

Rotherham Parents Forum Ltd

Annual Impact Report

April 2022 to March 2023

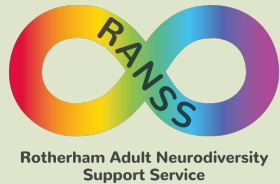
Lived experiences into Strategic Priorities

www.rpcf.co.uk

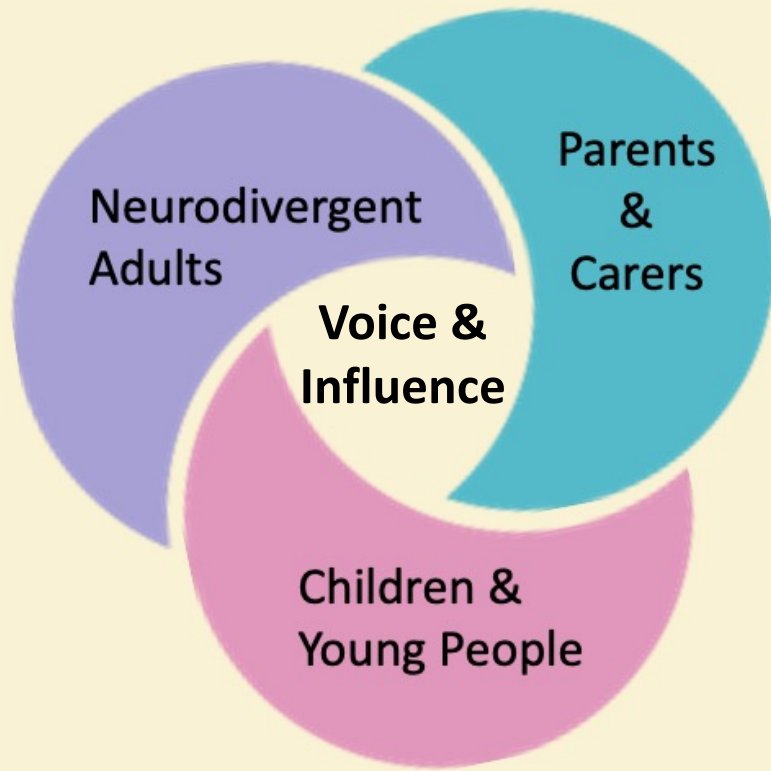
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Rotherham Parents Forum Limited



Our Vision

Working in particular, but not exclusively with children and young people and their parents, carers and families in Rotherham, our vision is that people with special educational needs and/or disabilities are not isolated and have equal opportunities to achieve their full potential in life and participate fully in society.

Our Mission

Our mission is to take positive action in Rotherham to promote social inclusion among disabled people and those with special needs and their parents, carers and families who are socially excluded from society or parts of it because of their disability. We will achieve this by providing forums, advocacy, workshops and general support and raising public awareness to ensure that individuals are recognised, heard and supported to overcome the inequalities they might face.



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Our Values – Genuine Partnerships and the 4 Cornerstones

Welcome and Care

We are determined to create a community where everyone feels as though they belong.

Partnership

We bring people together to work in co-production, by sharing, learning, working and contributing together to achieve so much more



Everything we do is underpinned by our values which when embedded strengthen TRUST

Value and Include

We value difference, and no-one is left out and we include each other, especially in the things that involve us directly.

Communication

We take time to understand each other, however we may communicate.



Impact of the Cornerstones on our Families

“I was made to feel welcome; I was so worried about attending for the first time, but it’s been lovely.”



“The forum has given me a feeling of self worth and my contributions feel valued.”

“I have attended a number of Listening events and always complete surveys that come out and feel my views and opinions heard and validated.”

Everything we do is underpinned by our values which when embedded strengthen TRUST

“Fantastic phone support, thank you”



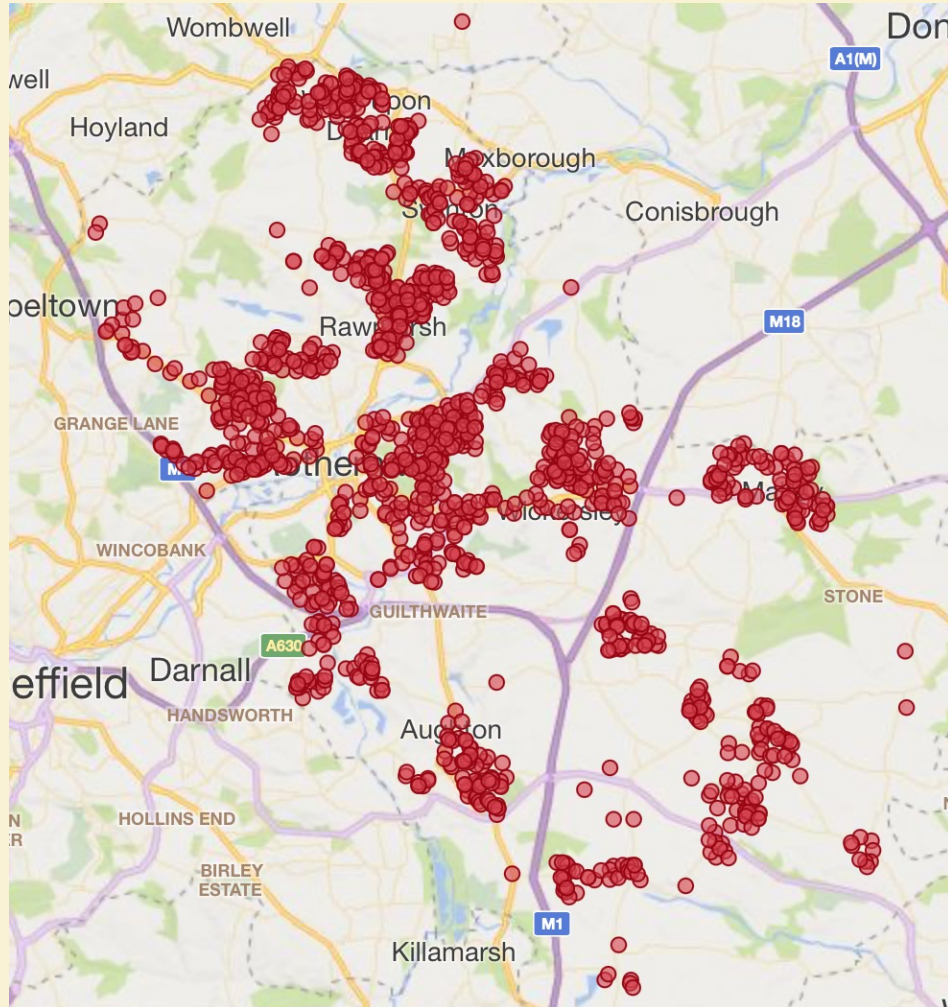
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RPFC Membership Data - April 2022 to March 2023

- ❖ Rotherham Parent Carers Forum has **2004** registered members in Rotherham.
- ❖ **1225** unique parent carers actively engaged with RPCF during the year.
- ❖ **623** new members signed up between April 2022 and March 2023, a **63% increase** from last year 2021-2022
- ❖ In a recent membership survey, **82%** of parent carer responders were confident RPCF accurately represents parent carer views. 17% were unsure and wanted to know more about this area of work.
- ❖ According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) **26%** of our families are living in the most deprived (top 10%) of neighbourhoods in England. This is higher than the comparable rate for Rotherham of 22%.
- ❖ **59%** our families are living in the most deprived 30% of neighbourhoods in England (IMD deciles 1 OR 1, 2 and 3) This is higher than the comparable rate for Rotherham of 49%.

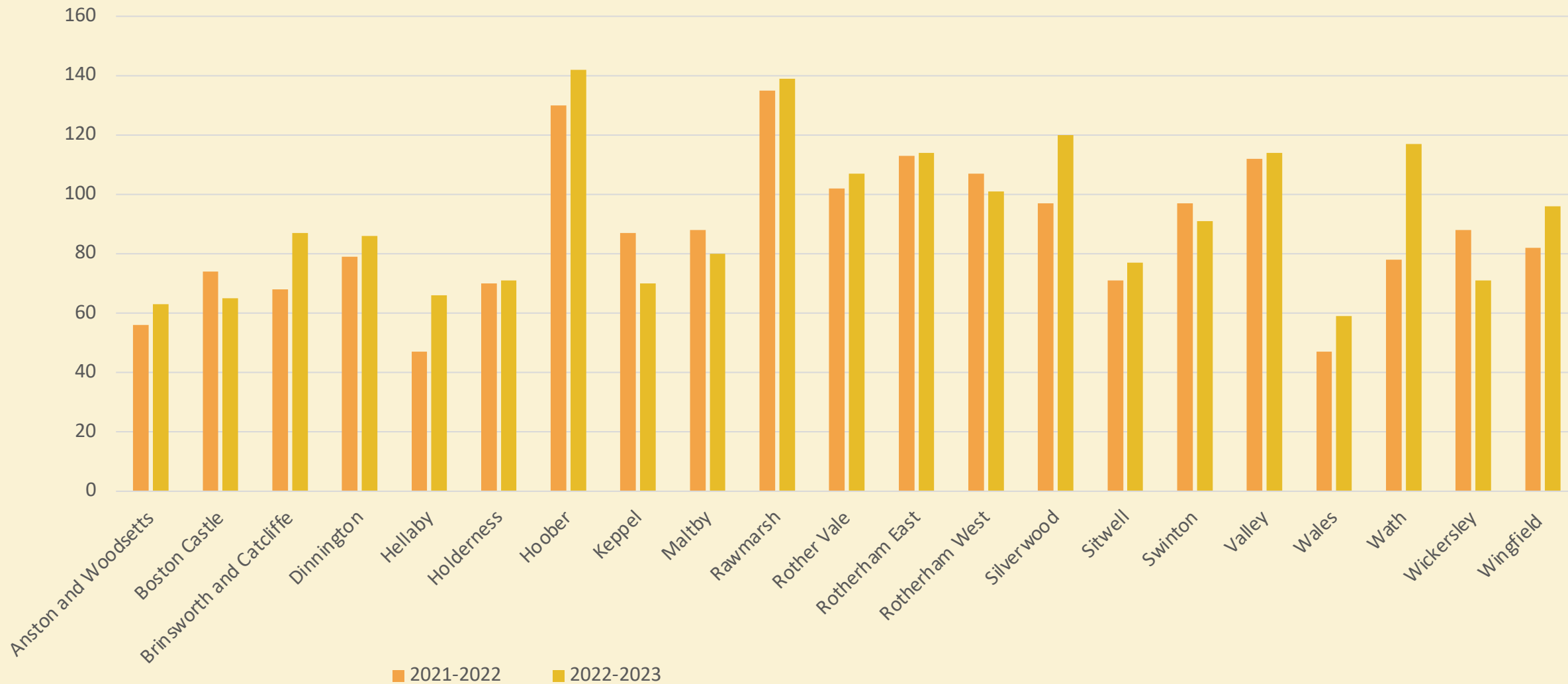


Distribution of RPCF Members across the Rotherham Borough



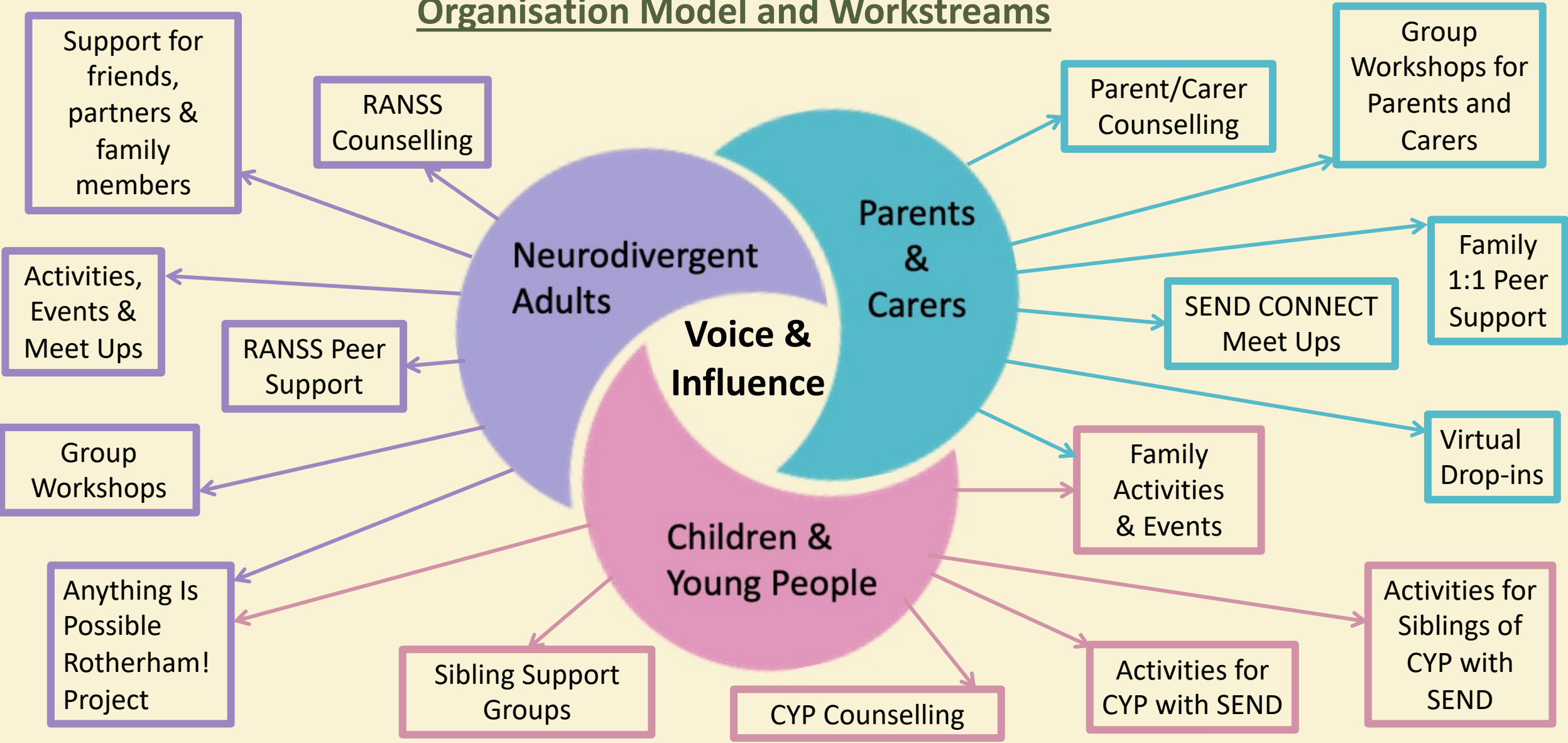
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Distribution of Members Across Different Wards in Rotherham



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Organisation Model and Workstreams



Parents and Carers Summary – April 2022 to March 2023

- ❖ **290** opportunities for parent carer participation were facilitated over the year including virtual drop-ins, face-to-face meet-ups, Listening Events, Family Activities and SEND events.
- ❖ The total number of parent/carers attendances at these participation events was **1911**
- ❖ **222** unique parent carers were actively supported through our Family Peer Support service.
- ❖ **27** Group training workshops were delivered in the areas of Managing Anxiety, Advocating for your Child, Emotional Regulation, Sensory Differences and Communication.
- ❖ SEND Connect volunteers supported **123** unique parents and carers at **74** face to face evening and daytime meet-ups with total attendances of **418**.
- ❖ **133** free parent carer counselling sessions were facilitated supporting **22** unique individuals.



Children & Young People Summary – April 2022 to March 2023

- ❖ **346** unique Children/Young People with SEND accessed RPCF Activities
- ❖ **85** unique siblings of Children/Young People with SEND accessed RPCF Activities
- ❖ **48** unique Children/Young People with SEND or their siblings accessed RPCF free Counselling Sessions
- ❖ A total of **279** Free Counselling Sessions for children and young people were delivered.
- ❖ We had a total of **1724** attendances at RPCF activities from children/young people with send and **198** attendances from siblings across a total of **138** delivered sessions.
- ❖ **48** unique siblings of Children/Young People with SEND took part in special Sibling Support Sessions with total attendances of **172**.
- ❖ **524** families applied for Max Cards through RPCF giving them discounts for family days out.

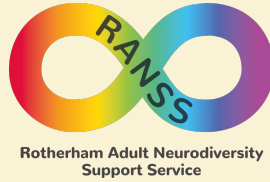


Neurodivergent Adults Summary – April 2022 to March 2023

- ❖ **469** unique adults accessed support from RANSS during the year.
- ❖ RANSS delivered **1227** support sessions including counselling, 1:1 peer support and group workshops.
- ❖ **187** RANSS Activities and Events were held with **132** unique adult attendees and a total of **849** attendances.
- ❖ **71%** of adults who attended activities and events were diagnosed longer than 12 months ago, are self-questioning or awaiting an assessment for autism and/or ADHD.
- ❖ **52%** of the adults who worked with us are in employment or education and **53%** of the adults who worked with us are female. The ages of neurodivergent adults accessing RANSS range from **18 to 73 years old**.
- ❖ According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) **28%** of RANSS service users are living in the most deprived (top 10%) of neighbourhoods in England. This is higher than the comparable rate for Rotherham of 22%.
- ❖ **58%** of RANSS service users are living in the most deprived 30% of neighbourhoods in England (IMD deciles 1 OR 1, 2 and 3) This is higher than the comparable rate for Rotherham of 49%.



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited



3700 hours of work
(approx) donated by
our volunteers

“As a volunteer I was able to get the EHCP training from IPSEA and that helped me not only navigate a difficult situation around my own child's EHCP but also offer support/advice to other families in the forum.”



Our Strategic Aims

To be less isolated.

To increase resilience and confidence in both daily life and interactions with services.

To impact strategic direction through lived experience and in equal partnership.



Reducing Isolation – Voice of Parent Carers

“Spending time with other families and hearing about their experiences means that I have a network of support and don't feel so alone. I have learnt so much from other members which has supported me in my journey.”

“I would feel lost and socially isolated without the knowledge and support you gain from the forum in person or online.”

“I feel we finally belong somewhere and are accepted”

“I would feel incredibly isolated and alone without the network of support that I have made through the forum.”

“It can be a lonely place being a parent carer sometimes the forum is the only friendly faces I see all week.”

“RPCF is the only place where they fully understand what it's like to live day in and day out with a child who has complex needs.”



Increasing Resilience & Confidence – Voice of Parent Carers

“I now see parents coming to the meet ups in exactly the same situation I was in a year ago who are also struggling like I was. Makes me realise how invaluable the RPCF is for parents and children.”

“Without RPCF, I wouldn't feel confident to have a voice at meetings and appointments about my young person”

“Without RPCF, I would not have felt empowered to realise my strengths and my own abilities. The forum has given me a feeling of self worth and my contributions feel valued.”

“Without RPCF I would not have the confidence or knowledge to be able to ensure my son can be the best that he can be.”

“Spending time with other families and hearing about their experiences means that I have a network of support and don't feel so alone. I have learnt so much from other members which has supported me in my journey.”



Impacting Strategic Direction Through Lived Experience and in Equal Partnership – Voice of RPCF Members

“There have been vast improvements to the Local Offer.”

“I can see that services are listening and are giving the Forum a ‘seat at the table’ when it comes to shaping a better experience for future families.”

“Those 20mins sessions with Autism info and advice team or ed psych, help a lot and without RPCF having such agreements with RMBC I feel would struggle to get the necessary support and advice.”

“I have actively seen the improvements through communicating between the new elements academy and parents and supporting lots of families with the transition.”

“Without RPCF SEND children might not get THEIR voices heard.”

“Having a more of a transparent relationship with LA because of volunteering at RPCF has helped me to gain access to support without having to escalate and go down the complaint's procedure.”



Impacting Strategic Direction Through Lived Experience and in Equal Partnership – Voice of partners and services we work with

“RPCF is based on principles of co-production, and its a theme throughout all activity; without this input, services in Rotherham would have gaps, be less responsive to parents, and would look very different. a strong body with this ethos naturally influences all professionals that come into contact, and so enables gradual change to a different, inclusive and listening mind set.”

“Without RPCF, I would have virtually no services for families with whom I work.”

“Local offer is just one example, with parents as real partners.”

“The relationship between RPCF and RUCST continues to flourish year on year. Without the support and guidance from all the team at RPCF we wouldn't be in a position to offer the provision we do. Areas including holiday camps, youth clubs and are very own pan-disability football club have all seen a significant increase in attendance and this is a result of RPCF encouraging the families they work with to attend our provision and providing us with advice on the needs of families within the local area. We are excited to continue to grow the relationship and further increase the provision we offer across Rotherham.”



Impacting Strategic Direction Through Lived Experience and in Equal Partnership – Voice of partners and services we work with

“RPCF are integral to our SEND Sufficiency work and contribute to all of our governance arrangements to ensure the voice of parents, carers and young people is represented. this is done in productive way that provides support and challenge into the system, leading to better outcomes for SEND families.”

“RPCF act as the voice /channel for parent/carers; advocating, supporting and sharing information, ensuring parent carers are part of making decisions affecting them.”

“A highly valued partner.”

“RPCF Listen to families with compassion, provide activities responsive to need, work in partnership, model, promote and apply the Cornerstones, gently challenge (velvet bulldozers), facilitate discussion with the right partners, build relationships and understand how this can be achieved, employ systems and strategies to organise and analyse the feedback that comes in from families, contribute pro-actively to strategic decision-making, seize opportunities to be sustainable, empower individuals, work incredibly hard..”



RPCF Voice into Strategy

RPCF members highlight priorities from sharing experience via social media and direct contact with staff and volunteers through peer support (inc drop in), family activities, Sibling Support groups, SEND Connect meet-ups, admin and counselling services.

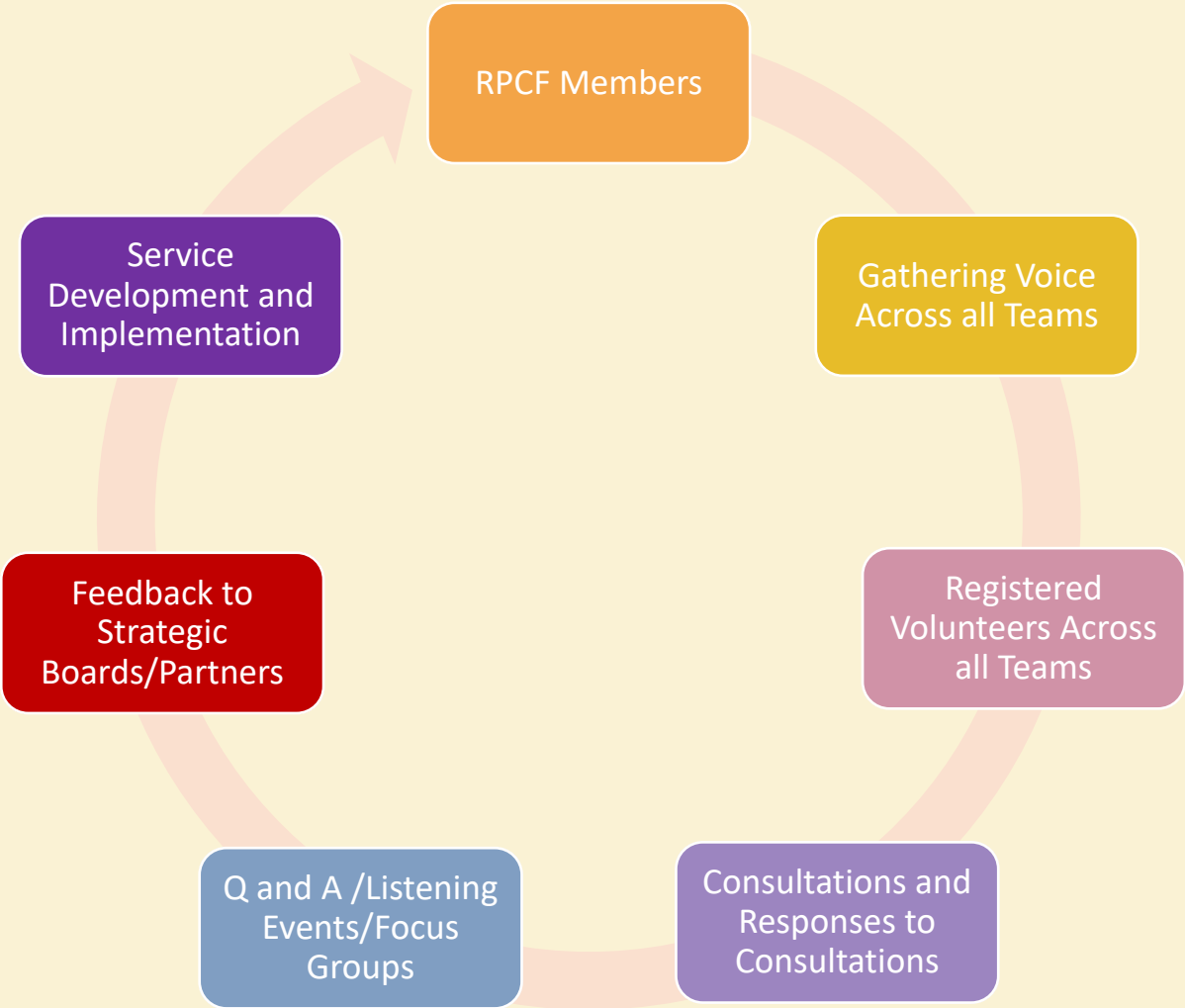
To ascertain common priorities resulting from lived experience, timed consultations and focus groups are facilitated.

Q&A/listening events from consultation responses are quarterly, with an opportunity for families to meet heads of service, gaining understanding of service development and impact of their voice as equal partners.

Findings/reports are shared with relevant colleagues and at relevant boards, feedback to families with next steps and outcomes



Gathering Voice from all Areas to Impact Strategy



**323 Strategic Meetings and Workstreams
Attended by 32 different RPCF Reps sharing voice
2022-2023**

Local Authority

SEND Sufficiency phase 3
SEND Green paper local response
SENDSCO Network
Genuine Partnerships
EP Interview Panel
MCA and Transition Work in Complex Care
MOU with SENDIASS
RPCF & Transport Meetings
Genuine partnerships and guiding voices training
Genuine Partnerships Training to Trainee EP's
Coproduction national standards - genuine partnerships
Meetings with Director of Education & SEND Leads
RPCF meetings with CYPs Elected Member

SEND Sufficiency phase 4
SEND Green paper consultation
SEMH Free School Board
SEF EHCP Meeting
EHCP Shortlisting
Family Hubs - the 4 cornerstones
Early Help Steering Group
Charter Gold presentations
RPCF presentation to Early Help
MOU with SENDIASS
0-19 Service Tender & Selection
0-19 Service meetings

Joint Health & Local Authority

SEND Sufficiency Board
Accessibility Strategy Review
SEMH Strategy Task and Finish Group
WSOA - EHCP subgroup
PFA Minimum Standards
Rotherham Family Hub Meetings
WSOA - Graduated Response Subgroup
WSOA - SEND Local Offer subgroup
SEND Strategic Board
PFA Strategic Board
Local Offer working group
Autism Partnership Board
WSOA - PFA subgroup
Local Offer Regional Group
SEND Health Focus Group
With Me in Mind
Strategic Lead Catch Up
EHC audit working group
WSOA Sub Chairs Monthly Meeting
WSOA Support and Challenge meetings
All Age Autism Strategic Interactions
CYP Partnership Board



Health - Rotherham Place

SEMH Strategic Board

SEND Health Focus Group

ASD/LD at TRFT

Cornerstones presentation to CAMHS Neuro team

SAANS & RANSS Partnership Meetings

CAMHS & RPCF Meetings

RANSS Presentation to Adult Social Care

RANSS Presentation to GP Practice Managers

Probation and RANSS Meeting

RPCF & LD CAMHS Meetings

South Yorkshire autism community options with NHS , Speak-Up & RANSS

Meetings with DCO

CHSWG

Special Infant Feeding and Parent Support

PFA Health Subgroup

RAADS & RANSS Partnership Meetings

Attending CETRs and CTRs

RANSS Presentation to CAMHS

RANSS Presentation to the ADHD Team

Dynamic Service Register meetings

RPCF/RANSS & Crisis Team Pathway

Regional Strategy

National Network PCF

Regional PCF

Meetings with Barnsley PCF

Meetings with Sheffield PCF

Community of experience (LD and autism, Best start in life)

Y&H SEND local offer meeting

Y&H SEND Leads

Y&H Health Leads

NEYLDA Meetings

SYB ICS

South Yorkshire Children's Additional Needs Network

South Yorkshire Children & Young People Steering Group

SYBICS Autism pre and post diagnostic support progress meeting

Northeast and Yorkshire Region Personalised Care Collaborative event

RANSS & LD Service

Home School Transport Meetings

Emotionally Based School Avoidance

3rd Sector Meetings

Unpaid Carer's Strategy

Smiles For Miles Meetings

Anything Possible Rotherham Meetings

Energy advice in Rotherham network meeting

Meetings with VAR

CYPF Consortium

Befriending providers Meeting

Youth Investment Fund Scoping

Meetings with Rotherfed



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Examples of Local Positive Strategic Impact Directly from Parent Voice and Experience

- ❖ ND Pathway – Helios contract reviewed and recommissioned to do full assessment.
- ❖ Monthly meetings established with Camhs service and Neuro development pathway leads providing opportunity for living experience to shape current service and practice.
- ❖ SEN Sufficiency - Phase 4 project – increasing provision in borough.
- ❖ Partnership meeting with TRFT clarified Autism support on admission to hospital (RDaSH team support LD *and* Autism – TRFT team support LD *or* Autism)
- ❖ 0-19 first 1001 days- In partnership included SEND, not included in plan originally.
- ❖ Home school Transport – Improved communication – one parent email and telephone number – on local offer and shared via our networks.
- ❖ Sendco network – slot at every event/meeting to share current family experience with school Sendcos
- ❖ Regular formal meeting with Director for Education, Head of SEND, CYPS cabinet member to update on current SEND priorities from families.
- ❖ Regular formal meeting with Designated clinical officer to update on health priorities from families.



Written statement of Action subgroups (RPCF reps on each) continue to implement improvements from the living experience of families.



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Genuine Partnerships & the 4 Cornerstones – Impact and Positive Changes

- ❖ Further Rotherham Schools awarded Charter Gold and celebrated inclusive practice at the Charter Gold event, including reaccreditation after 4 and 8 yrs., building on the excellent partnership and inclusive practice implemented.
- ❖ Rotherham's response to the SEND green paper framed by the Cornerstones at collaborative event.
- ❖ 4 Cornerstones of coproduction is the scaffolding for Rotherham's refreshed SEND strategy
- ❖ 4 Cornerstones framed the coproduced Y&H minimum standards for Preparation for Adulthood
- ❖ 4 Cornerstones approach applied in more services, including seldom heard communities.
- ❖ Genuine Partnerships delivered coproduction training to various services including CAMHS, Inclusion services, EHCP team.
- ❖ A formal funding agreement between Genuine Partnerships and RMBC ensuring joint priority of partnership with families.



Q & A and Listening Events Process



Consultations and Listening Events

Total of
364 individual
responses
collected

Written Statement of Action – Graduated Response Consultation and Listening Event - May 2022

Written Statement of Action – Preparation for Adulthood Consultation and Listening Event July 2022

CAMHS Pathways Consultation and Listening Event – Sept 2022

Written Statement of Action – Education and Health Care Plans Consultation and Listening Event – Nov/Dec 2023

Written statement of Action – Local Offer Consultation and Listening Event – Jan 2023

2022-2023 RPCF Membership Survey



WSoA Priority - Graduated Response – Impact and Positive Changes

Overall aims of the working group - Children and Young People with SEND in Rotherham experience an effective graduated response to identify and meet their needs, especially in key stages 1 and 2.

Our team have been particularly involved in the following areas of work to ensure that there is an understanding across the local area that co-production with children, young people and their families is the best foundation for the graduated response.

- ❖ Introduced the Four Cornerstones Approach, self-evaluation tool and training opportunities to schools and services across the borough by holding an event on 27th September 2022 which was attended by 150 people. The event was facilitated by the Genuine Partnerships Team (which includes forum members) and Young People from Guiding Voices.
- ❖ Development of a Co-production and Inclusive Practice toolkit which highlights best practice under each of the Cornerstones accessible via the SENDCo electronic resource, the Genuine Partnerships website and the Local Offer site. Parental voice was fed into this, following feedback gathered at focus groups.



WSoA Priority - Graduated Response – Impact and Positive Changes Continued

- ❖ The Local Offer information in relation to the Graduated Response has been re-written with input from parents and carers.
- ❖ Mandatory training in relation to the Graduated Response is currently in the process of being created which will become part of the system wide CPD in relation to SEND. Parental experiences have informed this to highlight good practice and the importance of co-production.
- ❖ Further virtual sessions are being planned to discuss the progress of the graduated response following the Written Statement of Action with a wider group of parents and carers.



WSoA Priority - Preparing For Adulthood – Impact and Positive Changes

- ❖ RPCF and Genuine Partnerships coproduced with NDTi (national development team for inclusion) the Y&H regional minimum standards for PfA (prep for Adulthood)
- ❖ RMBC piloted the minimum standards and stakeholder engagement for joint multi-agency standards in line with NDTi minimum standards is underway. Sessions have targeted multi-agency practitioners, with engagement with parent/ carers and young people facilitated through RPCF, Guiding Voices and Genuine Partnerships. Draft template Quality Assurance framework has been shared for feedback.
- ❖ The subgroup for Health are engaged in work with the ICS to produce transition pathways for Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood in epilepsy Services.
- ❖ A case review has been completed with key partners to explore 4 historic complex care transitions – this will explore the strengths and gaps in transition for Rotherham's Preparing For Adulthood Cohort with complex health needs. The working group has considered what an improved pathway should look like.



WSoA Priority - Preparing For Adulthood – Impact and Positive Change Continued

- ❖ A practice learning day on mental health transitions has taken place. This explored strengths and gaps in transition for Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood Cohort with mental health needs both those open to CAMHS and those receiving SEMH support. Next steps - these will now be incorporated into an action plan.
- ❖ Health staff attended the NTDi training on contributing advice for EHC assessment and advice. Health staff also attended the Council for disabled children EHCP workshops. Both the NTDi and CDC events have included consideration of preparing for adulthood. DCO has delivered further training to CAMHs and Therapies colleagues regarding EHCP submissions.
- ❖ PfA strategic board is now in 5 subgroups with young person and parent voice central to developments and action plans; Community Inclusion, Health, Education & Employment, Independent Living and ...Voice, jointly chaired by Guiding voices, RPCF and Gen Partnerships reps.
- ❖ This pathway from Children's to Adults Services, across all subgroups is dependent on young person and family voice. RPCF are committed to gathering that voice and experience to shape and improve the pathway. Please continue to share what is working well and what would make a difference.



WSoA Priority - Education and Health Care Plans – Impact and Positive Changes

- ❖ Following on from family feedback about difficulties in communication with the EHC team and not knowing who their designated coordinators were, we worked alongside the Local Authority to create the Locality Model to ensure that every family and school have a designated EHC coordinator. This can be found on the Rotherham Local Offer.
- ❖ A new Quality Assurance Auditing tool has been developed in Rotherham. This is used to audit a random selection of EHC Plans on a monthly basis by a variety of practitioners including parent carers across Education, Health and Social Care to ensure compliance.
- ❖ Rotherham have invested in continued professional development for EHC coordinators to attend nationally recognised training to improve their knowledge and plan writing skills.
- ❖ Health have been working with partners to ensure reports are submitted in a timely manner and with appropriate recommendations for the EHC plans.
- ❖ In March 2023, 97% of EHC Plans were completed within the 20 week statutory guidelines.



WSOA Priority - Local Offer – Impact and Positive Changes

- ❖ Worked in partnership with the Local Authority to interview and appoint two new Local Offer Coordinators for Rotherham.
- ❖ Parent Carer voice fed back on a weekly basis about the content and accessibility of the SEND Local Offer, which has resulted in the Rotherham Local Offer being placed 2nd highest for accessibility across England.
- ❖ Working in partnership with the Local Authority and using feedback from parent carer voice, the Rotherham SEND Local Offer now has a new platform to make it more user friendly.
- ❖ Communication with families has improved with a live feedback link on the website and a monthly update of the changes and updates provided in a "You Said We Did" format.
- ❖ Parent carers have been carrying out regular "secret shopper" tasks to monitor how easy it is to find information. The success rate for finding information has increased from 33% to 86%.



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Coproduction with CAMHS – Impact and Positive Changes

- ❖ Monthly meetings with the CAMHS Mangers to feedback current parent carer issues and positive experiences have created an open communication pathway.
- ❖ Pathways within CAHMS have been highlighted as an area for improvement and CAMHS are working in partnership with RPCF to develop these.
- ❖ We have worked in partnership to look at the information that CAMHS sends out to families whilst waiting for assessments. Families now receive letters to signpost them to relevant support whilst they are waiting for an assessment
- ❖ Families are feeding back that their experience with CAMHS is getting better. “I have noticed an improvement in the communication and relationship with CAMHS services.” *(Parent – March 2023)*
- ❖ Following a presentation from RPCF Family Peer Support team about the RPCF offer, more referrals and signposting are coming through from CAMHS practitioners



Welcome and Care

We welcome the voice of all members

Team members actively welcome new members within groups

Members comment “its great they remember how we like our cuppa”

We use a hybrid approach to welcome & care all members

We have volunteer coffee mornings to welcome & care for volunteers

Value and Include

We actively seek the opinions of our families

A volunteer said “I love being part of the team I feel equal and it helps me feel like a person not just a parent/carer”

Volunteers are included within all team meetings

Volunteers are valued as equals with the team

We seek feedback to continue to develop our offer

Engagement and Volunteering

Partnership

We work in Equal partnership with families and practitioners to feed the lived experience of families

We work with a range of different agencies to promote inclusion

We represent the voice and experience of families at a strategic level to help shape future services

Communication

We have a range of methods to communicate with our members, including newsletters, emails, verbal, social media etc

We have a facility within our website to translate information

A member commented “the team always make time to chat with us and listen”



SEND CONNECT

- ❖ SEND Connect volunteers ran **74** face to face evening and daytime meet-ups supporting **123** unique parent carers with total attendances of **418**, creating invaluable opportunities for parent carers to meet with others in a similar situations.

"RPCF have been amazing, I have felt really included and welcomed by all. The send connect group have been lovely and have really understood my situation. The knowledge, understanding and kindness of all including peer support has really made a difference."

"Nice to have adult company & interactions."

"Very informative, extremely friendly!" – "I was made to feel welcome; I was so worried about attending for the first time, but it's been lovely."



SEND CONNECT



"I usually hate parent groups there normally negative, and I leave feeling overwhelmed and worried, but I love this group its relaxed and real, but I leave feeling empowered and happy."

"It's my new night out, its lovely being able to come and have a cuppa and a chat."

"When I first attended drop in it was like a weight had been lifted from my shoulders and I know I can get the support I need."

"Other parents just get it."

Changing Lives by Embedding Genuine Partnership at Individual Family Level, Operational and Strategic Level

Impact of coproduction and sharing lived experience = better outcomes for CYP with SEND and their families, less time navigating the maze and more time to live your amazing life.

