



Bromley Parent Voice

working in partnership to give parents and carers a voice



Bromley Parent Voice Annual Report September 2015 - August 2016

Summary

This report gives an overview of Bromley's Parent Forum, Bromley Parent Voice, over the last year and outlines our plans for 2016/2017.

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 that live in the London Borough of Bromley.

Our aim is to:

Inform parents about what is going on locally and 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, young people and to improve services for families, children and young people affected by disability.

The Forum is independent. We are supported by Kay Moore, Parent Participation Officer, LB Bromley and by Contact a Family. Bromley Parent Voice belongs to the National Network of Parent Carer Forums and attends regular Cluster meetings with forums from across South London. This ensures local issues are raised at a regional and national level.

Funding

Each year Bromley Parent Voice receives a £15,000 participation grant from the Department for Education in two phases. This year the forum has used this grant to fund our annual conference, provide training and facilitate focus groups. In addition, some funds have been used to pay parent/carers for their time participating in Council/Health meetings.

During 2015/16 BPV continued to receive funding from LB Bromley to support parent involvement in the shaping of local services. As part of this work BPV are required to complete a termly survey from the Department of Education on the local implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014.

In addition, Bromley Parent Voice has received additional for our role in the Independent Support Consortium and the Social Care Innovation Fund Project.

Our Membership

Bromley Parent Voice continues to be a voice for Parent Carers in the LB Bromley. The forum is open to all parents or carers of a child or young person up to the age of 25 with a disability or additional need who live in the London Borough of Bromley.

At the end of the year, the number of parents who are on our database and asked to be kept informed about participation is 850.

The number of Steering Group members is 12.

We have had 16 parent representatives who have attended meetings with the Council or Health Partners during the past year and 258 parents have contributed their experience of services to the forum via focus groups, surveys and consultations.

Following a recruitment drive BPV have successfully trained 5 new parent representatives who have risen to the challenge and got involved!

Our events

Over the year BPV has carried out the following activities to reach more parents and to develop participation.

Event	Numbers attended
EHC Focus Group	10
Parent Survey EHC/Transfer	26
Power of Parents Annual Conference	80
SaLT Focus Groups	22
Local Offer Focus Group	4
Health Local Offer Focus Group	10
IS Drop Ins and Meetings	69
Outcomes training	33
ASD Focus Groups	15
Parent Participation training	10
CYP Stakeholder Conference	2
Ofsted Local Area Inspection	21
Root & Branch Review	5
PFA/Care Act seminar	35
Away Day	13
SCIF Focus Groups	27
BPV Fun Day	80 families

Regular e- bulletins and our website keep parents informed of all events and participation opportunities.



Representation and Partnership Working

BPV has a strong, committed group of members who attend meetings with Bromley Local Authority and Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group.

We are delighted that this year BPV have been asked to be involved in the following work streams.

SEND Implementation Board	Rosalind Luff
Local Offer	Rosalind Luff, Jennifer Mapakou and Elizabeth Rogers
Independent Support	Rosalind Luff
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	Liz Lake, Carol Winfield, Michelle Duncan
Social Care Innovation Fund	Liz Lake and Michelle Duncan
CAMHS Transformation Programme	Rosalind Luff and Kay Moore
Carers Strategy Implementation Group	Rosalind Luff and Lisa Anderson
Children and Young People's Health Board	Rosalind Luff and Yvette Connor
SaLT Review	Rosalind Luff
SEN Transport	Peter Knowles
Bromley Educational Trust (SEMH)	Pauline Asiimwe
Employment	Jude Bel
Preparing for Adulthood	Yvette Connor, Kay Moore, Yvonne Harman

Key Highlights

Annual conference – The Power of Parents

The theme of this year's conference was the Power of Parents with a focus on how parents can achieve better life outcomes for their children if they get involved.

Ofsted/CQC Pilot Inspection

The autumn also started with an Area inspection from CQC/Ofsted. This was a trial inspection to inform the new Local Area Ofsted Inspection process which was published in the spring. Whilst it was only a trial all parties treated the inspection as if it was a real inspection. Parents were given a range of opportunities to get involved in the inspection from face to face meetings with the Inspectors to a webinar.

The Inspection focussed on two key questions:

1. How effectively does the local area **identify** children and young people who are disabled and/or have special educational needs?
2. How effectively does the local area **meet** the needs and improve the outcomes of children and young people who are disabled and/or have special educational needs?

Although no formal report was issued, the LB Bromley did receive feedback from the team of Inspectors on the strengths and areas for improvement. BPV continue to work with LB Bromley and their partners to ensure that the SEND Reforms introduced by the Children & Family Act 2014 are implemented.

Parent meeting and workshops

As part of BPV'S membership of the Independent Support Consortium, BPV have continued to deliver parent workshops across the age range focussing on the Children and Families Act and outcomes. The workshops have been well attended and highly evaluated. Parents have reported that they are better informed and able to participate in their child/young person's EHC/Transfer Review.

BPV Fun Day

Bromley Parent Voice held our first Family Fun Day for children and young people with additional needs and their families.

We were delighted that the Mayor of Bromley joined us to officially 'open' the Day and was able to chat to many of the parents and organisations who attended the event.

The day was a great success with many families joining in the activities available on the day which included cricket, football and dancing. We had a Games Wagon where there was a host of games consoles to play on. The children also enjoyed a bouncy castle and they were able to create some fantastic craft creations and join in on music sessions.

We were joined by many of the Bromley Organisations that support social and leisure activities for children and young people with additional needs in the borough. Families had opportunities to get to know each other and share information whilst enjoying a cuppa and some of the delicious cakes we had donated to us.

Through our work on the Local Offer and Social Care Innovation Fund project we have heard how important it is for children, young people with SEND and their families to have 'Time for Me'. The aim of the day was to have fun, give parents, children and young people the opportunity to network and to make families aware of some of the leisure opportunities for children and young people with SEND in the LB Bromley

For further information visit the Local Offer

<http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/lbb-local-offer.aspx>

BPV Films

As a member led forum, BPV have listened to what parents and professionals have told us. This year to help parents and professionals to understand the role of Bromley Parent Voice, the forum have worked with Canvas Films to produce two short films.

Get Involved, Make a Difference

<http://www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk/useful-videos/>

EHC Film

<http://www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk/what-is-an-ehc-plan-and-how-do-i-request-an-assessment-for-my-child/>

The films have been shared with every school and pre-school setting in LB Bromley in order to raise awareness and the profile of BPV.

Local Offer

Following on from the Ofsted/CQC inspection the Local Authority appointed a consultant to look at improving the Local Offer. BPV were invited to meetings to look at the issues. The site has been greatly improved and is now much easier to navigate. There is still much to do to make this a really useful site for families and BPV look forward to continued involvement in helping to shape the local Offer.

Don't forget to visit the Local Offer website <http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk> where you can feedback your views.



Co-Production

ASD Family Support

BPV were invited to help inform recommissioning of the Family Services Contract for Autism. We held focus groups to glean from parent carers what they valued most about the current service and what extra services they would find helpful.

This information was fed back via a report to the Local Authority to inform the contract specification for family services which was then put out for tender.

BPV were allowed to have a parent representative review and comment on the tendered bids from a quality perspective (40% of award). The final decision on award of the contract was made by the LB Bromley.

Social Care Innovation Fund

This year BPV has been involved in the development of the Social Care Innovation Fund Project (SCIF) in partnership with the London Borough of Bromley and the Council for Disabled Children which has aimed to improve the process for families of Disabled Children into the Social Care Team and in particular those requiring some level of short break. This project has been unique in that it has involved over 100 parents, young people, schools, voluntary sector and local authority professionals who have given their views on the current process and ideas on how to improve it. Over the course of the year these ideas have been created and tested within the wider community and we are hoping to embark on the next phase of implementation as of October 2016. Ideas have included an online assessment to replace social worker visits when short breaks are being requested and a 'ways of working' for social workers to use when visiting families to improve consistency. Other ideas that are being considered are the use of Outcomes pyramids to ensure that there are 'C' and 'H' outcomes in EHC plans for our young people and a series of films and posters to advertise the importance of thinking about 'time for me' for our families.

Health Engagement

BPV have made inroads with working strategically with health partners. Over the last year Yvette Conner and Rosalind Luff have attended meetings with Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group in the roles of Patient Advisers. Through BPV they have been able to help facilitate other carers input their views/experiences to CCG rather than just own experiences.

Last autumn the CCG together with Bromley Local Authority invited BPV to hold a series focus groups on Speech & Language provision. The groups covered provision for children in pre-school settings, mainstream and special schools. This was to help inform the next round of commissioning for these services.

The focus groups proved interesting. In what might be a first for Bromley we had a joint commissioner for Health & Social Care, provider (Bromley Healthcare) and clients (parents) together to discuss what works well and what needs improvement. The review was led by Carly Woodham, Public Health Registrar who co-ordinated the review and drafted a detailed and comprehensive report.

It appeared that all parties learnt something from the focus groups. The provider was able to explain how speech & language is delivered in schools giving parents better understanding of the benefits of group working and how Speech and Language (SaLT) can work as a whole school approach rather than intensive one to one sessions.

It became clear that improvements need to be made in communicating to parents what is actually being delivered and the approaches used. Parents reported that often the only time they hear anything about SaLT provision is at annual report time.

The focus groups highlighted that parents need greater involvement so that they can provide continuity at home with therapies.

Following on from the focus groups, BPV have attended meetings with provider and commissioning staff to continue with input on shaping the SaLT contract going forward. Parent representatives have also been working with BCCG and LB Bromley to look at the model of delivery for Occupational Therapy in Bromley.

The Autumn started with an Area inspection from CQC/Ofsted. From this area inspection it became clear that the Local offer of services for Special Educational Needs & Disabled (SEND) children was lacking. Whilst it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to produce the Local Offer, a key part of the information is around health services,

Bromley CCG invited parents to meet as focus groups to help troubleshoot the published CCG offer. They took on board parents comments and reshaped the offer into one that is much more user friendly and informative. The CCG also acknowledged parents comments that they wanted information on all health services regardless of who commissions them. We have been very encouraged by the work the CCG has put into improving this information.

In January the CCG started holding monthly meetings to discuss Children & Young Persons services. These meetings include representatives from local health services including GPs, medical staff, Health watch and commissioners from both Health and Social Care; two representatives from our parent carer forum that attend in a 'Patient' Advisory capacity.

These meetings have helped to promote better understanding for all parties. They are now to be held bi-monthly as all parties agreed this was more practical. These meetings are helping to develop true co production in line with the principles of the Children & Families Act 2014. We welcomed the appointment by Bromley CCG of a Designated Clinical Officer who will help embed the SEND reforms.

Two members of the forum attended a Transforming Care event. This was to seek ideas on how to promote better integrated care networks, to think about what these might look like and to glean information from both patient & providers experiences. This is all part of ongoing work and will help to inform the programme.

Most recently we have attended the first workshop for co-production for Emotional & Mental Health. This was a brainstorming session that talked about the principles of co-production. The facilitators drew on the audiences experiences of what has worked well with supporting good mental health and we were able to share models of good practice. This programme is ongoing and there will be further gatherings.

All in all it has been a productive year which has seen Parent Carers/Patient Advisers included in helping to shape health services for Children & Young people in Bromley in a meaningful and productive way. We look forward to continue to work with BCCG in the coming months including the transformation of Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health services.

Alongside this work with Bromley CCG, Rosalind Luff has also participated as a patient adviser to the Our Healthier South East London programme. This is a collective of six local CCGs who are focusing on improving health outcomes by sharing and building on good practice across the CCGs.

Employment Project

The SEND Code of Practice sets out how professionals across education (including early years, schools, colleges and 16-19 academies), health and social care should support children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities to prepare for adult life, and help them go on to achieve the best outcomes in employment, independent living, health and community participation.

Young people with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities have the same dreams and aspirations as their peers. They have many skills and abilities to offer. They want to work, have a better quality of life and play a full part in society like everyone else. As parents we want the best possible life outcomes for our children.

Bromley Parent Voice was asked by the LB Bromley to be part of a project team that is developing better life opportunities for our young people. We appointed Jude Bel as a Parent Champion who is working with the LB Bromley, schools, colleges, voluntary community sector and local employers to increase awareness and potential the opportunities for young people with special educational needs or disabilities to find employment (paid or voluntary) when they finish their education.

This is the story so far...

"I met some inspirational parents at the 'Moving on to Adulthood seminar at The Warren in summer. They are also passionate about realising employment opportunities in their local community. Together we can make it happen as parents/carers we are a talented work force full of great and resourceful ideas. I am working on pulling these ideas together creating case studies of the opportunities for our young people. Currently I am working in my local community, because I have so many local contacts, but envisaging creating a 'ripple effect' to different communities across the borough. In the early stages of this journey I met not only parents, but also professionals who would like to get involved and want to make a change!



Our ideas so far include;

- Baking cakes and selling them in a local coffee shop. This has been researched and the opportunity is available.
- Looking at gardening opportunities and offering simple services to our local community. A gardening company is interested in helping us. We are also looking at the ways parents can get involved supporting their young people in small micro enterprises.
- Working with a local church minister, who is willing to supply us with space to set up weekly activity groups for our young people. This can include arts and crafts for selling our creations locally; start small think big!
- From this base we can provide a separate area for parents to meet and create a 'natural' support network. Young people can provide and make refreshments. Several professionals have already offered their services in order to help set this up.
- Exploring with partners from the voluntary sector on how Norman Park can be used as a central hub. The Athletic club based at Norman Park is interested in getting involved too as they want to become more inclusive. These developments can create new activities and employment opportunities for our young people.



Our achievements so far include a local primary school in Beckenham who offered two students from a specialist school in the borough work placements during the summer term. It was a major success, providing Key Stage 1 children with new and different role models to look up to. Now this link has been established we are planning for another specialist school to get involved and identify another student, with whom I can run a lunch time club for children with communication difficulties. Who better to help than a young person who has experienced the same difficulties and can be a positive role model to these children, helping them overcome or cope with their difficulties? The positive outcome of this placement will hopefully result in a job!

This primary school already has an established link with a local specialist primary school, where students exchange biweekly and do lessons together for an afternoon. They also play and integrate together during playtime. The success of this project resulted in one of the children from the specialist school meeting local mainstream school children in the local park. They recognised him and wanted to play with him. What a positive outcome for everyone!

Working together with these schools, several projects for fully integrated activities are currently being worked on. The idea behind this is to show our community that our children and young people exist and want to integrate in our community. Like everyone else, they also have aspirations and ambitions for the future. If we integrate well from a very young age, these children grow up into adults and will employ our young people. We will create our own successes together and can show that everybody has a purpose in life, talents, that can be put to use.

This is a challenge, but also an opportunity, which is too great to miss out on, so get involved!"

If you want to know more or get involved please contact Jude via info@bromleyparentvoice.org.uk

The Bromley Parent Voice Steering Group would like to thank every parent and carer who has contributed in some way to the work of the forum in the past year.

What Next?

We aim to continue to inform and empower parents of disabled and SEN children, young people and to improve services for families, children and young people affected by disability by working in partnership with LB Bromley, Bromley CGG and their statutory partners (including our schools and academies).

In addition, BPV will continue to work with other voluntary sector partners across the London Borough of Bromley to build a strong and inclusive community for our children and young people.

To enable BPV to achieve this, the forum is seeking to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the very near future.



Strengthening Parent Carer Participation



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