

Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice Supports SEND Local Area Monitoring Inspection



Your child's world keeps changing—can you help us make sure the system changes with them?

New faces, new rules, new challenges—why your voice matters just as much today as it did yesterday.

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This week members of the Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice team attended meetings at County Hall as part of the SEND Local Area Monitoring Inspection.

We carried your voice with us.

For the first time parent carers sat alongside leaders from education, health and children's services, to discuss progress against the Partnership Improvement Plan directly with the inspection team. We covered what support is currently available to children and young people with SEND and their families, what our parent carers feel might work better and what matters to them.

A key part of our role during the inspection was to ensure that the voices and experiences of parent carers were represented throughout the process. We shared feedback gathered through our events, surveys, drop-in sessions, workshops and wider engagement activities, helping inspectors understand the experiences of families across the county.

We would like to say a huge thank you to every parent carer who has taken the time to share their experiences, ideas, concerns and feedback with us. Whether you have completed a survey, attended an event, contacted us directly or spoken to one of our team members, your voice has helped us represent the experiences of Derbyshire families during the inspection process.

We were pleased to hear recognition from partners of the important role that parent carers and Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice have played throughout the inspection. Hearing leaders acknowledge the value of parent carer voices and the contribution made by our forum was encouraging and reflects the progress that has been made in strengthening relationships across the local area partnership.

We also want to be honest about where we are. We know that many parent carers continue to face challenges, and we recognise that not all families are yet seeing improvements in their everyday experiences. There remains much work to do to ensure that children and young people with SEND and their families receive the support they need.

However, throughout the inspection process we saw encouraging signs of a growing commitment to listening to parent carers and involving them in discussions about change. It feels as though there is a real opportunity to build stronger partnerships and develop more meaningful co-production, where families and professionals work together to shape services and improve outcomes.

As an independent parent carer forum, we will continue to celebrate progress where it happens, challenge where you tell us improvements are needed, and ensure that the voices of parent carers remain at the heart of conversations about SEND in Derbyshire.

We look forward to receiving the final inspection report and will share further information with families when it becomes available.

Thank you again to every parent carer who helped make our contribution to the inspection possible.