

Rotherham Parents Forum Ltd

Annual Impact Report

April 2023 to March 2024



“Rotherham Parents Forum Limited has gone the extra mile in its commitment to providing invaluable support. What makes them exceptional is their dedication to the cause and comprehensive approach to address the unique needs of individuals.”
(VAR Community Achievement Awards 2023)

www.rpcf.co.uk

www.ranss.co.uk

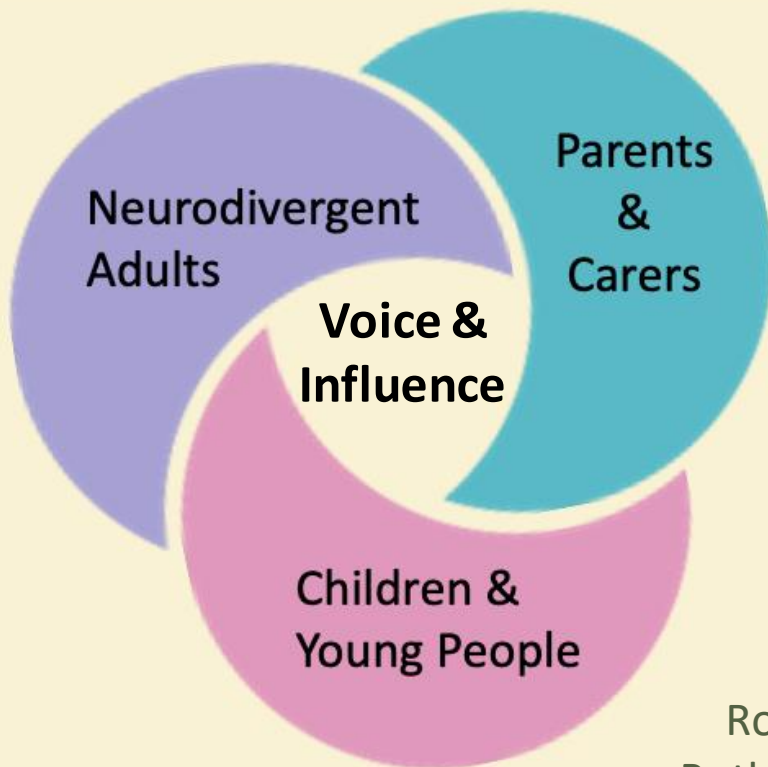
tel: 01709 296262

email: admin@rpcf.co.uk



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Our Vision & Mission



Our vision is to create a society where young people with SEND and their families, as well as neurodiverse adults, are embraced, understood, and have access to all the support they need to succeed and flourish.

Our mission is to empower and support parent carers, young people with send and neurodiverse adults in Rotherham. Foster a community that champions inclusion and understanding and raise public awareness to ensure that individuals are recognised, heard, and supported to overcome any inequalities they face.

Rotherham Parents Forum Ltd (RPFL) operates two distinct but interconnected services - Rotherham Parent Carers Forum (RPCF) and the Rotherham Adult Neurodiversity Support Service (RANSS) The two services work together to create a comprehensive support network for parent carers, children, and neurodivergent adults in Rotherham, enhancing the overall well-being of these families and individuals.

Our team currently consist of 32 staff members (13.7 full-time equivalents) - a dedicated team of people with relevant lived experience. Additionally, a network of passionate volunteers contribute their time and expertise to various activities donating over 2500 hours to our charity in the past year. We are immensely grateful for their input and all they give.



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Our Core Values – Genuine Partnerships and the 4 Cornerstones

Welcome and Care

We approach our work with understanding and kindness, recognising unique challenges and strengths.

Partnership

We believe in the power of teamwork and partnerships. We work alongside individuals, practitioners, and the community to create a supportive network and champion the rights and needs of individuals striving for an inclusive and accessible environment.



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

Value and Include

We treat everyone with respect and dignity, valuing their perspectives and contributions.

Communication

We empower individuals and their families by providing them with the resources and information that they may need.



Our Core Values in Practice Across the Organisation

Welcome and Care

"It makes me feel happy, it feels like family, it feels like home. I like how everyone is around me. I can be myself without people looking at me and calling me names." (Young Person)

Partnership

"It's wonderful what we have managed to do for my son support wise at his junior school & we have done it by working together. I couldn't be happier."
(Parent Carer)



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

Value and Include

"I've been mostly alone my whole life, no friends as such. I also have never been around people who understand me so it's nice to feel included and welcomed" (Neurodivergent Adult)

Communication

"It's helped me to grow in confidence, I now feel that when I speak with services, I feel listened to"
(Parent Carer)



We are delighted to present the 2023/2024 Impact Report for Rotherham Parents Forum Ltd (RPFL). This year has been one of significant growth, collaboration, and empowerment for families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and neurodivergent adults in Rotherham. Our dedicated efforts, innovative projects, and strategic partnerships have not only improved the quality of life for those we serve but also fostered a more inclusive and supportive community.

Throughout the year, ensuring that the voices of parents, carers, and neurodivergent adults were integral in shaping the services and policies that affect their lives was central to all our workstreams. By collaborating strategically with the local authority, health and educational services, we have made significant strides in enhancing the quality, range, and accessibility of SEND and neurodiversity provisions in our community.

Like many charities across the UK, we have faced unprecedented challenges, including funding cuts and increased demand for services. These financial constraints have required us to innovate and adapt, ensuring that we continue to deliver essential support. Despite these obstacles, our resilience has been unwavering, bolstered by the commitment of our team and the support of our community.

Through this report we aim to highlight and celebrate the milestones we've achieved together and invite you to delve into the stories, experiences and statistics that demonstrate our unwavering commitment to making a positive difference.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making Rotherham a better place for families of children and young people with SEND and neurodivergent adults in Rotherham.

Sincerely,
All the Team at RPFL



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

VAR Rotherham Community Achievement Awards Young Volunteer of the Year

This year we were delighted to celebrate the achievements of Hannah Wales, one of our young volunteers and a previous attendee at sibling support groups, when she won the VAR Community Achievement Award for Young Volunteer of the Year.

Hannah came as a sibling to a group over 4 years ago and found it reduced her isolation. She returned as a young volunteer, and by sharing her story, she has encouraged other young people to open up about their experiences too. This has led on to her accepting a Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship at a Rotherham School. We are so proud of Hannah!



VAR Community Achievement Awards



“Rotherham Parents Forum Limited has gone the extra mile in its commitment to providing invaluable support. What makes them exceptional is their dedication to the cause and comprehensive approach to address the unique needs of individuals. Support includes; peer support, educational resources, workshops and events. The passion for these projects stems from a genuine desire to create a positive, inclusive environment, where SEND/neurodiversity is accepted and celebrated. The focus on a person-centred approach sets the charity apart. They understand that each individual has strengths, challenges, and aspirations.” (VAR Community Achievement Awards) RPFL were shortlisted to the final three.

RUCT Community Captain 2024

On Saturday 2nd March Rotherham United Community Trust celebrated the work and achievements of our Short Breaks & Activities Coordinator Kay Ellis by naming her as their 2024 Community Captain.



“Kay is extremely passionate about activities for all and reducing isolation for families with children with SEND. This shows across Kay's delivery, from empathetic engagement at youth groups to supporting other parents and carers at catch up coffee meetings and wellbeing sessions.” (Anthony Bayou – RUCT)



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Raising Awareness and Fundraising for RANSS

Skydiving 24th August 2023



“Wow!
One of the
best things
I have
done in my
life’”



“As they say, we only live once'
... the whole experience was
amazing.”

Boxing Match 18th Nov 2023



“Great fight and
night, it was
a privilege to
watch Brandon
fight and raise
awareness of
RANSS and
neurodiversity.”

Engaging with the Community – Disability Fun Day and The Rotherham Show



In August 2023, with help from our partners, we held Rotherham's first disability fun day aimed to unite people and discover what Rotherham offers for people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

The event was held at Hooton Lodge Farm with stalls and activities from various voluntary sector organisations, as well as Local Authority and Health services. The Mayor of Rotherham, Cllr Robert Taylor, said: ***“Every day in this job, I see the best of people, the people who do and do it because it makes lives better.”***



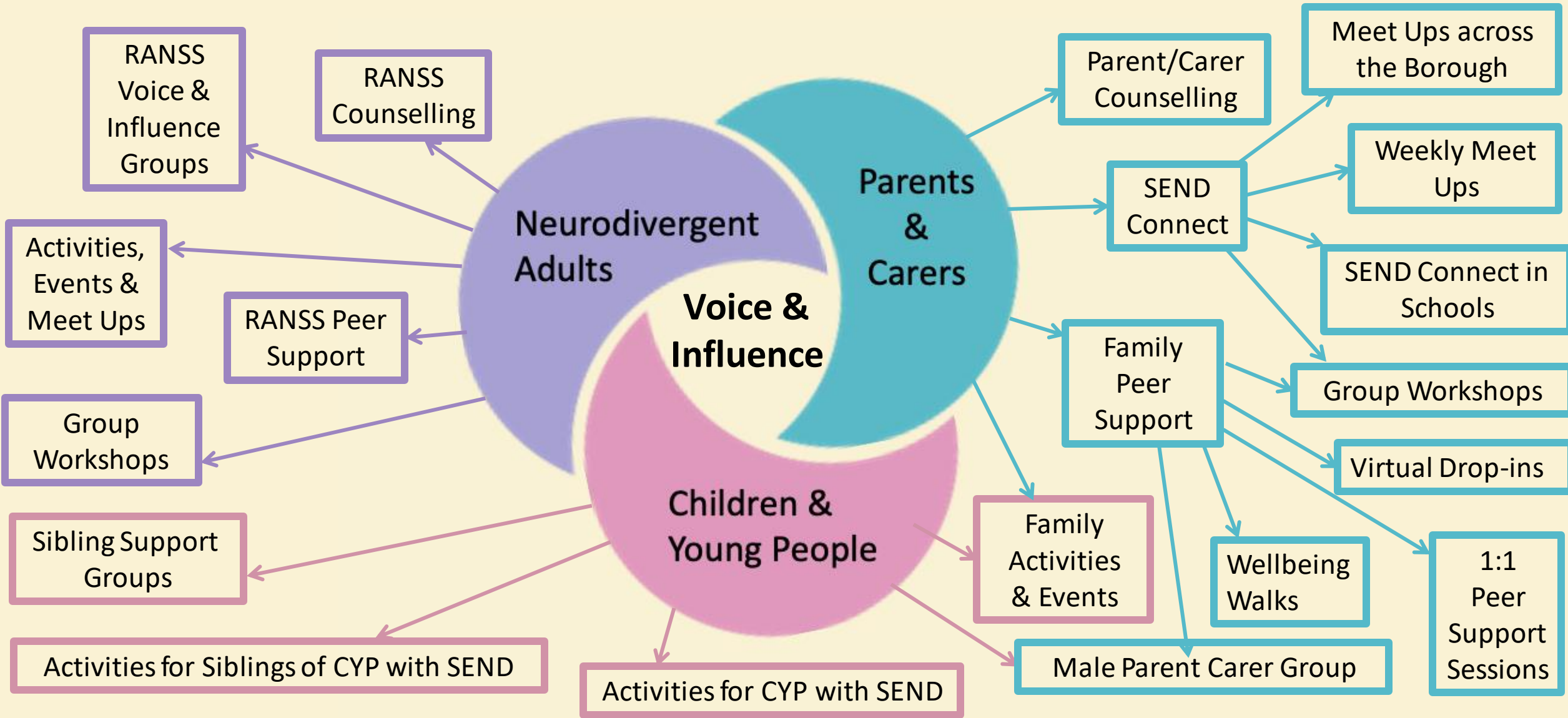
The Rotherham Show created an ideal opportunity to network with other

local charities, organisations and statutory services. It enabled us to promote our services, learn what else is on offer in our community and allowed opportunities to listen to the voice and living experience of the people we support. We raised awareness of our services and have since seen increased attendances at activities and events and growth in Membership.



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Organisation Model and Workstreams



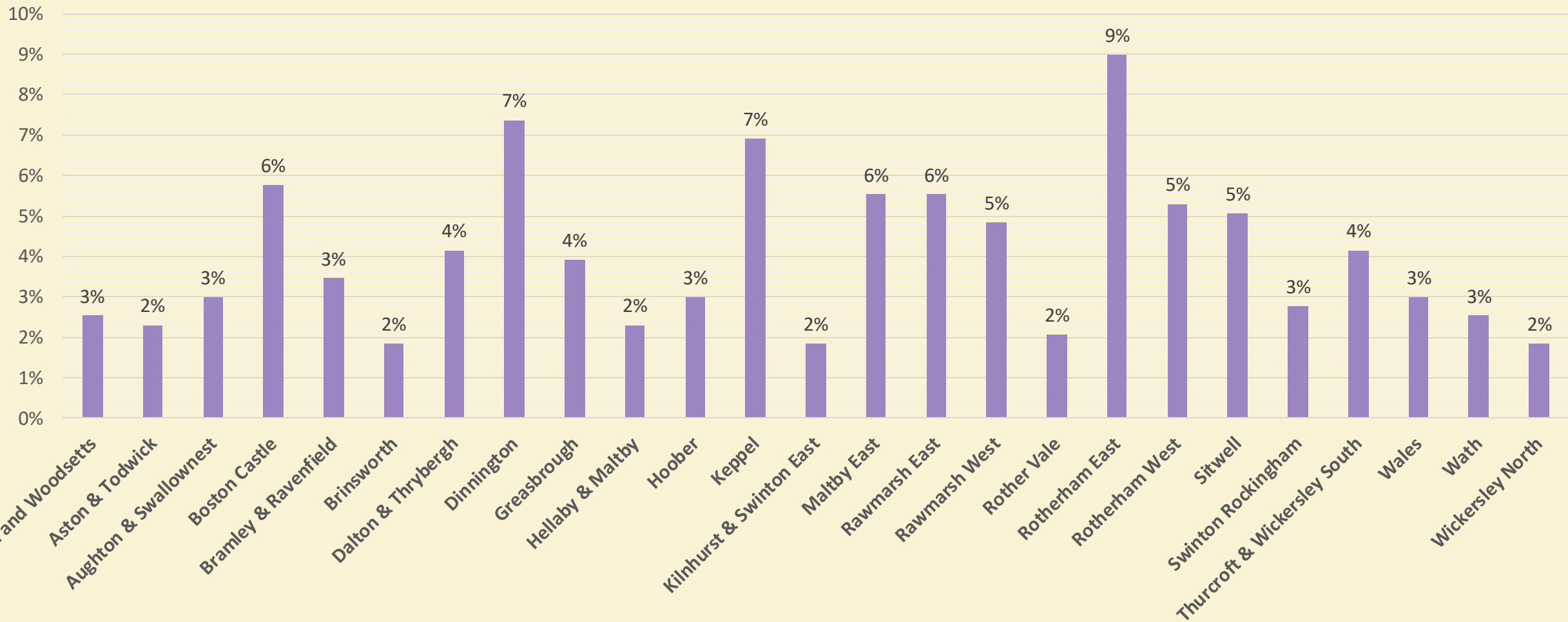
Neurodivergent Adults Summary – April 2023 to March 2024

- ❖ **455** unique adults accessed support from RANSS during the year.
- ❖ RANSS delivered **1305** support sessions including counselling, 1:1 peer support and group workshops.
- ❖ **205** RANSS Activities and Events were held with **182** unique adult attendees and a total of **1463** attendances.
- ❖ **81%** 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.
- ❖ **48%** of the adults who accessed support with us are in employment or education and **54%** are female. The ages of neurodivergent adults accessing RANSS range from **18 to 81 years old**.
- ❖ In a recent user feedback survey, **84%** of responders said they were highly likely to recommend the support they accessed to a friend. Only 2% said they would not recommend the support they received.
- ❖ According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) **30%** 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%.



Distribution of RANSS Adults who Accessed Support in 2023-2024 Across Different Wards in Rotherham

■ 2023-2024



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

RANSS Voice and Influence

The understanding of neurodivergent individuals' lived experiences has mainly focused on the perspectives of parents, carers, siblings, and practitioners. This often leaves the voices of neurodivergent people unheard and excluded from decision-making processes regarding the commissioning of services and determining what constitutes good quality support.

We believe that no one knows better than neurodivergent people what life is like for them living in Rotherham, so over the last year we have been developing a voice and influence section of the RANSS service. The aim of the Voice and Influence team is to work together with neurodivergent people to amplify their views and experiences to help build a better more inclusive future for all neurodivergent people living in Rotherham.

The RANSS Voice and Influence team are involved in a range of work to ensure the representation of neurodivergent people, including:

- Running groups for neurodivergent people
- Working with a range of services and organisations
- Conducting research into areas where voices need to be heard

This work is in its early stages, and we are excited to see how this will develop over the next 12 months!



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Voice of Adults Attending RANSS Activities



“The social activities are excellent - I've found it useful to meet other people with Autism/ADHD. It seems much easier to get along with people with a similar diagnosis. It also allowed me to try new things”



“The past three years have been a huge positive chapter in my life. I have learned more about myself and the world than the previous 18 years. I have learnt to embrace my autism. Without RANSS I would not have my job. You have helped so much with my career and my personal life”



“It feels like home, it helps me process. You girls are so wonderful, you make me feel like I am free to be myself after so long.”

“My favourite thing is the staff and people, and knowing that I won't be rejected, which happens virtually everywhere else I go.”



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Voice of Adults Attending RANSS Activities



“Rawmarsh and Dinnington groups are so important to me. Meeting with other people like me is so valuable. I feel comfortable within the group and can be me, whatever me is (I am 63 and spent a lifetime masking) From a personal perspective being able to chat or just listen but feel involved is so important. We can also support our peers too. These groups are helping me unpick the real me in a safe environment.”



“It’s the only place I belong, and people understand me”

“These activities have been so valuable to my mental wellbeing. Meeting and being with others have made me a stronger person.”

“When I come here, I feel part of something, a group, a community, a family.”

“It is the only time I leave the house as I get bad anxiety ... it is important knowing there is support for me or I would not go out at all.”



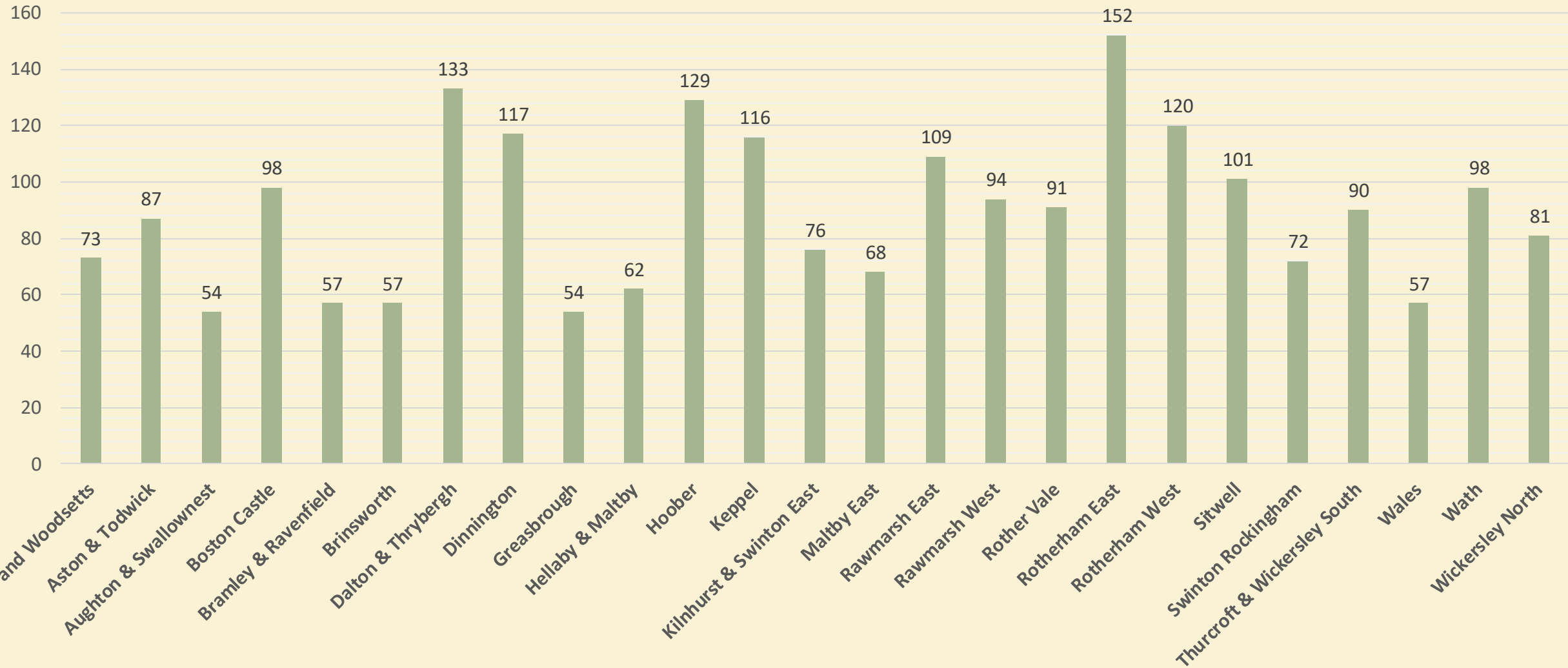
RPCF Membership Data - April 2023 to March 2024

- ❖ Rotherham Parent Carers Forum has **2252** registered members living in Rotherham.
- ❖ **1335** unique parent carers actively engaged with RPCF during the year.
- ❖ **601** new members signed up between April 2023 and March 2024, a **27% increase** from last year 2022-2023
- ❖ In a recent membership survey, **79%** of parent carers reported feeling less isolated due to their involvement with RPCF and **72%** of parent carer responders were confident RPCF accurately represented parent carer views. **23%** were unsure and wanted to know more about this area of work.
- ❖ According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) **27%** 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%.



Distribution of RPCF Members Across Different Wards in Rotherham

■ 2023-2024



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

RPCF SEND Connect

Send Connect is a support network for parent carers to come together in a safe environment, to share experiences and offer each other mutual support. We do this through regular weekly daytime and evening drop-ins at Rawmarsh and Canklow and events in the wider borough such as breakfast meet-ups, craft & chat sessions, scrapbooking and workshop/training opportunities. We also offer schools the opportunity to invite us to attend sessions for their SEND parents to meet.



"I look forward to coming to group every week, so does my daughter! We have both made friends through the coffee evening. The group is a lifeline for us we don't fit in most places, but we fit in here"
(Coffee Evening at Canklow)

"I wasn't sure if this meeting would be useful for my situation, but it was actually very informative! It was nice to see other parents from school, to know I am not alone in this!"
(Parent attending a school session)

"This group has been a real lifeline to me, before I started to come to SEND connect, I felt alone I didn't know where to turn for help! This group has helped to signpost me to support and given me strategies to work with services. I have developed friendships with people. I now socialise with outside of the group."
(Coffee Morning at Rawmarsh)



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

RPCF Family Peer Support Service



“I have developed an understanding of my own needs and this in turn is helping me to show my children how to understand themselves and express themselves appropriately.”

“Peer Support has been brilliant for me. They have supported me in every area of life as a parent carer, no other organisation or service has provided this level of support.”

- ❖ **223** unique parent carers were actively supported through our Family Peer Support service.
- ❖ **75** unique **parent carers** accessed virtual drop-ins, wellbeing walks and the Male Parent Carer Group and **164** unique families accessed Family Peer Support sessions.
- ❖ **32** Group training workshops were delivered in the areas of Managing Anxiety, Advocating for your Child, Emotional Regulation and Sensory Differences with **141** parent carer attendances.

“It has been like a lifeline finding the forum. Everyone is so welcoming, and we feel less alone on what is such a new journey.”



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Family Peer Support Drop-in Sessions - Virtual Drop-in, Wellbeing Walk & Male Parent Carer Group

"I met some other parents who have children with condition like my son. I do not feel alone."
(Male Parent Carer Group)



An exciting new addition to the Family Peer Support Offer for this year was the Wellbeing Walk.

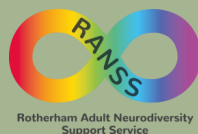
"I had an appointment with an EP, at the virtual drop-in it was most useful 20 minutes I've ever had!" (Virtual Drop-in)



"We are now accessing forum activities and beginning to feel less isolated." (Male Parent Carer Group)



"Going for a walk has been good for my Mental Health"
(Wellbeing Walk)



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Feedback About The Impact of Peer Support Across the Organisation

“Having someone to talk to, gives you complete attention and understanding is a very rare thing. I was pretty lost before I found these guys. I struggled a lot with my diagnosis and felt like I would never fit in. These guys give me a sense of purpose back.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“I have developed an understanding of my own needs and this in turn is helping me to show my children how to understand themselves and express themselves appropriately.”
(Parent Carer)

“I felt a sense of empowerment after speaking to peer support as she gave me the information and advice I needed, which gave me the confidence to start moving forward.”
(Parent Carer)

“Fantastic way to learn and grow in a safe space. Always felt like a place I could be open and honest and receive the same back.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“Peer Support has really helped me because you talk to someone who understands and listens without judgement. I can talk about how I am really feeling and that helps so much!”
(Parent Carer)

“An extremely valuable service. The 1:1 service I had helped me to make sense of my diagnosis. If I had not had this, I would have not been able to cope with my life.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“Really helpful to empty some of my bucket with someone who understands.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“It has been really helpful to have someone with a lived experiences perspective and ideas on how to manage challenges. ‘inspirational’.”
(Parent Carer)



Feedback About The Impact of Group Workshops Across the Organisation

“It’s helped me connect with other people in the same situation as me and helped me feel less alone getting a late diagnosis”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“Helped me to start being me”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“Really useful listening to others and knowing that I am not alone. Love the battery model that will hopefully help my son.”
(Parent Carer)

“Helped make sense of my son’s sensory issues and gain ideas on how to help manage them.”
(Parent Carer)

“I benefited enormously from the info tips and hearing the experiences of others who have ADHD/ASD”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“Workshops are good, and I can see things clearly now like light bulb moments.”
(Parent Carer)

“They’ve been really good, so nice to hear similar experiences it’s really validating.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“By getting the chance to listen to other parents at the workshop it allowed us to realise there are other parents in a similar situation to ourselves.”
(Parent Carer)

“It was lovely to hear different perspectives and new ideas to work with service to get the best for my daughter”
(Parent Carer)

“The RANSS workshops have really helped me to understand more about my autism and masking. It has helped me to look at things that have happened in the past with a different viewpoint.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)



RANSS Counselling Service

- ❖ **88** unique recently diagnosed neurodivergent adults accessed RANSS Counselling across **442** delivered sessions.

Children and Young People Counselling Service

- ❖ **23** unique Children/Young People with SEND or their siblings accessed RPCF free Counselling Sessions across **117** delivered sessions.
- ❖ Due to our funding ending, we were only able to offer this service for the first six months of the past year. We are, however, seeking and applying for new funding bids to continue this much needed and valuable service for our young people and hope to be able to reinstate it soon.

Parent Carer Counselling Service

- ❖ **29** unique parent carers of children/young people with SEND accessed RPCF free Counselling Sessions across **124** delivered sessions.
- ❖ Our Parent Carer Counselling Service does not receive any funding; however, we are incredibly fortunate to have a team of student counsellors all working towards their final qualifying year, supervised by our Counselling Coordinator, which enables us to offer free sessions. We would like to thank them for their dedication and support.



Feedback About The Impact of Counselling Across the Organisation

“Helped me to cope in all situations and control and manage my anxiety more.”
(Young Person)

“This is the most understood, listened to, and validated I have ever felt in counselling, and I have attended counselling for most of my life.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“Following counselling I feel more assertive and confident and am planning more time for myself for self-care. I feel more motivated.”
(Parent Carer)

“My confidence, self-worth, and self-awareness have improved, and I have learned so much about myself and how my dual diagnoses affect my day-to-day life.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“Counselling has helped me implement boundaries, see things clearer and understand family dynamics.”
(Parent Carer)

“My confidence, self-worth, and self-awareness have improved, and I have learned so much about myself and how my dual diagnoses affect my day-to-day life.”
(Neurodivergent Adult)

“The sessions have really helped me to reflect and come up with my own answers and solutions.”
(Young Person)

“I felt nervous about starting counselling but was amazed at how much I spoke and felt understood and safe.”
(Young Person)



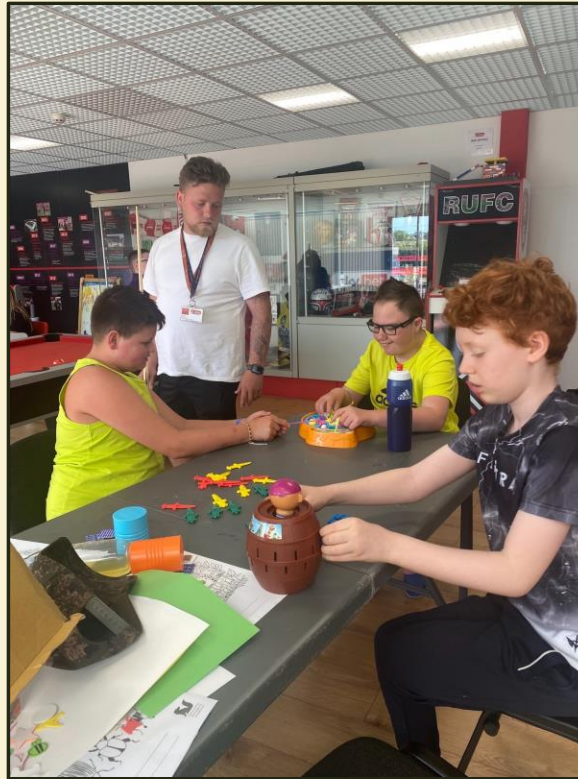
The Impact of RPCF Short Breaks Activities

“It has been like a lifeline finding the forum. Everyone is so welcoming, and we feel less alone on what is such a new journey.”

“I Get to see my Friends”

“I am with people like me”

- ❖ **335** unique Children/Young People with SEND and **75** of their siblings accessed RPCF Short Breaks Activities.
- ❖ We had a total of **2421** attendances at RPCF activities from children/young people with send and **271** attendances from siblings across a total of **163** delivered sessions.
- ❖ In a recent survey, **99%** of children and young people told us they enjoyed the activity they attended and **82%** of families reported feeling less isolated by coming to activities.



“Activities are great for the kids, age appropriate and build on their much-needed life skills.”

Children and Young People Make New Friends, Develop their Social Skills and Feel Safe



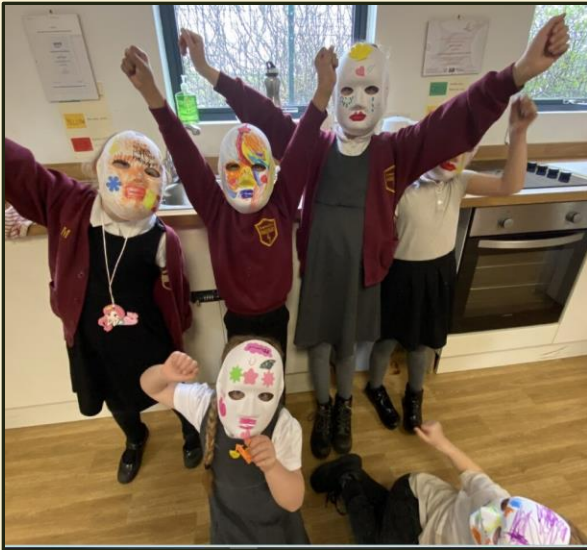
“My daughter is selective mute and does not talk in front of people but coming to youth club and going out on the trips has really brought her on leaps and bounds. We went to the pantomime in January with Rotherham Parent Forum, and I was shocked that she went out got up on stage and actually talked it made me cry.”



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Sibling Support Groups in Schools

RPCF Sibling Support Groups create opportunities for siblings of children with SEND to meet other young people who are in similar situations and share their thoughts, feelings, opinions and insights, as well as having lots of fun on the journey too. This year we have worked with 11 different Primary schools across the borough to deliver our school-based sibling support sessions.



“It's nice to know I can talk to another person in school who understands what it's like- that we can't go to some places because my sister gets overwhelmed.”

“I don't feel as guilty for feeling angry at my brother because I now know that I'm not the only one.”

“I know my brother needs lots of help, but our house is always so busy with people coming to see him and mum.”



❖ 127 unique siblings of Children/Young People with SEND took part in special Sibling Support Sessions with total attendances of 297.



Sibling Support Groups in Schools



“I just wanted to say a massive thank you for the sibling support group you put on at my daughter's school last term. I think it's absolutely amazing! She really enjoyed it, and I could see a change in her and how much it meant to her to be around other children who have siblings with additional needs.” (Parent Carer about Sibs)

“I don't feel as scared when he gets angry as I now understand what I can do and how to help him.”(Sibling)

“I didn't know other people had a brother like mine, I now get why he does some stuff.”(Sibling)



“The SIBS group has been outstanding. The children feel seen. These children are mostly 'always children' and often, unfortunately, these children do not get the same level of interaction with adults because they 'always' get on with things and don't require the same level of need. It has also been an incredible way for the children to build their self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities and see just how amazing they are at dealing with really tough situations, that even most adults would struggle to deal with. They didn't realise the amount that they deal with so well until this group brought this forward for them to see.” (Practitioner in school about Sibs)

RPCF Engagement and Participation – April 2023 to March 2024

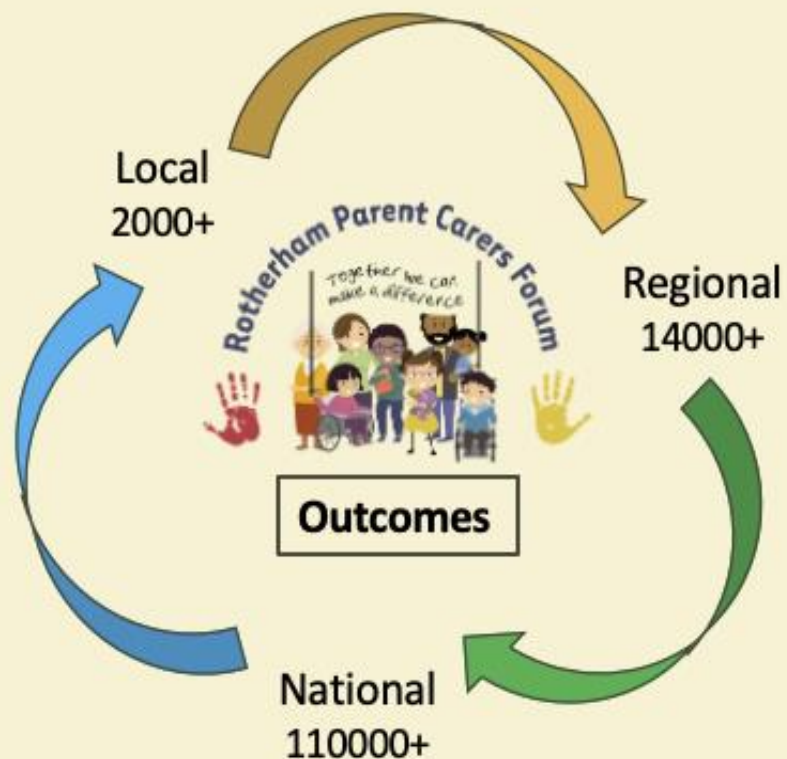
- ❖ **375** opportunities for parent carer participation were facilitated over the year. The total number of parent/carers attendances at these participation events was **3141**
- ❖ **204** events or activities were facilitated to allow children and young people with SEND and their siblings to have the opportunity to share their voice and experience.
- ❖ A total of **513** unique Children/Young People with SEND and their siblings accessed support from RPCF over the year.
- ❖ SEND Connect volunteers ran **125** face to face evening and daytime meet-ups supporting **195** unique parent carers with total attendances of **1342**.
- ❖ A further **170** parent carers were supported via coffee mornings held in **14** different schools across the borough.
- ❖ **377** responses to consultations and living experience examples from families, that can influence ongoing development of services, these were shared at relevant workstreams attended by RPCF.
- ❖ Parent Carer representatives from RPCF presented the living experience of families at over **239** meetings across all SEND workstreams.



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Regional and National – Overview of how RPCF Voice Impacts Local to National

- ❖ RPCF is an active member of Yorkshire and Humber Parent Carer Forum contributing to regional SEND initiatives
- ❖ Yorkshire and Humber Parent Carer Forum and RPCF are active members of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums
- ❖ Local and Regional SEND voice and living experiences proactively influences the National SEND agenda. Partners include DFE, NHS England, Department for Health and Social Care, OFSTED CQC and more.



National Network of Parent Carer Forums National Conference 2024 – 150 local areas work together with national SEND leads



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

<u>Parent Carers Strategic priorities from Annual Survey 2022-2023</u>	<u>Examples of Workstreams RPCF attended in 2023/2024, Where Parent Carer Voice Influenced Strategic Change in SEND Provision</u>
1. Education, Health, Care Plans (EHCP)	EHCP monthly Audits (anonymised), SEND exec board, SEND Partnership Board.
2. Mental health and wellbeing for CYP with SEND	Monthly manager meeting with CAMHS and ADHD leads, SEMH board, With me in mind local reference group, Dynamic Support Register, Care, Education Treatment Reviews
3. Availability of Education placements (SEN sufficiency)	SEN sufficiency board, Accessibility grant funding
4. Access to therapies (including mental health)	Regular 1:1 and multi-agency meetings with SEND Designated Clinical Officer and TRFT (Rotherham Hospital) Learning disability Strategy
5. Preparation for Adulthood	PfA Strategic board, co-chair PfA health, Co-lead on Voice, Guiding Voices – 4 workstreams
6. Assessment waiting times	RDaSH 'I improve neurodiversity assessment for CYP across SY' consultation, All age Autism Strategy Engagement, Autism Partnership Board, SYICB LDA workstreams; Children's Alliance, Pre and post diagnostic support, Education, Employment, Health, SYICB CYP steering group
7. Parent Carer mental health and wellbeing	Borough that cares, CYPS Consortium, Suicide prevention group, Early Help strategy group, Genuine Partnerships meetings with partners, local offer meetings.
8. Support for SEND CYP in Education Settings (Graduated response or SEN support)	SEN support group, SENCO network, regular 1:1 and multi-agency meetings with SEND lead and Assistant directors. PINS project meetings.
9. Home to School/Setting SEND transport	Policy review meetings with transport leads, SEND exec board, SEND Partnership board



Some Impact Examples of the Voice and Influence of Parent Carers and Partnership Work with Services Influencing Change in SEND Provision 2023/2024

- ❖ Creation of hospital passports as a direct result from parent carer voice around accessibility.
- ❖ Revised Transport policy in coproduction via RPCF drop ins and activities
- ❖ Ongoing work around the right to choose pathway for Neurodevelopmental Services.
- ❖ Open Arms funding was secured and provided 22 fully funded inclusive sessions with total attendances of 520. The sessions provided activities for the whole family to enjoy as well as safe places for parent carers to attend for a hot meal and peer led activity.
- ❖ Further funding secured to engage and widen the support offer for unpaid carers and coproduced the carers strategy to include parent carers.
- ❖ Continuation of partnership work with the Rotherham SEND Local Offer which included the launch of the new Local Offer Website . The changes implemented following parent carer voice can be found by following the link - www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk/you-said-we-did
- ❖ RPCF Co designed and co delivered SEND Awareness training to practitioners across health, education and social care throughout the borough.
- ❖ Continuation of SEND Sufficiency work currently in the process of implementing Phase 4 which aims to deliver an additional 100 SEND places across Rotherham through the development of 10 extra resource provisions on mainstream sites. Currently three provisions have been approved and additional places at Wales Integrated Resource Provision. A further 5 provisions are in the process of development with extra places scheduled for September 2024.



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Some Impact Examples of the Voice and Influence of Parent Carers and Partnership Work with Services Influencing Change in SEND Provision 2023/2024

- ❖ Monthly EHCP audits by RPCF in Partnership with health education and social care, providing a parent carer perspective - identifying areas of good practice, non-compliance and areas for improvement in EHCPs
- ❖ Partnership work with the Early Years Team has resulted in a new monthly SEND Early Years Session starting in May 24.
- ❖ RPCF invited as an equal partner to contribute to significant recruitment of senior staff relating to SEND including CYPS Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion and Head of SEND
- ❖ As a result of presenting at the SENCO network families and partners have a greater awareness and understanding of the RPCF offer. resulting in reducing isolation, empowering parents to work in partnership for better outcomes.
- ❖ Ongoing work as co-leaders of Genuine Partnerships by involving and supporting parent carers and young people at all levels of the co-production involved. Further details can be found at www.genuinepartnerships.co.uk
- ❖ RPCF were asked by partners in RMBC to lead on the engagement element of the refreshed All Age Autism Strategy. Results from hearing the living experience of autistic people and their family, carers and loved ones will inform the delivery plan over the next 3 years. The updated strategy can be found here: [Autism Strategy 2024 2027.pdf \(rotherham.gov.uk\)](#)
- ❖ RPCF are a Key delivery partner in a new National initiative - Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools – PINS. This is a direct result of parent carer voice around provision for neurodivergent young people in mainstream schools. Rotherham is piloting ten primary schools in 2024.



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Impact and Outcomes of the Voice and Influence of Parents and Carers Effecting Strategic Change in SEND Provision - Feedback from Parent Carers

"I found out about the Learning Disability Annual Health Assessments from RPCF and spoke to the GP about it and now its in place"

"Having a named person/case officer and locality lead made it easier to communicate"

"The EHC service we have just had has been excellent. It wasn't the year before."

"There is better information about preparing for adulthood on the Local Offer than previously."

"It's easier to get in touch with transport now"

"I do see different examples of collaboration between RPCF and other services, definitely keep this up."

"My son is now in post 16 and preparing for adulthood, promoting independence, travel training etc. has all made a huge difference to his self confidence"

"We have had a review and the EHCP is more specific and personalised"

"The EHC team are more approachable, they actually want to hear what my views are now and value what I have to say"

"The local Offer Website is easier to navigate."



Impact and Outcomes of the Voice and Influence of Parents and Carers Effecting Strategic Change in SEND Provision - Feedback from Practitioners

“RPCF are sharing the voice of families and young people to enable inclusion teams to improve the quality of service following a co-productive model. This also supports the understanding in identifying challenges that Rotherham families are facing in order to meet the needs of our young people more effectively.”

(Service manager EHC team)

“The links you have with professionals is very positive meaning parents and carers are able to receive advice, support and potentially interim advice prior to any diagnosis.” (Practitioner in School)

“The services offered by RPCF have been really useful in terms of offering guidance and support for parents, especially those seeking support outside of school settings and in relation to the graduated response for CAMHS referrals etc” (Practitioner in School)

“... impact on our club, communities and provision has been second to none. Creating safe, friendly and engaging spaces for young people to develop and thrive. It's hard to put into words the impact Kay has had on our provision. She has not only supported families and young people but a wide range of RUCT staff with CPD and training events, ensuring all staff have the correct knowledge and experience of working with SEND young people.”
(Rotherham United Community Trust about Kay Ellis Short Breaks & Activities Coordinator for RPCF)



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

New SEND Hub for Children, Young People, and Neurodivergent Adults in Rotherham Town Centre

This year saw the start of a ground-breaking project that is set to enhance the lives of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and neurodivergent adults in Rotherham. The innovative Hub will be located in the Eric Manns building in Rotherham Town Centre, and our whole organisation will relocate.



(From left) Louise Graham, Jayne Fitzgerald, Cllr Victoria Cusworth, Cllr Chris Read, and Kayleigh Harrison.

“This move is an exciting and potentially life changing opportunity for our children, young people, families and neurodivergent adults. Inclusion in the heart of town, leading to accessible daily living, a real and tangible sense of belonging as this community develops the space and makes it their own, and better outcomes for them as they teach us what is important for them, will absolutely enrich our whole Rotherham borough and beyond. We have a fantastic team of staff and volunteers who co-design and bring the living experiences into all our developments. Everything we do is based on partnership and transparency. We therefore look forward to being able to work with our teams, families, partners, schools, settings and services, our marginalised communities, private and voluntary community and businesses, in shaping the future of the new hub and what that will look like.”

Jayne Fitzgerald, Strategic Director at Rotherham Parent Carers Forum



Rotherham Parents Forum Limited