

As Another School Year Comes to a Close... Thank You

As we reach the end of another academic year, we want to take a moment to say a huge thank you to every parent carer who has connected with Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice over the last 12 months.

Whether you attended an event, completed a survey, joined a drop-in session, shared your experiences, or simply followed our updates, thank you. Your voice helps us ensure that the experiences of families across Derbyshire are heard and used to shape services and support.

This year has been our busiest yet!

More than 1,100 parent carers accessed our online information and support sessions covering a wide range of topics including ADHD, anxiety, emotional regulation, sleep, EBSA, transport, wellbeing, relationships and much more.

Parent carers attended our drop-in sessions across the county, where they were able to speak directly with professionals from Educational Psychology, DIASS and Neuro Hub in a welcoming and supportive environment.

The feedback from these sessions has been overwhelmingly positive, with parent carers telling us that they felt:

Listened to

Understood

Better informed

Less alone

More confident about accessing support for their child or young person

One of the things we are most proud of is hearing families tell us that they leave our sessions feeling more empowered and hopeful about their next steps.

Your engagement has also helped us continue important work behind the scenes.

This year we have:

Shared parent carer experiences through surveys and reports. Worked with services to make communications more parent-carer friendly
Worked closely with the EP's and DISAS

Continued to champion co-production and meaningful parent carer involvement across the SEND system

Looking Ahead to September

We already have lots planned for the autumn term, including:

- Monthly Parent Carer Drop-In Sessions across Derbyshire
- Wellbeing and support opportunities for parent carers
- Online information sessions on a range of SEND topics
- Opportunities to share your experiences and help shape local services
- New partnership work to strengthen and broaden parent carer voice across Derbyshire

Following feedback from families, we are hoping to offer nine parent carer drop-in sessions next academic year, with one session each month in a different area of the county. Our aim is to make support more accessible and ensure that even more families can benefit from these valued opportunities to connect, ask questions and access support.

As summer approaches, we know that the holidays can bring a mixture of excitement, joy, exhaustion and uncertainty for many families. However you are spending the summer, we hope you can find some moments to rest, recharge and make memories together.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your journey.

We look forward to seeing you again in September for another year of listening, learning and working together.

Have a wonderful summer from all of us at Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice.