



## Hillingdon Parent Carers Forum

### **Chair's Report for the year to 31 March 2017**

During the year we ran a number of events. We held and joined more coffee mornings, Engagement Events than we have ever held and we held workshops on understanding Transition to Adulthood. We have had stalls at the Carers Fair in Uxbridge, the AKO Expo event at Brunel University, to engage with as many parents as possible. Our most successful event was our Transport Coffee Morning in January, with speaker Gavin Morris from SENTAS (Special Educational Needs Transport Advocacy Service) and the LA Transport Team. It was attended by over 60 parents carers. Parents were told about their child's rights under the Transport Policy Home to School including the new pick up points procedures. In total since October the Hillingdon PCF have held or attended 18 events. The Hillingdon PCF was a key in helping Ofsted and CQC during their inspection of the LA & Health Authorities in Hillingdon Borough by organising and Chairing the Hillingdon Support Group Meeting and the Webinar in Nov 2016.

We have maintained our engagement with local services, at a strategic level, and we share the views of the Parents on our database. We have increased the number of parents who are representatives on the council's SEND working groups including the SEND Strategic Group, Local Offer Working Group, Transport Steering Group, Autism Partnership Board, Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing board, Learning Disability Board and Strategic Transition to Adulthood. We have also had some parents involved on the interview panel for staff in the Disability team. We are also encouraging parents to get involved with the work streams at the Child Development Centre.

Our focus for this year was to continue to improve communication and to reach as many Parent/Carers as possible by going to the Schools in the Borough of Hillingdon to meet Parent/Carers face to face and leave our information of services at the Schools for those we don't see. We will focus on trying to reach those Parent/Carers that consider themselves as a Minority in the Hillingdon Borough.

We have recreated our website to be able to share information better. We have increased our presence on Facebook and Twitter. More and more Parent/Carers are engaging with the Facebook Group and using it to advertise support events, ask questions and sharing useful information for other Parent/Carers. If there are enough parents with similar concerns we will take these forward to the LA, although we cannot take on individual cases. We constantly keep our Parent/Carers up to date with what events and workshops we will hold through our website and the news column keeps the information up to date. Slides and info from our past events are also available on our website and now we plan to attach the forthcoming month's events calendar to the website too.

We are continuing to have input and impact on the services our families receive by co-production which means working together with our partners to develop services that are more tailored to our families' needs our LA is very open to working with us. We would like to encourage more parents to get involved and share their views, by filling in surveys coming to coffee mornings, being part of a consultation group or being parent representatives on one of the working groups.