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 **Portsmouth Parent Voice: Who are we?**

Portsmouth Parent Voice (PPV) is a group of committed parents (parent reps) who are dedicated to make a difference, influence the way services are commissioned in the city and to ensure parent carers’ voices are heard and represented when important decisions are made that might affect families of children and young people with special needs and disability, aged 0 to 25.

**History**

Set up in 2009, PPV is still run by parents of children and young people with special needs and disability. We are funded by Contact A Family and Portsmouth City Council to promote and increase parent participation and engagement.

PPV is managed by Portsmouth Disability Forum and we work closely with other voluntary and statutory services.

We have worked on many projects over the years including developing an autism pathway, implementing the SEND reforms, setting up of our co-production group, sitting on interview panels for professional recruitment and developing the Portsmouth Local Offer website to include but a few.

Our list of projects grows and evolves constantly and this is where you come in!

**Becoming a parent representative (or parent rep)**

Parent Carer Participation is when parents work alongside professionals in order to design, develop and improve services. Good parent participation means:

•Professionals are better able to understand what needs to happen to develop services

•Families are better able to understand the complexities and challenges faced by professionals

Communicating, working together and sharing knowledge enables parents and professionals to find solutions that work.

If you have a particular interest in education, health, social care in relation to special needs and disability, we have many projects that you might like to get involved in.

Contact a Family provides a lot of information around parent participation and engagement including webinars. You will find a list of resources at the end of this document.

We will support you and provide training to enable you to take part in meetings. Re member that you are equal partners in this process.

You will find further information in this pack about our remuneration policy and the commitment required. We also understand the pressures of being a parent carer so we will always ensure you are supported to enable you to be an effective parent rep.

**Projects you can get involved in:**

National and Regional Conferences and meetings (London and Southeast)

Health: TCP- Transforming Care Partnership (Eastleigh)

Education: Early Years, Inclusion Board, SEND Board, Joint-Commissioning (Portsmouth)

Co-production Steering Group: covering health, education and social care (Portsmouth)

ECAF- Empowering Children and Families Forum (Portsmouth). A good meeting to attend first to give you an overview of what in happening in the city.

Portsmouth Parent Board- parent rep to link the board with Portsmouth Parent Voice.

Do get in touch for further information and the time commitment required from each project.

**Next steps:**

Call or email the PPV coordinator (Barbara McDougall) to find out more: 07712 439 159 or ppvcoordinator@p-d-f.org.uk

We will then plan your induction and discuss any requirements you may have. Depending on your area of interest and time commitment, you will be able to choose a project you want to get involved in and you will be provided with information and training to develop your role as parent rep.

You will also be introduced to our friendly team. We are a big happy family at PPV and we are also here to also support each other.

**Additional Information**

Contact A Family

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/parentcarerparticipation>

Webinar about participation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfCTHLTPaBo&list=PLWq2B0oT01K0RbLiYwzyPQMKWHnh_8RXq&index=1>

Handbook:

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/media/816817/support_for_parent_carer_forums_parent_carer_forum_handbook.pdf>

Portsmouth Parent Voice website

<http://www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/Consultations.html>

**Jargon Buster**

**Commissioning**: At its simplest, commissioning is the process of planning, agreeing and monitoring services.

**Voluntary services**: The **voluntary sector** or **community sector** (also **non-profit sector** or "not-for-profit" sector) is the duty of social activity undertaken by organisations that are not for profit and non-governmental. This sector is also called the **Third Sector** in contrast to the public sector and the private sector.

**Statutory services**: Refers to **services** provided by the local authority as a matter of course. Examples of **statutory services** include benefits, social **services**, hospital treatment on the NHS and schools. SEND reforms:

**Co-production**: "**Co**-**production means** delivering public services in an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours" (New Economics Foundation) ... The approach is value driven and built on the principle that those who use a service are best placed to help design it."

**Remuneration**: An amount of money paid to someone for the work that person has done.