

Bromley Parent Voice



Bromley Parent Voice
working in partnership to give parents and carers a voice

Bromley Parent Voice Annual Report

April 2012– March 2013

Bromley Parent Voice is a parent carer forum which welcomes all parents or carers of a child or young person up to the age of 25 with a disability or additional need. All our members live in the London Borough of Bromley.

Our aim is to:

Inform parents about what is going on locally & nationally

Involve parents in shaping of local services and national priorities

Influence local service providers and decision makers

By doing these things, we aim to inform and empower parents of disabled and SEN children and young people and improve services for families, children and young people affected by disability.

Operating Structure

Bromley Parent Voice is a parent-led forum and has a steering group of 12 parents, a number of whom are also parent representatives. They drive the work and direction of the Forum. Any parent may ask to join this group.

The day-to-day running of BPV is supported by Kay Moore who is employed as the Parent Participation Officer by the London Borough of Bromley.

Chairman	Mary Shrimpton
Vice Chair	Charlie Carpenter
Treasurer	Liz Lake
Secretary	Vacant

The Forum is independent. We are supported by Contact a Family and the forum belongs to the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.

www.cafamily.org.uk www.nmpcf.org.uk

Funding

BPV is funded by the Government's Parent Participation Grant and other independently raised funds. During 2012/13 BPV was commissioned by LB Bromley to lead on parental involvement in the SEN & Disability Pathfinder work.

Our Membership

The Forum is for all Mums, Dads and carers in the London Borough of Bromley. As of 31st March 2013, Bromley Parent Voice membership was **318** registered families. We need your help to improve our membership database. Please take time to complete an application form (even if you are already a member) so that we can check your details are correct. Alternatively you can send your information via email to info@bromleyparentvoice.org.uk. This information is required for the grant monitoring process we are required to complete. All data held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

It will also help us to identify:

1. Overall incidence of disability between the sexes
2. Ethnicity of BPV members children
3. Where our members live in the borough to ensure that BPV is representing **all** families of children and young people in the London Borough of Bromley.

Consultations

During the past year BPV have responded to the following Local and national consultations:

Tough Choices
Glebe School expansion
Short Break Review
Preparing for Adulthood Visioning Day
Draft Children & Families Bill
Indicative Code of Practice
PIP (Personal Independence Payment)

Details of all local and national consultations and our responses are posted on the BPV website.



Bromley Parent Voice Events 2012-2013

Event	Attendees
Contact a Family Workshops	42
Preparing for Adulthood Conference	45
'Their Rights, Your Responsibility'	200
Disable Children + the law	60
Pathfinder Forum Groups	EHC Plans 42 Personal Budgets 14 Local Offer 16
SEN Funding Reforms	120

'Their Rights, Your Responsibility' Thursday 21st March 2013 BPV Annual Conference

The theme of this year's conference was the forthcoming changes set out in the Children & Family Bill.

The day took the form parent workshops covering all the key reforms to inform and empower parents and information stands hosted by both the Statutory and Voluntary agencies.

Over 200 delegates attended the day which was held at the Warren in West Wickham.

Disabled Children & The Law 6th March 2013

We were be joined by Luke Clements who is a professor at Cardiff Law School and published author.

The day empowered parent carers through a greater understanding of their rights and entitlements and

Covered:

- Eligibility & Assessments
- Special Education
- Short Breaks
- Transition to Adulthood
- Decision making

Feedback and Evaluation

BPV requests feedback from parents/carers after every event. Members overwhelmingly say that meeting other parents in a similar situation builds confidence and reduces their sense of isolation. They also appreciate the quality of the information they receive at workshops. Attending workshops and training helps to empower parents around topics which are important to them.

Please continue to provide feedback as your views are important to us.

Future Activities

BPV is planning further focus groups, workshops and our annual conference in March 2014.

We will continue to focus on informing parents on the most important issues as parents, involving parents in local and national consultations and planning and increasing local parent representation through our website

www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk.

If you would like to get more involved with the Forum please contact Kay Moore at info@bromleyparentvoice.org.uk



REPRESENTATION & PARTNERSHIP WORKING

During the past year Parent Representatives have represented the views of all parent carers on a range of projects and strategic groups within the London Borough of Bromley. Our main focus has been the SEN & Disability Pathfinder work, where Parent Representatives have worked across work streams and on the Pathfinder Core Steering Group.

In May 2013, the LBB carved out a review ‘Partnerships for the Future’ to determine how the Local Authority could implement a sustainable framework of partnership working with service users and other partners. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the partnership arrangements in place across the borough for adult & children’s services are:

- Fit for purpose
- Provide best value for money
- Remove duplication
- Outcries focused.

The aim is to enhance involvement & empower users & carers by adopting a more proportionate approach to engagement within challenging financial constraints.

Some of the recommendations of the review were:

1. To create Stakeholder conferences for adult services & children services to meet twice a year to actively involve partner agencies & service users in staging business planning & priorities for the future.
2. To bring together. Education. Care & Health Service Partnership arrangements into a single, co-ordinated framework.
3. Time Limited Projects which are outcome focused.

We are delighted that BPV as part of existing contractual arrangements are included in the LB Bromley’s recommended framework to provide a forum for parent carers of children and young people with a disability or Special educational need.

This reflects the Government’s commitment set out in the Green Paper: Support & Aspirations that parents should be at the heart of decisions made about their child and feel confident that the support they require will be put in place.

BPV are working closely with other voluntary organisations across the borough and our vision is to recruit a number of Parent Champions across our schools so that parents are kept informed about services for their son or daughter.

PARENT JOURNEY PROJECT

As part of our Pathfinder work, BPV had the opportunity to work with the Early Support Consortium, a National Delivery partner, on a project entitled ‘The Parent Journey’.

16 families were asked to write their personal journey, to identify what worked well and what could have been better. There was much laughter and some tears along the way. Our thanks go to all the families that took part and to the Maypole Project and Bromley Mencap for helping to support this important piece of work.

The learning from this project has been submitted to the Department for Education as a national case study and will be used to inform service planning and delivery at both a local and national level.

We are delighted that we have been able to produce a book and film which will be used to empower parents and to inform service providers of the needs of families of disabled children both now and in the future. These will be available to view on the BPV website shortly.



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THE SEN & DISABILITY REFORM JOURNEY

- MARCH 2011: Green Paper: Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability
MAY 2012: Support and aspiration: Progress and next steps
SEPT 2012: Draft provisions published for pre-legislative scrutiny by the Education Select Committee
FEB 2013: Government response to pre-legislative scrutiny; and Children and Families Bill introduced to Parliament
MARCH 2013: Indicative draft regulations and a draft Code for Practice published for committee stage of the Bill, informed by pathfinder learning
AUTUMN 2013: Public consultation on regulations and Code of Practice, informed by further pathfinder learning
SPRING 2014: Royal Assent (subject to Parliamentary approval)
SEPT 2014: Legal changes commence in practice (meeting original Green Paper commitment for reforms in place by 2014)

LEGISLATION—KEY HIGHLIGHTS

New Requirement for **LAs, health and care services to commission services jointly**, to ensure that the needs of disabled children and young people and those with SEN are met.

LAs to publish a clear, transparent ‘**local offer**’ of services, so parents and young people can understand what is available; developed with parents and young people.

More streamlined assessment process, co-ordinated across education, health and care, and involves children and young people and their families throughout.

New **0-25 Education, Health and Care Plan, replacing the current system of Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments**, which reflects the child or young person’s aspirations for the future, as well as their current needs.

A new **duty on health commissioners** to deliver the health elements of EHC plans

Option of a personal budget for families and young people with a plan, extending choice and control over their support.

New **statutory protections for young people aged 16-25** in FE, including right to request particular institution named in their EHC plan and the right to appeal to the First-tier Tribunal.

A stronger focus on **preparing for adulthood** including new powers for LAs to provide children’s services to young people over 18 to improve transition to adult services.

Academies, Free Schools, Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges to have the same SEN duties as maintained schools.

Learning from the pathfinders will inform every stage of the legislative process.

What BPV have achieved so far..

1. Information - Parents Guide, Awareness Raising events, website
2. Involve - Focus groups, questionnaires, Parent Journey Project, EHC Plan test cohort
3. Influence - Parent Representatives across all work streams and Core Steering Group. Case studies and reports.

Thank you for all parents that have contributed to the Pathfinder work. Your contribution will make a difference.