



## January 2026 Newsletter

### Welcome to the Forum – Kerri Westley



We are delighted to welcome **Kerri Westley** to Rutland Parent Carer Voice. Kerri's main role within the forum will be supporting the **Key Working Project** and the **DSP Review Group**. She brings a wealth of experience from within the SEND sector and is a passionate and effective advocate for parent carers. Kerri's knowledge, insight and commitment to ensuring parent carers' voices are heard will be a real asset to the forum, and we are very pleased to have her working alongside us.

Please join us in giving Kerri a warm welcome.

### Chair's Update – Welcome to 2026

The past year has been a busy and important one for Rutland Parent Carer Voice. There has been a lot of change, and while change can feel challenging, we are now beginning to feel more settled and confident as a forum.

Behind the scenes, we have been working hard to influence positive change and improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND across Rutland. This work is often unseen, but it is vital in ensuring that parent and carer voices are heard at a strategic level.

### Working in Co-Production

Throughout 2025 and into 2026, we have strengthened our co-production work and continued to represent parent carers across a wide range of groups, including:

- Change Programme (PINs and ELSEC)
- Rutland SEND Panel
- Neurodiversity (ND) and Learning Disability & Autism (LDA) groups
- SEND Alliance Board and Management Group
- Key Working Group and DSP Review Group
- Families First (Social Care)
- Rutland Children and Young People
- Rutland DfE Local Area Partnership

By working collaboratively with education, health, social care, voluntary organisations and—most importantly—parent carers, we aim to ensure that lived experience is central to decision-making.



## Supporting Families

We know that many families are feeling anxious during this worrying and uncertain time, particularly while awaiting further clarity around the Schools White Paper.

As a forum, our priority is to support parent carers by:

- Sharing clear and timely information
- Bringing professionals together to answer questions
- Hosting training sessions, information events and drop-ins
- Providing opportunities for families to connect, relax and feel supported

Once further information is released, we will do our very best to ensure professionals are available to explain what it means for families in Rutland and how we can help.

## Looking Ahead

We look forward to welcoming new faces to our parent carer coffee mornings, craft sessions and training events over the coming months. These sessions are an important space to connect, share experiences and support one another. Thank you for continuing to be part of Rutland Parent Carer Voice.

**Dionne**

Chair, Rutland Parent Carer Voice



**SAVE THE DATES  
JAN - APRIL 2026**

**January 8th**  
Parent Carer Drop-In Coffee Morning  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 11:00am

**January 18th**  
Evening Parent Carer Drop-In with Activities  
Langham Village Hall  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

**January 29th**  
Parent Carer Coffee Morning with Guest Speaker - Mosaic  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 12:00pm

**February 5th**  
Valentine's Craft Session  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 12:00pm

**February 26th**  
Parent Carer Drop-In Coffee Morning  
Oakham Baptist Church  
10:00am - 12:00pm

**March 5th**  
Parent Carer Training - Bridge the Gap  
Oakham Baptist Church  
10:00am - 3:00pm

**March 26th**  
Parent Carer Drop-In with Mindfulness Activities  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 12:00pm

**April 2nd**  
Family Easter Session  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 1:00pm

**See Website For Full Details**  
[www.rutlandpvc.co.uk](http://www.rutlandpvc.co.uk)  
[contact@rutlandpvc.co.uk](mailto:contact@rutlandpvc.co.uk)

**SAVE THE DATES  
APRIL - JULY 2026**

**April 30th**  
Parent Carer Drop-In Coffee Morning  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 11:00am

**May 7th**  
Parent Carer Drop-In Coffee Morning  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 11:00am

**May 28th**  
Parent Carer Training  
Oakham Baptist Church  
Details to be confirmed.  
9:30am - 2:30pm

**June 4th**  
Parent Carer Drop-In Coffee Morning  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 11:00am

**June 25th**  
Parent Carer Drop-In Session with Guest Speaker  
Oakham Baptist Church  
Speaker TBC  
9:00am - 12:00pm

**July 2nd**  
Parent Carer Self-Care Session  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 12:00pm

**July 30th**  
Family Summer Play and Craft Session (with lunch)  
Oakham Baptist Church  
9:00am - 1:00pm

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