

## **A new Parent Carer Forum for Northumberland**

### **Children and Young People 0-25 who have Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

In It Together are standing down as the DfE recognised parent carer forum for SEND in Northumberland. We are therefore in the process of setting up a new Parent Carer Forum and would really like to have your views.

A parent carer forum is a group of parents and carers of children with special educational needs and or disability (SEND). The aim is to make sure the services in your area meet the needs of SEND children, young people and their families.

They do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.

Forums usually have a steering group of parents who lead this work and listen to the views of other parents in the local area to make sure they know what is important to them. Forums are keen to hear from as many parent carers as possible.

#### **Who can join a parent carer forum?**

Parents or carers of a child with any type of additional need or disability are welcome to join. Joining your forum does not mean you have to commit lots of time. In most forums you can join and receive information, and then decide if you want to get more involved at your own pace.

Contact will be working with other organisations in Northumberland to develop a new forum and we would really like to hear your views on how you think the forum would work best for you. There will be meetings taking place across the County the list is below, but in the meantime if you would like to be involved or need more information please email me directly at [Catherine.ratcliffe@Cafamily.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.ratcliffe@Cafamily.org.uk)

12 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Hexham Community Centre Gilesgate NE46 3NP	10.30 am to 12.30
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Berwick Workspace, Boarding School Yard, 90 Marygate TD15 1BN	10.30am to 12.30
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Northumberland CVA, 107-109 Station Road, Ashington, NE63 8RS	10.30am to 12.30
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020	Barnado's Devonworth Place, Blyth, NE24 5AQ	10.30 am to 12.30

Catherine Ratcliffe – Contact Associate