

# The Children & Families Act - 310 days in Parent Carer Forum Perspectives

**Sherann Hillman & Maureen Morris Co-  
Chair's**

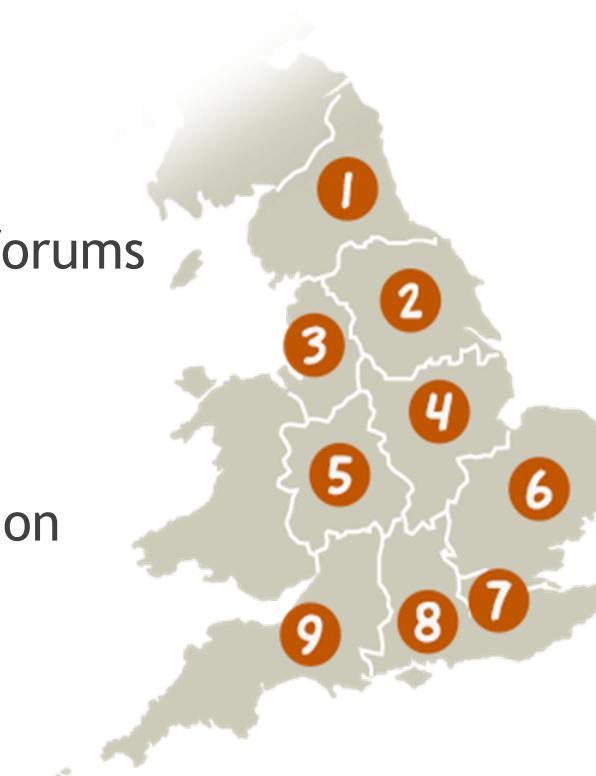
**National Network of Parent Carer Forums**



National Network of Parent Carer Forums  
'Our Strength Is Our Shared Experience'

# Who are we?

- ▶ Parent Carer lead
- ▶ 0-25 years, Pan-disability
- ▶ Network of up to 151 parent carer forums
- ▶ 9 regional representatives
- ▶ DfE funded
- ▶ Focus on participation & coproduction
- ▶ Solution focused



# Growth

- Parent carer forums reach numbers of parent carers that forums have links with has grown year on year
- 2013/14 Forums had a reach of over 67,000 parent carers across England



There is a national strengthening of parent carer participation due to the National Network of Parent Carer Forums





the child is **here**

## OLD SYSTEM

working ???



advocating  
change  
through  
**NNPCF**

feeling isolated/excluded  
from the conversation  
(A passive recipient of services)

## The Special Educational Needs & Disability Reforms

Ann Gross  
Director of Special Needs and Childrens Services Strategy  
Department for Education

A major cultural shift to a joined up system  

- Children & Families Act 2014
- SEND Code of Practice
- Care Act 2014
- NHS Mandate 2014



the child is **hearD**

**SEN**  
D  
to here

## NEW SYSTEM

working with → family / carers

My views, wishes,  
feelings  
matter.

developing  
co-production  
through  
**NNPCF**



feeling involved / included in the conversation  
Active participation in all decision making

**a better  
brighter  
future  
for every  
Child**

Df E

DH

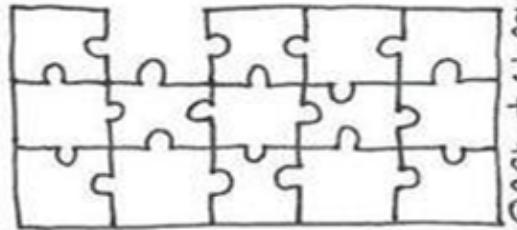
NHS England  
Local Authorities

# Reminder - Why change?

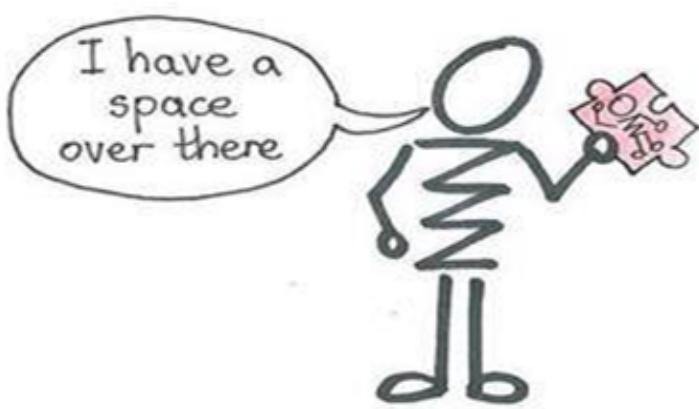
- ▶ Parent carers experiences of the old system negative
- ▶ Local authorities spend not leading to improved life outcomes for some children and young people
- ▶ Ofsted report - over identification of children with SEN in schools
- ▶ These issues affect a lot of people: 1 in 5 children are currently identified as having some form of SEND, with 2.8% having a more complex need.



## CO-ORDINATION

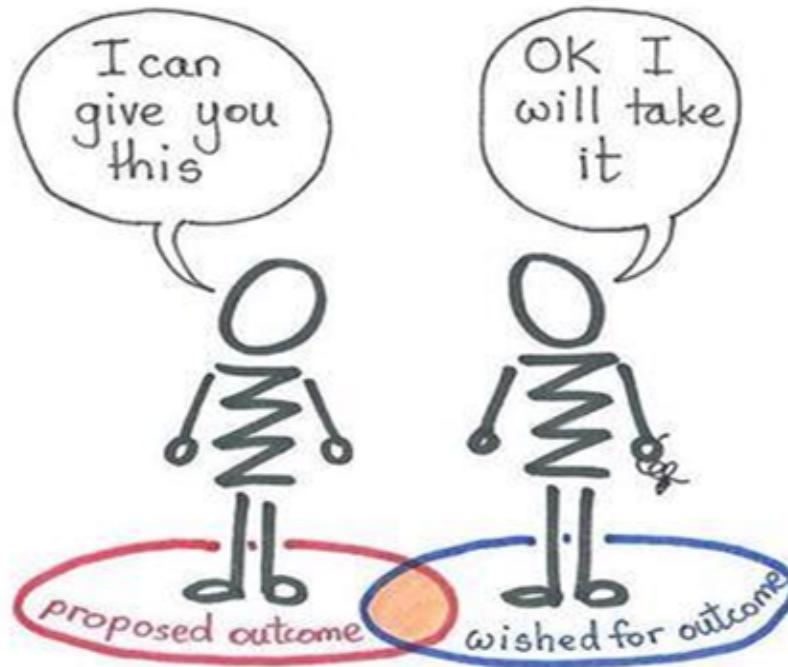


© C. Stuart-Gull 2014



making people or things work together by putting them in order to make a predetermined whole

## CO-OPERATION



willing to give help  
willing to receive help

## CO-PRODUCTION



what could we create  
with what we have  
to meet... our needs  
**a very different  
conversation**

## What does it really mean for our families now...

- ▶ That we are not ‘done to’ - “nothing about us without us”
- ▶ Informed and empowered
- ▶ We are part of conversation about our child/young person
- ▶ Children, young people and parent carers are listened too
- ▶ Thinking about goals/aspirations for our child/young people
- ▶ Important the whole family is considered
- ▶ Responsibility of Section 19 for us as families
- ▶ For those families who are unable to engage that Independent Supporters are out there to support them through this new process
- ▶ We are all learning a new language together parents and professionals

# **Clear accessible Information & Communication for Children, Young People & Parent Carers**

- ▶ Social media: Email, Newsletters, Facebook, Twitter, leaflets, local papers, blogs, videos
- ▶ Gathering views - survey's, consultations, face to face, events, information days, conferences, workshops
- ▶ Easy read versions for all

**Good communication become second nature the right  
information at the right time!**



# What is Working?

- ▶ Children, young people, parent carers & family members being fully involved from the beginning
- ▶ Person centred reviews - focusing on the positives
- ▶ New EHC Plans
- ▶ Transfers - particularly where the whole process has been co-produced
- ▶ Those LA's providing good communications to families and professionals
- ▶ Independent supporter's & Information, Advice and Support Service
- ▶ Strategic participation - parent representatives co-producing policies, processes .....



# Current Challenges



National Network of Parent Carer Forums

'Our Strength Is Our Shared Experience'

# Local Offer Challenges

- Review on at least a yearly basis-how is this going to take place what mechanisms have been put in place?
- Ensuring that parents and young peoples voices continue to be included
- Ensuring that comments on the adequacy of the Offer are acted upon and services developed



# Personal Budgets Challenges

- ▶ Poor information and communication's with families
- ▶ Confusion – what is a Personal Budget
- ▶ Language
- ▶ Lack of knowledge and empowerment
- ▶ Fear of the unknown
- ▶ Personal budgets policies being co-produced
- ▶ Freedom of choice?

# EHC Plans Challenges

- Significant increase in requests in early years & post 16
- Capacity
- Workforce Training
- Meeting timelines - Transfers and New
- Person centred reviews
- Copying and pasting
- The involvement & co-production of children, young people and parent carers



# Other challenges

- Capacity & Funding
- Post 16 - provision, employment & aspirations
- Involvement of Health & Social Care
- Transfer Reviews
- SEN Support
- Joint Commissioning
- Strategic co-production
- Outcomes
- Budget Cuts



# What will success look like?

- Outcomes gap closing and children with SEN reaching their full capabilities
- Parent Carers trust & satisfaction in system increased
- Change in the culture through working together
- Professionals confident about their role and schools welcoming children with SEND
- Children, young people and parent carers have their views listened to and acted upon
- Measureable outcomes achieved

# Challenges for next stages

- ▶ We need to ensure that parental engagement is embedded as “the way we do things around here” including children and young people too
- ▶ Quality and consistency of engagement in producing and reviewing EHC Plans and support before a plan with a focus on better outcomes
- ▶ Ensuring that Health and Social Care are fully engaged
- ▶ Ensure that the Local Offer is robust, accurate and sustainable to provide the support to young people’s future



## **Something important for you to take away from today**

Can you really sense co-production happening now:

- ▶ Can you hear it
- ▶ Can you see it
- ▶ Can you touch it
- ▶ Can you smell it

You should be able to feel it if you're truly coproducing

# **Support, information and advice**

The National Network of Parent Carer Forums provide the opportunity for the voices of parent carers from local forums and regions to feed into national work, and support the regional parent carer forums networks.

Range of resources and evidence available via  
Contact a Family and NNPCF website

Range of support and training opportunities for  
forums and Local Authorities via delivery partner

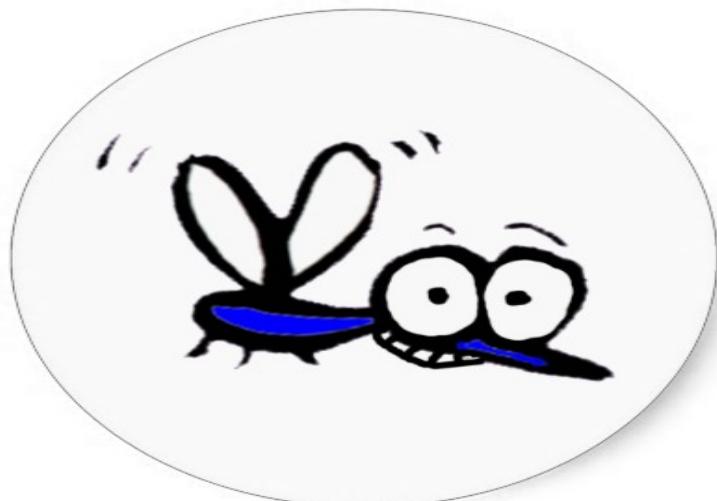
Contact a Family helpline 0808 808 3555

[www.nnpcf.org.uk](http://www.nnpcf.org.uk)

[www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)

“If you think you are too small  
to make a difference,  
try sleeping with a mosquito.”

Dalai Lama



National Network of Parent Carer Forums  
'Our Strength Is Our Shared Experience'