



INFORMING  EMPOWERING  ENGAGING 

wigan parent
carer
forum

WIGAN PARENT POWER!

For Parent Carers of Children/Young People with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities aged 0-25

Wigan Parent Carer Forum

2021/2022

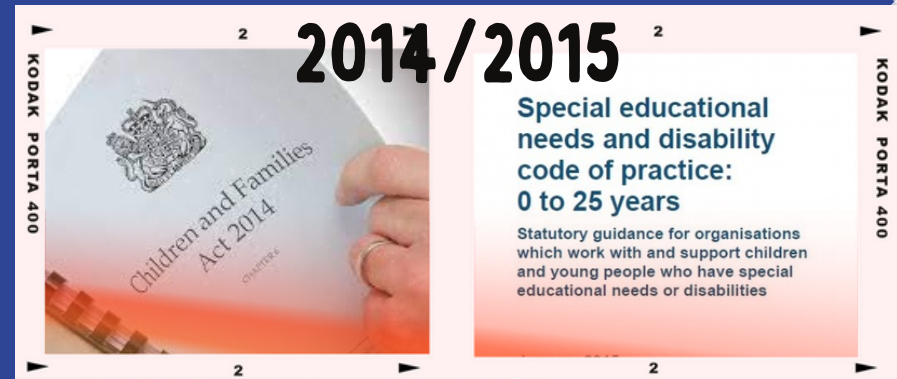




WIGAN PARENT CARER FORUM

Independent constituted group of Parent Carers who represent the collective voice of parent carers of children / young people aged 0-25 with SEND in Wigan. Working with the LA, Health and other providers to shape and develop services that suit the needs of our families.





2018



2019



October 2019



March 2019

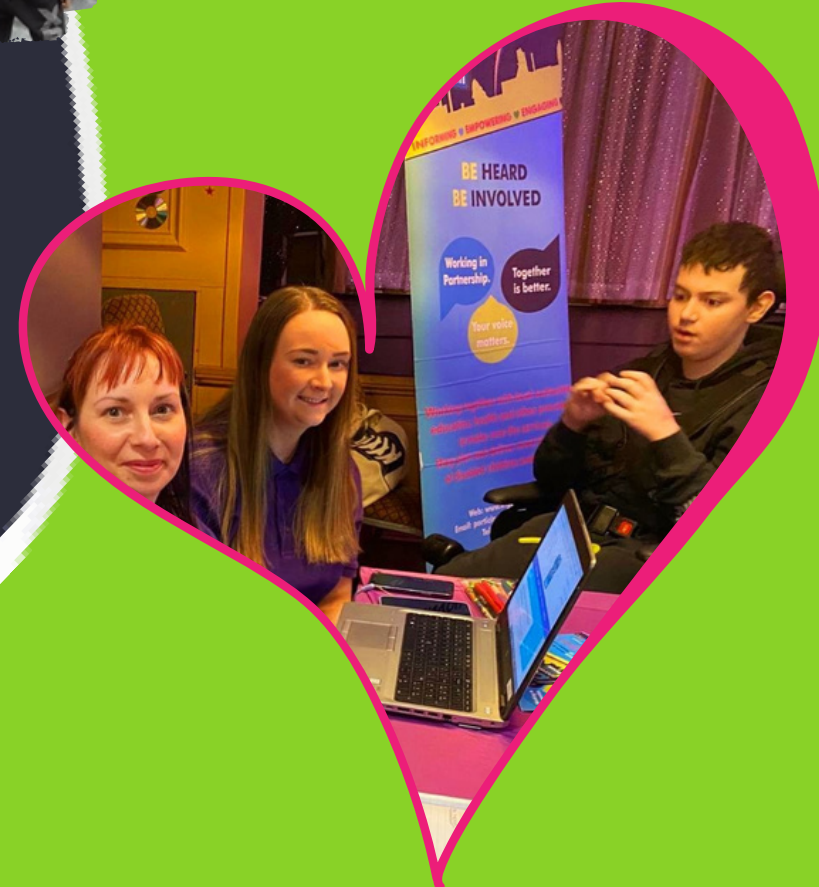
October 2021



Jan 2022



January 2020



March 2022



Who are Wigan Parent Carer Forum?

First and foremost the Parent Carer Forum is it's membership
Parent Carers of children/young people with SEND aged 0-25
in Wigan Borough

1194 registered members

1,121 Members of our Parent Power Community Private Group

2,395 Facebook Page Followers

31,496 Facebook Page Reach Jan - March 2022

1305 Twitter Followers 5k Reach a month



Eventbrite



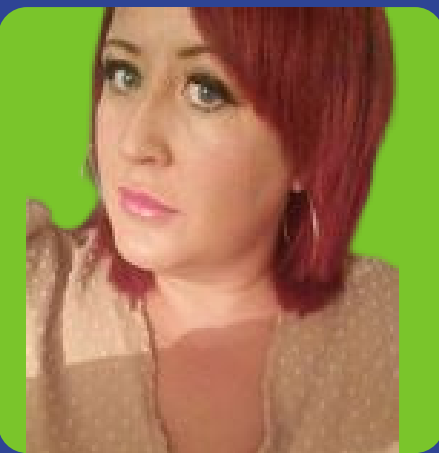
Nextdoor

LinkedIn





Who are Wigan Parent Carer Forum day to day folks? Why did we get involved? What do we do?



Kelly Mc Clarence



Becca Selby



Emma Foster



Joanne Lowe



Luisa Preston



Lisa Aldred



Leanne Flaherty



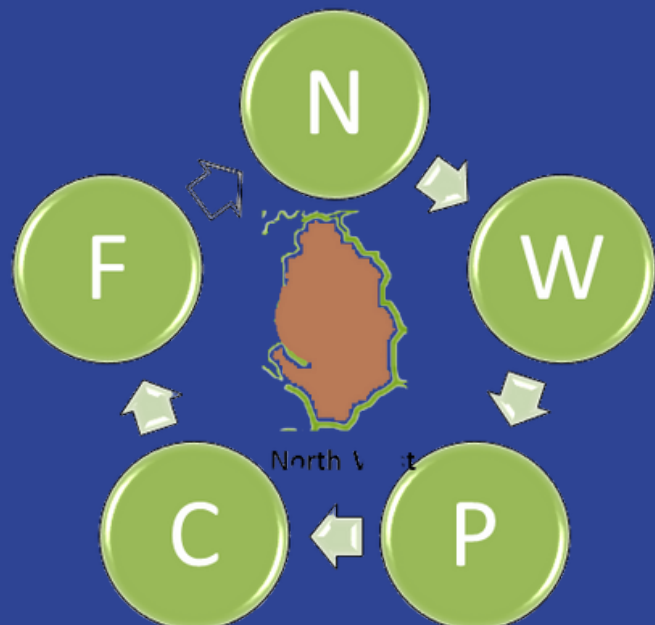
Catherine Kinsella



We receive £17,500 Grant annually from the Department For Education to engage in strategic co-production and be the officially recognised parent carer forum for our area. With a MOU with Local Authority.

Grant administered by the Charity Contact and all forums are members of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.





Local SEND Parent Carer Community

On the ground, real life experiences.

Sharing thoughts, concerns, and compliments with PCFs.



Local Parent Carer Forums

Supporting local community understanding of processes and identifying needs/concerns

Identifying and challenging strategic needs to improve local delivery



Regional Parent Carer Forums Network

Supporting regional understanding of processes and identifying needs/concerns

Identifying and challenging strategic needs to improve regional delivery, influencing local delivery



National Participation Agenda

Contact Participation Team offer regional and local operational support to forums

NNPCF Steering Group members represent regional areas at national level

What a DfE Parent Carer Forum is

Paragraph 1.13 SEND code of practice:

“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”



Forums focus is on
participation
and **co-production**.

They are
solution focused.

Forum represent
the **collective voice**
of parent carers,
feeding back their
experiences
of local services

Forums are **independent**
from the Local Authority.
Where they receive funding
to support participation by
the LA, they do so with this
understanding

Forum provide challenge when things need to improve and work with providers to try to find solutions



No relationship
No Communication

Co-Design
Co-Production

What does equal partner mean?



What a DfE Parent Carer Forum is not



Not a
Support
Service



Not a
Protest
Group



Not
advocates
for
individual cases

However.....



Supportive of
each other



Standing
up for what is
right



Speak
up for
the many



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Engagement Events/Drop ins

SEND Drop ins 3rd Tuesday of the month
Working together with the SEND Team
Embrace & various teams to provide
information,
advice, support and peer to peer networking.

Reach more families,
more areas,
more opportunities,
evenings, weekends,
family events.



Pears Foundation

- Short Breaks
- Staffing
- 12 months funding

- Funding funded through the Post covid recovery fund
- Reduce isolation and encourage face to face activities and breaks for parent carers after such a difficult few years
- Worked with multiple providers to facilitate various events and activities for families
- Ensure the sustainability of the forum through providing funds for self employed workers
- Ends in April, we are not guaranteed this funding again.



Health, Education, Voluntary organisations, Support Groups, Peer to Peer Support.

Wigan Parent Empowerment Course & Wigan SEND Newsletter



Developing skills around working together with practitioners and getting a better life for your family



Inform - Engage - Empower



Proud to be part of

The Deal

in partnership with Wigan Council

WIGAN PARENT EMPOWERMENT COURSE

#PARENTPOWER



“ It helped to know that so many other people are going through the same thing I am. I'm not alone in this and the support you offer is amazing ”

“ Lots of interesting information every parent/carer should be aware of. ”

“ The course introduced me to other parents like myself and we have set up a whatsapp group for us to keep in contact. The course made me think about building a circle of people around me that would support me and who I can trust ”



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2022/2023

Board of Trustees

Staff

Engagement Team

Advisory Group

Parent Representatives

Lived Experience Panel

Volunteers

Membership

Stakeholder Group

Wider parent carer community in Wigan



2022/2023

Board of Trustees

Members of the forum with responsibility for oversight and strategic direction

Staff

Paid Employees
Paid Project workers
(over 6 months consecutively on same project.).

Parent Representatives

Parent carer forum representatives
representing the collective view on
strategic workstreams.

Volunteers

Any member of the community who wants to give
their time to various aspects of assisting with any
activities

Engagement Team

A group of representative individuals
who are involved actively in the day to
day running of the forum and help
collate parent carer experience and
shape the direction of the forum.

Membership

Advisory Group

A group of parent carers with no
need to be actively involved in the
day to day forum activities who
can offer constructive feedback
on upcoming topics/documents in
a flexible way that suits their
needs.

Lived Experience Panel

Any parent carer who is interested
in ensuring their experience, good or bad,
can be used meaningfully to help understand
families journeys. As a Lived Experience Panel
member you may be called upon to give
feedback on your personal experiences of a
service. This panel especially welcomes
members from seldom heard groups.

Stakeholder Group

A collective group of support groups and
organisations that come together to feed
in parent carer experience

Wider parent carer community in Wigan

Any and all parents/carers of children with additional needs living or accessing services in Wigan Borough



Parent Carer Priorities

2021/22	2022/23 (so far received)
Neurodevelopmental Pathway Inclusion in Schools CAMHS	CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Pathway Inclusion in Schools

Followed closely by Improving Education Health and Care Plans

PARENTS/CARERS PLEASE COMPLETE THE PRIORITY LIST ON YOUR TABLE

Strategic Partnerships



SEND Partnership Board

All age Autism Board

Neurodevelopmental Pathway Steering Group

Preparing For Adulthood Steering Group

Health and Care Forum

THRIVE

Carers Activation Board

SEND Review

Local Offer Steering Group

Parent Power Community



Parent Carer Closed Group on Facebook

For peer to peer support

Information sharing

Updates on Forum activities and ways to be involved

[Facebook.com/groups/wiganparentpower](https://facebook.com/groups/wiganparentpower)

www.wiganpcf.org.uk



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Better lives for our families!



WPCF are volunteer parent carer led
DFE funded for strategic participation

We receive £17,500 a year. Anything else is not guaranteed.

We want to reach more parents/carers

We need more parent carers involved in the day to day
running of the forum and more funding to continue.

Now is time to get involved to really make a change!



