



Rutland Parent Carer Voice

Spring Newsletter 2026

Welcome

Welcome everyone to our 2026 Spring Newsletter.

Since the start of the year the forum has been busy supporting parent carers across Rutland and continuing to represent families in meetings and discussions that shape services for children and young people with SEND.

What have we been up to since January?

Since the start of the year, the forum has held six parent carer coffee and catch-up sessions, with craft and mindfulness activities included to help create a welcoming and supportive space for families.

These sessions have also welcomed guest speakers including members of the Local Authority SEND Team and MP Alicia Kearns, giving parent carers the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences.

The fantastic team at Bridge the Gap also delivered a parent carer training session for 15 families, focusing on boundaries and strategies to support children at home.

An online feedback and engagement session was also held to gather parent carer views around the SEND White Paper.

What has the forum been doing behind the scenes?

Members of the forum attended the National Network of Parent Carer Forums annual event in Sheffield. This provided a valuable opportunity to connect with other forums from across the country, share experiences and learn from best practice that can help strengthen the work taking place locally.

Chair Dionne was also invited to attend a celebration event in London alongside the Local Authority to mark the end of the Change Programme. It was inspiring to see the fantastic work taking place across the country to improve services for children and young people with SEND.



The event also included a session with Minister Gould to discuss the pending SEND White Paper and hear feedback from other Local Authorities.

The forum continues to meet regularly with organisations including the NHS, Department for Education (DfE), SEND Alliance and the Local Authority on a weekly, bi-weekly and monthly basis.

The forum also continues to sit on the Local SEND Panel. While the forum does not influence the decision outcomes, the role is to ensure that legal procedures are being carried out correctly and appropriately.

Other updates you should know

The SEND White Paper consultation is currently open and it is understandably an unsettling time for many families.

Parent carers are encouraged to take part in the consultation, as it is an important opportunity to ensure your voice is heard. Support is available for anyone who may need help completing the consultation.

The consultation is open until 18th May 2026.

The forum has also co-produced a Co-Production Charter and video across LLR. More information can be found on the LLR SEND Alliance website.

Forum members have also been attending local Carers Strategy meetings. If you are unable to attend but would like the forum to raise feedback or concerns on your behalf, please do get in touch.

Exciting news for 2026

Following the completion of the PINs Project, the forum was donated a large sensory toolbox.

The forum decided to donate this to the Nurture Hub at Edith Weston School, where it is hoped the resources will help support children and young people using the provision.

Funding has also been donated to support an Assistive Technology Lending Library for schools in partnership with the Local Authority. More information will be shared on this in the coming months.

The popular Summer Family Event will also be returning this year, bigger and better. Keep an eye on social media and emails for booking details.



There will also be more coffee mornings, catch-ups and training sessions for parent carers. If there is a topic you would like support with, please let the team know.

Parent Carer Engagement Group

Plans are also underway to launch a Parent Carer Feedback and Engagement Group.

These sessions will take place every 6–8 weeks, with a mixture of online and face-to-face meetings.

If you would like to be involved, please get in touch. There may even be a cheeky pizza or burger as a thank you for giving your time.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support. In every meeting attended, improving outcomes and driving positive change for our children and young people remains the priority.