

Bromley Parent Voice Interim Report

September 2016 – August 2017

September 2017 – November 2017

Summary

This report gives an overview of Bromley's Parent Forum, Bromley Parent Voice, over the last year and outlines our plans beyond March 2018.

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.

Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families. Parent Carer Forums have been established in most local areas and local authorities are actively encouraged to work with them. (SEND COP 1.13)

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 and outcomes for families, children and young people affected by disability.

The forum is supported by Contact (www.contact.org.uk), the national delivery partner for Parent Participation. Bromley Parent Voice is a member of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (www.nnpf.org.uk) and attends regular regional meetings with forums from across London. This ensures local issues are raised at a regional and national level.

Funding

Each year Bromley Parent Voice successfully applies for 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, facilitate focus groups and to reach seldom heard groups. In addition, some funds have been used to pay parent/carers for their time participating in Council/Health meetings.

During 2016/17 and 2017/18 BPV has continued to receive funding from LB Bromley to support parent engagement in embedding the SEND Reforms. 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 funding through our role in the Independent Support Consortium and the Key Working Project.

BPV became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in April 2017.

Membership (Our Reach)

Bromley Parent Voice continues to be a voice for parent carers in the LB Bromley working with schools and voluntary sector partners. 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.

As at 1st April 2017, the number of parents who were on the BPV database and asked to be kept informed about participation was 927.

The current number of management team members is 9. The number of trustees that we have is 6. BPV have had 16 parent representatives who have attended meetings with the Council or Health Partners during the past year and 162 parents have contributed their experience of services to the forum via social media, focus groups, surveys and consultations during 2016/17.

Since April 2017 as a result of the thematic work streams and SEND4Change reviews BPV has successfully trained 8 new parent representatives who have risen to the challenge and got involved!

In terms of our social media, as at 1st April 2017 we have 221 Facebook followers. During 2016/17 we have had 5,758 hits through our website which currently has 4,020 users.

Our Events

Over the year BPV has carried out the following activities to reach more parents and to develop participation during 2016/17.

Event	Numbers of attendees
Social Care Innovation Fund Project (SCIF)	32
Accepting Diversity	12
Schools Project	86
Health Local Offer	12
Key Working Pilot	20
Conferences	258
Independent Support Workshops	36

Below is a summary of events held by Bromley Parent Voice during 2017/2018 to date along with the number of participants for each event:

Event	Numbers of attendees
Short Breaks Focus Groups	24
Cake & Share Sessions	25
Outcomes Project	8
Out of Borough Placements Focus Group	10
Annual Conference	100 parents and professionals
Local Offer Live Event	60 families

Workshops

Preparing for Transfer Review Workshops	54
Pre-school Parent meetings	24

In addition, BPV successfully applied for a small discretionary grant from DfE to fund time limited projects.

2016/17	2017/18
Social Care Innovation Fund	Outcomes Project
Schools Project	Cake and Share
Key working pilot	Key working pilot

The aims of the projects are to reach more families whose children attend mainstream schools and families whose voices are seldom heard.

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.

Work Stream/Board		Parent Representative/s	
Thematic Work streams	- EHC Process	Vicky Debruin	Ros Luff
	- Quality Assurance	Liz Lake	
	- Local Offer	Judith Bel	Ros Luff
	- Joint Commissioning and Data	Mary Shrimpton	Elizabeth Hemmings
	- Transition	Julie Hewitt-Emmett	Yvette Connor
	- Personal Budgets	Debbie Kenneally	
SEND4Change Focus Groups	- Engagement	Paul Bowman	Jenny Bowman
	- High Needs Funding	Sarah Berkeley	Mary Shrimpton
	- Specialist Placement	Katrina O'Leary	Peter Knowles
	- SEN Support	Laura McSweeney	Ros Luff
	- SEMH Review	Kerrie Collins	Steve Holloway
SEND Governance Board		Ros Luff	Yvette Connor
Children Executive Board		Ros Luff	Yvette Connor
Short Break Tender Evaluations		Elizabeth Hemmings	Jennifer Mapakou
CCG Children's and Young People's Board		Ros Luff	Yvette Connor

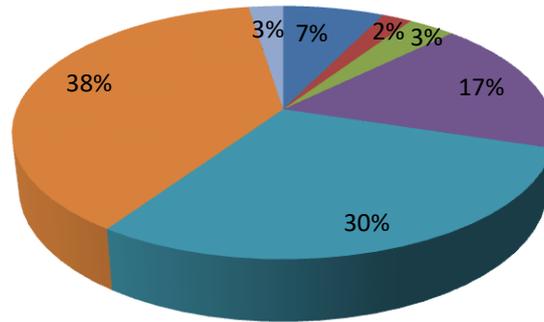
Total hours delivered April-August 2017 284

Total hours delivered September-November 2017 215

This does not include preparation or reporting of the meeting or any administration.

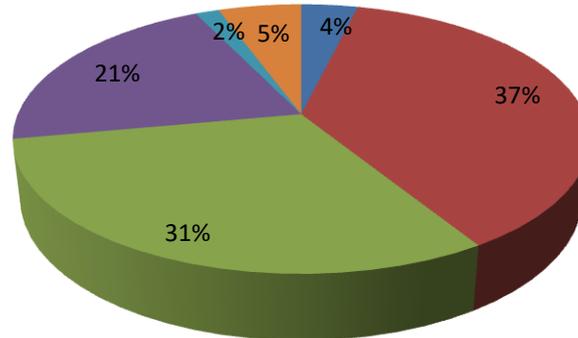
April-August 2017

- Commissioning
- Focus Groups
- Keyworking
- Meetings
- Parent Champion
- Thematic Workstreams
- Workshops



September - November 2017

- Activity Day
- Cake & Share
- Focus Group
- Meetings
- Thematic Workstreams
- Workshops



Other Key Areas of work

The forum respond to local and national consultations, Calls for Evidence and surveys in order to inform and shape both local and national policy.

Parent meetings 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 assessment/Transfer Review.

Local Offer Live

Bromley Parent Voice worked with LB Bromley to hold a Local Offer Live event for children and young people with additional needs and their families. The purpose of the day was to promote the Local Offer.

We were joined by many of the voluntary sector 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 which had donated to us.

Health Engagement

Back in 2016 BPV were regularly meeting with the Children's commissioner for health from the Clinical Commissioning Group. There was involvement with parents to help review the health Local Offer and we also attended regular Children & /young People work stream meetings.

These CYP meetings involved various health partners including CCG, Health watch, Clinicians as well as the LA joint commissioner for Health and Social Care. These meetings offered an insight to CYP issues within Bromley and the initiatives various parties were involved in (such as Asthma pathways). These meetings tailed off in early spring 2017 and this was, in part, due to the recommissioning of children's services.

Two members of our steering group signed up to review the tendered bids around engagement of Children, Young People and the public. This proved to be an extensive piece of work for the two reviewers as the initial tender was thorough in its requirements. There were some strong bidders for this contract.

The CCG extended the invitation for the tender reviewers to be involved in the mobilisation of the children's services. BPV were informed that our input would be really valued. There have been a number of delays on the start of this new five year contract and BPV are still

waiting to hear on how they can be further involved. We have had recent contact from the CCG which indicates that 2018 will see more/improved engagement with the forum.

In our last BPV annual report we spoke of the co-produced focus groups around Speech and Language provision. These were promising with parents, commissioners, provider and the consultant all coming together. Following on from those early coproduced focus groups there was a long delay before getting feedback on the way ahead. BPV were disappointed with the final decisions made around SLT commissioning changes. It appears schools may have been unhappy with these changes too and we understand there has been an extension to the previous commissioning arrangements with view to the CCG reviewing the situation early 2018.

There has been a long spell with little Health/BPV engagement but we have now had very recent contact with a promise of closer engagement going forward. Bromley CCG has been working to review the CYP health landscape and have shown commitment to the Children's Executive Board which was formed in spring 2017. This is a promising development.

BPV understand a review of the autism pathway (from pre diagnosis to post diagnosis support) is currently being mapped and BPV have now been approached to review the mapped pathway of existing services. We are keen to ensure families have the opportunity to help improve the ASD pathway by drawing on their lived experience (positive and not so positive). We are mindful that there are financial constraints but we want at the very least to help ensure the best possible pathway is developed and any gaps are identified and filled for our children and young people.

Two BPV members are involved in the South East London Transforming Care Programme (SEL TCP) on a patient advisor forum. This forum is largely made up of parent carers with lived experience of Assessment Treatment Units. Recently the SEL TCP forum has been invited to attend SEL TCP Board meetings which is great progress in terms of engagement. BPV have also been involved in workshops run by the NHS England Children and Young Person Learning team.

The NHS England Children and Young People Learning Disability programme has been raising challenge nationally with the local TCP's to embed CYP into their work. They are involved in a number of initiatives and BPV have shared surveys etc. from their work.

Most recently BPV have learnt that the CCG have employed a commissioner for SEND which is a welcome initiative. Looking ahead we are set for a busy time with health partners and we welcome this challenge. It is important to highlight that currently BPV does not receive any national or local funding to support health engagement.

Cake and Share

This year BPV have been successful in applying for a grant from the Department for Education to host a weekly Cake and Share group for parent/carers of children with additional needs in mainstream schools. These groups enable parents to meet other parents in similar situations, share experiences and information, build connections and friendships. The group runs every Wednesday from 9:30am-11:30am in various venues across the borough.

Outcomes and Impact of BPV work

“(You) helped me join the dots – thanks BPV.”

“Relevant, Current, Interactive, Personal, Professional and Great!”

“A wonderful event with great talks from great people!”

Our conferences have been extremely well supported and provide an opportunity to reach new families. ‘Time for Me’ showcased how getting involved with the forum can effect positive change in Bromley. This project has been really successful in getting more parents to get actively involved in the work of the forum at a level they are comfortable with. This includes 4 parents who have gone on to become parent representatives on the recently formed SEND Thematic workstreams in the LB Bromley.

“It’s never too early to start” was successful in reaching our target groups of parents of young people aged 16-25 years and parents of children and young people in mainstream schools. Our conference this year ‘Time for Change...What does a good SEND Offer look like in Bromley’ welcomed members of the SEND4Change Engagement Focus group and gave families the opportunity to have their voices heard in this important review.

Our management team meetings continue to enable the forum to have a pro-active and planned approach. We have worked hard to listen to the views of the BME and EAL communities in Bromley and this has resulted with 12 parents sharing their views for the Schools project and becoming more actively involved in the work of the forum.

Communication with our members is central to the work that the forum does. The mobile phone and website has enabled parents to contact the forum at times that are convenient for them to do so.

The work of the forum would not be possible without the commitment and hard work of our administration team and parent representatives. Funding administration supports the strong governance, infrastructure and reporting of the forum. The increase in demand for parent representation demands a strong admin team who can arrange meetings, focus groups, events, create surveys, monitor calls, emails and social media.

Payment for parent representatives' time and expenses ensure that they are able to attend meetings outside of school hours where necessary. It has also enabled some new parents to become representatives and the forum has widened its representation at meetings. By offering remuneration the forum has been able to build capacity and sustainability.

Our Greatest Achievements in 2016/17 and 2017/18

BPV is represented on the newly established Children Executive Board and SEND Governance Board. This is enabling the forum to work with Directors at the highest level across Education, Health and Care (birth-25).

The implementation of the Social Care Innovation Fund project key learning and co-produced solutions through the Disabled Children's team has improved the Local Offer and the Short Breaks Assessment process in Bromley.

The Schools Project has enabled us to reach families of children in mainstream schools and to identify gaps in services and provision for this group of children and young people. The Cake and Share sessions have been introduced this year to provide families with the opportunity to meet other parents, share information and support.

A renewed focus on the SEND Implementation in Bromley to ensure that the Local Area is ready for the Ofsted/CQC inspection has presented BPV with the opportunity to have parent representation across 6 key thematic work streams and to ensure that co-production is an underpinning principle in the SEND strategy being developed.

Our Accepting Diversity event really enabled the forum to reach out to the BME and EAL groups in the borough and to begin to build strong and trusting relationships with these parents. In addition, the forum has established links with a number of parent support groups across the borough which has enabled us to listen to the views of more families and be more representative.

BPV have also been invited to join the Children's Safeguarding Board Community Engagement sub group. We welcome the opportunity to work with the board to make our community safe, inclusive and accessible for our children and young people.

What Next?

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

The BPV 'Offer'

As we look to life beyond March 2018 BPV aim to deliver the following activity (subject to continued funding) to ensure parent carer engagement across the LB Bromley.

Host Website including events calendar and Independent Support webpages

Partnership working with other third sector organisations e.g. Dyslexia Association, CASPA, Bromley Mencap and support groups

Social Media/Online Forum

Workshops/Focus groups

Cake and Share sessions/School roadshow

Maintain an issues log

Signposting/peer to peer support

Annual Conference

Fun Day to promote Local Offer

Parent Representation on operational groups and strategic boards

DfE Survey and Local Area SEND Inspection

Consultation responses

Projects

Representation at regional Parent Carer Forum meetings and national AGM/Conference

Attendance at London Regional Events