

Southampton Parent Carer Forum

Review and Updates

October 2026

As we move into October, we hope you and your family are settling into the new term.

We know this time of year can bring a real mix of experiences. Some children and young people may be settling well, while others are finding school, routines or accessing the right support more challenging.

Whatever things look like for your family, Southampton Parent Carer Forum is here. Whether you need information, signposting, someone to listen, or simply a chance to connect with other parent carers who understand, please reach out.

There's lots happening this month, and we hope to see some of you along the way. Together, we'll keep making sure the voices and experiences of Southampton's SEND families are heard.

Key Updates

- Consultations on the Direct Payment Policy, Short Breaks Statement and School Travel Service policies (including the Post-16 Policy) are open for feedback on the council website.
- The new all-age Triage Hub for NEW autism and ADHD referrals launches on 1 November. (<https://www.hantsiow.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/mental-health-services/autism-and-adhd-assessment-services>)

Workshop in the Spotlight - A Needs-Led Approach to Understanding Learning Disabilities In Children & Young People.

This workshop, led by NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board, focused on taking a needs-led approach to understanding learning disabilities in children and young people. Discussions explored what is meant by a learning disability, the difference between a pathway to diagnosis and a pathway to support, what evidence is used and how needs are recorded across the system. The group also considered the impact of a child or young person not having a formal diagnosis.

Key Dates - More info on the following pages

Wednesday 14th
October

Consultation events - Transport and Social Care staff will be attending to share the new school travel policies, direct payment policy and short break statement

6th November, 10-12

Celebrating 10 years of the forum.

Scan the QR code for the link to our facebook page for the most up to date info.



Continued ...

Southampton 360

The Southampton 360 Support Model – Experts at Hand, known locally as Southampton 360, brings specialist services together around children and young people, families and education settings. The name reflects that Southampton’s model includes a much wider range of expertise and support than is set out in the national government guidance.

Support will range from training and building capacity, to specialist advice and guidance, through to direct support and intervention for children and young people, with or without an EHCP. The six proposed workstreams are Cluster model, City-wide training, Emotional Based School/College Absence, Targeted Support and Outreach, SEND Workforce Development Model and Quality Assurance and Support for Specialist and Support Bases. The overall aim is to provide the right support, at the right time, in the right place.

SEND Youth Voice Forum

We’re excited to be developing a new SEND Youth Voice Forum for Southampton, giving young people aged 12–25 with SEND, additional needs or who feel they need extra support a space to meet others, share their experiences and help influence SEND services across the city. No formal diagnosis is needed to take part, and young people can have their say in whatever way works for them – talking, typing, drawing, signing or showing us.

The group will meet monthly, and young people themselves will help decide what it focuses on. This could include school and college, health and mental health, getting around the city, social care, activities, accessibility and preparing for adulthood. Most importantly, we want young people’s ideas and experiences to reach the people making decisions in Southampton and help shape positive change.

Interested or know a young person who might be?
Email chair@sotonpcf.org.uk to find out more or let us know they’d like to be involved.



SEND It Together

YOUR CHILD. OUR SUPPORT. THEIR FUTURE.

A PODCAST FOR PARENT CARERS NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

Southampton Parent Carer Forum

INFLUENCING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR SOUTHAMPTON'S SEND COMMUNITY

SEND it together

We'll be launching our podcast in the next couple of weeks. Episodes will be short and focus on a particular topic, such as the Parent EHCP Application Portal, PECS and visual support, or the Cluster Model.



Whats On ...

FREE ENTRY



Date	Event Info	Time	Location
Wednesday 7 th October	SEND get together with a range of professionals (1:1 slots available too)	10-12	Lordshill Community Centre, Cromarty Rd, Lordshill, Southampton SO16 8LX
Wednesday 7 th October	Consultation event - School Travel and Social Care staff will be attending to share the new school travel policies, direct payment policy and short break statement	9.30-10.30	Springwell School, Hinkler Rd, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 6DH
Wednesday 7 th October	Facebook Live - School travel service about the new policies	7pm	On our facebook page
Tuesday 13 th October	Workshop - EBSA delivered by ND team	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Wednesday 14 th October	Consultation event - School Travel and Social Care staff will be attending to share the new school travel policies, direct payment policy and short break statement	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, SO19 8BR
Tuesday 20 th October	SEND get together - Sharing experiences and Wellbeing focus	10-12	Honeysuckle Family Hub, Honeysuckle Rd, Southampton SO16 3BZ
Friday 6 th November	10 years celebration - See poster on next page	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, SO19 8BR
Monday 16 th November	SEND get together - Sharing experiences and Wellbeing focus	10-12	Clovelly Family Hub, Southampton SO14 0AU
Thursday 26 th November	Workshop - Anxiety delivered by ND team	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL

Whats On Locally ...



Keep an eye on our website for family events taking place during the October half term. Places are limited, so all activities must be booked through our website.

You're invited!
Join us as we celebrate
10 YEARS
A celebration for parent carers and professionals

10 Years of Voices. 10 Years of Change. What comes next?
Come and celebrate with us, connect with other parent carers and professionals and help shape the next chapter.

We'll also be launching some new projects!

- Healthy Parent Carers**
Funded by The National Lottery, this project will support parent carers to look after their own health and wellbeing.
- SEND Youth Voice Forum**
A new forum for children and young people with SEND in Southampton to have their say, feel heard and make a difference.
- CELEBRATE WITH US**
Tea and light refreshments
- HAVE YOUR SAY**
Help us shape the future for SEND families in Southampton
- ENJOY**
Activities, prizes and a few surprises!
- LOOK BACK & FORWARD**
Celebrate how far we've come and imagine what's next

Friday 6th November
10.00am – 12.00pm

Highpoint, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 8BR

YOU MAKE OUR FORUM WHAT IT IS.
Thank you for being part of our journey so far.
We can't wait to celebrate with you!

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CARERS RIGHTS DAY
MARKETPLACE
THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER
10AM – 2PM
AT
PORTSWOOD CHURCH, PORTSWOOD ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, SO17 2FY

A ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL CARERS NEEDS!
20+ CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS ATTENDING

SPCF ON TOUR!
EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY VOICE. TOGETHER.

We're visiting schools across Southampton to listen, connect and make a difference. Let's shape a better future – together!

SPCF on tour

This year, we've challenged ourselves to visit at least 75% of schools across the city, helping us hear from even more families.

We need your help! Could you share our details with your school or encourage them to invite us along to an event, such as a parents' evening, coffee morning, Christmas event or summer fair?