



## **Currently Recruiting Parent Representatives**

### **Who we are**

Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum (BBPCF) is a group of parent carers of children with SEN and disabilities (SEND) who work in partnership with local authorities, education, health, social care and other providers. We work in partnership with those that provide and plan services for our children to make sure that they know what we need. Any parent or carer of a child or young person aged 0-25 can be a member.

To do this work we need to understand the problems, needs, concerns and preferences of families living with SEND in the Bedford Borough area.

In order to do this effectively we are seeking various Parent Representative's. There are 2 types of role's we are currently recruiting to:

1. providing feedback about a particular issue as part of a 'panel' of parents
2. attending meetings alongside another parent representative to ensure this feedback is included in any decision making

These are unique paid (or voluntary if preferred) opportunities for a Bedford Borough parent carer to be involved in decision making, changing policies and making a real difference to families of children with SEND within Bedford Borough. You will be fully supported by the Forum in your new role with training and support provided.

Expenses will be fully reimbursed.

Participation payments are currently £30 per half day and £50 per full (over four hours) day.

## **Current Opportunities**

### **Bedford SEN & Disability Guide – The Local Offer (6-8 Vacancies)**

#### **Parents Panel**

"The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- 1) *To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the provision available; and*
- 2) *To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children and young people with SEND, their families and service providers in its development and review."*

We are looking for a parent carers to form a 'parents panel' to look through and assess Bedford Borough's local offer website <https://sendguide.bedford.gov.uk/> to check if it meets all legal requirements, look for missing information and suggest improvements.

We will give guidance on what should be included (the legal bit) but also it will be about how easy it is to use, how it looks and whether you like it or not.



### **Local Offer Operational Group (2 vacancies)**

We are also looking for parent carers to join the 'operational group' meetings at Bedford Borough Council. This group will be looking at how the Local Offer can be improved and developed.

### **Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) – Quality Assurance (6 vacancies)**

#### **Parents Panel**

Education, Health and Care Plans are replacing Statements of SEN and:

- 1. looks at the education, health and care needs of a child/young person and focusses on outcomes.*
- 2. looks at services and support to help the child/young person achieve their outcomes, and will be an opportunity to think more creatively about support.*

We are looking for parent carers to form a 'parents panel' to look at (anonymised) EHCP's and check for quality including: all the legal elements, 'the granny test' (whether your child's granny will recognise them in the EHCP) whether it has aspirations and outcomes and generally whether they are parent/young person 'friendly'.

We will give guidance on what a good EHCP looks like and what should be included (the legal bit) but again it is as much about whether it is easily understandable and makes sense.

### **EHCP Operational Group (2 vacancies)**

We are also looking for parent carers to join the Operational Group meetings at Bedford Borough Council who will be monitoring the ongoing quality of EHCP's and make suggestions for improvements.

### **Personal Budgets Operational Group (2 vacancies)**

We are looking for parent carers to join the Personal Budgets Operational group meetings who will be looking at how personal budgets and direct payments can be improved and expanded. It will also be looking at developing the range and types of services that parent carers can request personal budgets for. This will be a multi-agency group including health, education and social care as well as parent carers.



### **Bedford Borough Council – Letters Parents Panel (4-6 vacancies)**

We are looking for parent carers to form a 'parent's panel' to look at the letters that are often sent to parents to make them more parent friendly and easier to understand.

We will give guidance on what has to be said (generally the legal bit) and where things can be changed but it will be more about whether you understand what the letter is telling you or not.

### **Our Website**

We are looking for parent carers to help us develop our website <http://www.bbpcf.org.uk/> so that it has the correct information that you need and provides a resource for finding the right information (and looks good!).

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In the first instance please apply via email: [admin@bbpcf.org.uk](mailto:admin@bbpcf.org.uk)

Closing date for applications 1 July 2015