



# SCHOOLS' FORUM

5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## SEND PARENT COLLABORATIVE GROUP: UPDATE

Report from Lesley Hawkes, Early Help Coordinator

### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools' Forum:

1. Notes the work achieved by the collaborative and engagement work over the past 18 months.
2. Identifies members of the Schools' Forum who may wish to join existing daytime working groups as follows:
  - Understanding Special School Places
  - Ordinarily Available Provision - school staff skills, support and resources
  - Ensuring good Early Years provision for all children (EY rep identified)
  - Aiming High Criteria

The Collaborative Group is made up of parent/carers, Rutland County Council (RCC) staff and an independent chair. The group was formed in June 2022 and during the first 12 months focussed on 3 priorities which had been highlighted by the SEND parent community as needing changing:

	Priority/Area of Work	Progress
1	Improve general communication and trust with families within the SEND offer	<b>SEND Promise</b> was developed by the Collaborative group and agreed with a wider group of parent/carers. The SEND Promise refers to families and those who work with them. Currently only RCC are committed to this, but the group would like to see this extended to health and education. It is designed to build trust and keep children and young people at the centre of all decisions. The SEND Promise is published on the Local offer, sent out with all EHCP communication, published via Aiming High, RPCV and other community SEND groups. The SEND Promise is being trialled until end 2023 when its impact will be reviewed by the Collaborative group. Feedback is encouraged from parent/carers.
2	Education Inclusion Partnership – people know what it is and what it might mean for them	Name changed to School Support Partnership to better reflect its role and decrease confusion with IEPs. <b>Better information</b> for parents on the Local offer and leaflets available from schools.
3	A local offer that is clear, accessible and that people use	The <b>Local offer</b> was moved to the RCC website platform to improve accessibility, ease of use and make the site easier to find. Collaborative group supported the move and tested the new site before

		launch. Feedback is positive with families finding the site easier to find and use.
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All SEND parents were invited to a 'Working Together' session led by the Collaborative Group in April 2023 to **update regarding progress** of the group to date and agree the next set of priorities.

Further parents were invited to get involved and based on the views of parents and professionals present; it was agreed that the following 4 priority working groups be set up:

1. Ensuring good Early Years provision for all children.
2. Ensuring the Aiming High Short breaks criteria support all those who need it.
3. Understanding special school places – demand and viability in Rutland.
4. Ensuring school staff have the right skills, support and resources to identify and support CYP with ND – 'ordinary provision.'

The Early Years and the Aiming High working groups have both met and are both planning to consult with a wider range of parents and carers to make sure all voices can be heard and help shape the next steps. The consultations will include surveys, polls and focus groups so both working groups would welcome any opportunities to meet cohorts of SEND parents in schools at parents' evenings, open events etc.

The Early Years survey should be published w/c 11<sup>th</sup> September with the survey about Aiming High due out in October.

The working groups considering special schools and 'ordinary provision' will start work as soon as possible and certainly by the year end. Input and involvement from the School's Forum would be welcome.

The original Collaborative group will also continue to meet to oversee and coordinate the working groups.

Further future potential workstreams were also highlighted by parents:

- Health provision and support
- Transition from primary to secondary school
- Out of school activities
- Inclusive recreational facilities / lack of family life
- PA recruitment
- Integration/coordination of support via SSP and EHCP
- Confidence / trust in LA
- Help/information at the beginning of SEND journey