment	£ 1,784.95
		Event	£ 4,152.00
		Infrastructure Expenses	£ 1,511.55
			£ 1,233.68
		sub total	£16,620.00
		Stockport MBC allocated monies	
		Attendance allowances	£9,258.50
		Expenses	£1,259,10
		sub total	£10,517.60
Total Income	£27,137.60	Total Expenditure	£27,137.60



Highlights of our Year

Here are some of our achievements:

- Lots of new coffee drop inn sessions at all different times of the day and at different places across the borough which have enabled us to engage with so many parent carers who haven't accessed pips before.
- Local strategic activity which better meets the needs of families with children and young people with disabilities
- Bringing out for the first time a PIPS newsletter going out fortnightly giving up to the minute information out to parents and professionals. We have wanted to do this for a long time, and now we have parent reps that have the skills to do this
- Now we do all of our consultations in the “Working together for Change process” using the pinpoint boards with the headings of What’s working, What’s not working and what would you like to see in the future. This has become popular with parent carers and professionals as they can write down everything and they know that it will be recorded and fed back into shaping services. They feel listened to, valued and feel they can speak up whilst not having to do it verbally unless they want to but still have a voice in shaping services. This has increased attendance at consultations significantly over the last 12 months.
- A functioning constituted parent/carers forum that gives us more credibility to receive extra funding from the council and earns the respect of parents, carers, professionals and volunteers across Stockport



- Once again our annual information day this year was extremely successful and we received the best feedback to date. It grows each year with just under 300 parents and professionals in attendance. This is the one day of the year that the children and young people's disability partnership have an away day and they spend all their time talking to parent carers face to face. This is a much more personalised day for families. This year we included young people with disabilities who run the local disability radio show Pure One Voice where they spoke at the in the opening speeches and then spent the day interviewing parent carers, professionals and market stall holders. We have particularly found it hard previously to get young people involved in these days.
- Accessing special schools coffee mornings and engaging with parents which we haven't managed to do previously.
- The Council for Disabled Children Expert Parent training was oversubscribed, and very successful we would really like to do this on a regular basis if it was possible as it was so well received particularly for new parents it starts them off on the road to participation.
- Children across the Stockport benefited from a pioneering project in which one-page student profiles are now being used to personalise education. On the training package from Helen Sanderson 5 PIPS parent reps trained in one page profiles and person centred reviews alongside the SEN Team and the SENCO's. Parent reps are now able to support the schools in engaging with parent carers empowering them to be part of these person centred practices by going to do talks in schools.
- For the first time trained Health and Social care students from local colleges in participation and co-production with of children, young people, parent carers and what is a parent carer forum. Also from this trained 12 Senco's from private nursery's from across the borough
- PIPS signed up to Making it real – Thinking local acting personal and attended with other Stockport partners the building community workshops.
- Attended the NNPCF AGM in Birmingham – which was a great benefit to hear from the minister first-hand about the reforms and learn from other forums to which we are now changing our membership process and adding Ambassadors so there is a tier effect from Steering Group, Parent reps and then Ambassadors



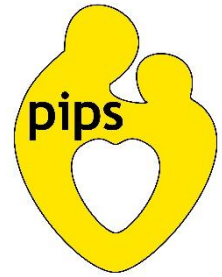
- One of our parent representative was chosen to represent the NW at the DfE code of practice event in London and Milton Keynes this really empowered them to be involved a lot more locally and regionally.



- Consultation with over 140 families over the 6 week summer period on the statementing process this work was to feed into the new processes of the EHC plans
- Membership continuing to grow on a steadily basis on facebook and twitter
- Parent carers, family members, grandparents, foster carers coming together to share their views - this has made a massive difference to shaping the services locally.
- Working with CAMHS – training over 30 mental health practitioners and doing a piece of work for national press on mental health and well-being. Gaining a place on their steering group
- Building even stronger relationships with local organisations and working in partnership
- A place on Healthwatch children & young people sub group
- We are so pleased to be working with the CCG and health in Stockport as this is the only area of our work we have not been able to do since we started
- Working directly with the corporate Director of Children and Adults and co-producing letters and communications
- A truly co-produced presentation on Co-Production in Stockport by 0-25 lead and Co-Chair at NW Pathfinder Event – feedback was tweeted and posted on social media as how fantastic it was to actually see co-production in action



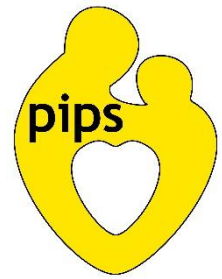
- Being asked to present SEN learner of the year awards to 9 young people between the ages 14-19 at Stockport town Hall young stars awards ceremony



Some of the Challenges of the year

There has definitely been a substantial increase in challenges this year due to getting ready to implement the SEND reforms. Also with the forum increasing in parent representatives and membership this also brings inevitable challenges. Here are some of the main ones over the last 12 months:

- Trying to get the LA to understand what co-production really is and trying to make them understand the importance of children and young people's views being embedded through everything they do too.
- Capacity - even with so many parent representatives and nine on the steering group we are still struggling with capacity and need more involved. Running a strategic parent carer forum is like running a business full time now but without the funding.
- Funding – Stockport matched the DfE funding this year however it still was not enough for readiness for the SEND reforms
- Change of staff within Local Authority due to voluntary redundancies
- Cultural Change – There is still a lot of work to be done right across education, health and social care this will take time and commitment with practitioners
- The lack of engagement of children and young people, it is a major concern for us.
- Cuts starting to take effect are really now starting to impact on families. As mental health and wellbeing is at an all-time low, we are seeing this now is impacting on the parent forum.
- A lack of ASD provision in the area has meant that a significant number of children and young people are not in education and are at home so this has affected our some of our parents being involved in the forum as they can't attend coffee mornings, meetings, training so can only the majority of the time participate through the social media. We need to be a lot more creative in the next coming year.



Thank you

Parents in Partnership Stockport would like to thank all our dedicated volunteers, parent carer representatives and everyone who has helped us on our journey. Thank you!



Members of



National Network of Parent Carer Forums
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'
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