



SEND Parent Champions : Aims and objectives : One page overview

SEND Parent Champions exists to increase the co-production between school and home.

The main aims of the group are:

- To develop a strong parent/carer and school partnership (coproduction)
- To give a stronger voice to parents/carers
- To identify ways to develop SEND provision relating to SEND at our schools
- To review and develop policies and procedures
- To find ways to support other parents/carers of young people with SEND
- To learn how SEND services are organised with the Local Offer for each Local Authority and to help signpost other parents
- Improve transition experience for students with SEND
- To create a community which aims to reduce the feelings of isolation experienced by some parents of young people with SEND

Mission statement

‘SEND champions will work together to improve SEND provision in our schools and locally. We’ll discuss and value the lived experiences of parents of students with SEND and use their voice to make improvements.’

Membership

The SEND parent champion group is open to all parents whose child has been identified as SEND, with no limitations on the number of parents.

Members of our group will ensure that co-production is key to all work and decisions undertaken and will abide by the following values:

- We value the lived experience of the children and their parents/carers
- We actively listen to them and each other
- We are open and honest
- We work together to take a child-centric approach
- We will adopt a solution focused approach

We will be respectful of the thoughts and opinions of others and give all participants opportunities to take part in discussion.

Outcomes:

Ensure every child has a positive learning experience.

Nurture a culture of neuro-diverse pride for the children.

Improve experiences for students and parents, particularly during transitio

APPENDIX

1. Background and Aims

The Laurus Trust made the decision to introduce a project to increase the co-production between school and home for parents/carers whose children have additional needs and are on the SEND register. The main aims of the group are:

- To develop a strong parent/carer and school partnership
- To give a stronger voice to parents/carers and work in the interests of co-production
- To identify ways to develop SEND provision at our schools
- To review and develop policies and procedures
- To find ways to support other parents/carers of young people with SEND
- To learn how SEND services are organised with the Local Offer for each Local Authority

The group was planned through collaboration and discussion with representatives of the school Trust Directors of SEND, a parent with experience of being a SEND Champion for Stockport LA and with a Trustee of the Laurus Trust with a SEND link role. The network was launched in September 2021 starting with Secondary Schools with Primary Schools launching from September 2022

The group meets the requirements of family engagement of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 years (2015) as well as The Children and Families Act (2014). However, this is not the main driver of the group and instead it is our intention to continuously improve. This partnership is about genuine engagement, and we want to put young people and their families at the heart of our provision.

2. Membership

The SEND parent champion group is open to all parents whose child has been identified as SEND, with no limitations on the number of parents. There will also be representation of school staff at meetings.

The group will include:

- Parents and carers
- School SENCO or SEND Lead
- Trust Directors of SEND
- Occasionally attendance from other school staff on an invitation basis

We will regularly communicate with other parents/carers to promote the work of the network and create a culture where anybody can become a member with no restrictions on this.

3. Mission statement

'We envisage our SEND champions will be a group of passionate and friendly people, made up of parents/carers and professionals. They will work together to improve SEND in our schools and locally. We will talk about the lived experiences of parents of students with SEND and use their voice to make things even better. They will support the SEND Leadership to develop specific improvement projects.'

4. Commitment to co-production

The group will agree to sign up to the Stockport Co-production charter which has been developed with parents/carers. Members of our group will ensure that co-production is key to all work and decisions undertaken and will abide by the following values:

- We value the lived experience
- We actively listen
- We are open and honest
- We work together
- We are respectful
- We are accountable and responsive
- We do what matters

5. Working restoratively

It is important that the group understands that the meetings cannot focus on individual needs and circumstances as a focus. Whilst we want to explore the real lived experience, the group must work positively in a solution orientated way. We will be sensitive to others and avoid naming individuals within the discussion. We will be respectful of the thoughts and opinion of others and give all participants opportunities to take part in discussion.

We understand that the group may raise individual issues for parents/carers. We expect parents to raise these at an early opportunity with your school SENCO or SEND Lead outside of the network meeting. This will allow issues to be resolved in a timely manner. Where a resolution cannot be easily met the Trust Directors of SEND will become involved. Out complaints policy can be found on the website, but we hope to be able to address any issues before they are escalated to this stage.

6. Practical Aspects

It is important that responsibility for the group is distributed amongst the members. It will be agreed with the group who will chair the meetings and where a parent/carer is unable to fulfil this role, the SENCO/SEND Lead will act as the chairperson.

Minutes of each meeting will be kept as a record of the discussion. A summary of these will be published on the website on a regular basis as well as being distributed more widely to parents.

Network meetings will be held on a regular basis, no less than half-termly. Where there is a specific project that requires more intensive work, we will ask for volunteers to contribute to this.

The terms of reference document will be reviewed by member of the SEND Champions network on a regular basis. Member will sign the document on an annual basis.

Terms of Reference

I agree to the terms of reference for the SEND Parent Champions group:

Name

Signature

Date