



# Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

## LPCF Parents' Voice

feedback from  
coffee mornings, Facebook,  
meetings and events.



1st April 2021  
to  
30th June 2021



Web - [www.lincspcf.org.uk](http://www.lincspcf.org.uk)  
Email: [admin@lincspcf.org.uk](mailto:admin@lincspcf.org.uk)  
Tel: 07925 232466  
Registered Charity No: 1141060  
ICO Registration Z1810966

## Thought from the Chair

*Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for the **LPCF excellence award** this time. LPCF received twenty one nominations this time recognising the immense amount of good practice to celebrate in Lincolnshire. Find out more on page 4 of this report.*

**Transitions**—this word is normally associated with the numerous changes from one phase to another in a child or young persons' life. From the experience of the LPCF membership it is a word that parents of children with SEND dread.

**IS SCHOOL  
READY  
FOR ME?**

*In this edition we have feedback about not preparing for transitions early enough.*

*After researching this theme with a group of parents from our wider membership LPCF have used the views of parents in a document now available on the parental resources page of the LPCF website. The document is aimed at Early Years but can be used for any stage of transition.*

**Wellbeing of parents on our membership**—to support our membership the fortnightly Hypnotherapy sessions with Nicole have continued and will end in July, starting again in early September.

*Parents have given us so much positive feedback about these sessions so to further support the group LPCF will be providing access to a private page on the website, specifically for use by participants of the sessions. This will help to support parents during the summer holidays.*



**Transformation in SEND**—over the last few months LPCF volunteers have been busy co-producing work with the Local Authority, Health and other partners around the ultimate goal of children getting the right support, at the right time and in the right place for families in Lincolnshire.

*The new ASK SALL helpline gives settings advice and guidance to SENCOs at the end of the phone. The team behind the ASK Sall are experts in the Graduated Approach and the Local Offer. If your education setting doesn't know about this please keep them informed.*

*The SEND inclusion toolkit will also offer a comprehensive one stop shop for supporting schools to deliver the Graduated approach. This is being piloted at the moment and will be available to all shortly.*

*Parents on the LPCF membership will also be pleased to know that the Local Offer website is being updated and improved.*

*LPCF Volunteers are involved to ensure that the work is co produced with the views of families at the heart of the transformation work.*

### **Behaviours of Concern**

*Following the two well attended and successful workshops LPCF are seeking future funding to repeat the parent focussed workshops between September and December 2021.*

*Have a relaxing summer and don't forget to feedback your views and experiences to LPCF over the holidays.*

*Best Wishes  
Coralie*



## Do you ever wonder if the LPCF SEND survey makes a difference?

## Updates

The Journey of Co-Production.

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum has a well proven track record of co-production with the Local Authority but is continuing in its journey to work with the NHS and its partners to fully reach this goal with some positive progress to date.

The NHS, as an organization, has historically been very sensitive around sharing data and it continues to remain cautious, but huge changes are happening which are well publicised.



LPCF see that the NHS is an immensely large and complex entity (the largest employer in Europe) and hence effecting change is like trying to stop an oil tanker and turn it around, hoping not to get stuck in the Suez Canal – it takes time, patience and skills.

So often we only see stories of co-production where they are at their destination but this is an example of a continuing journey and has been supported by our local Designated Clinical Officer for SEND.

Every 2 years LPCF undertake a “State of SEND in Lincolnshire” survey and when in 2020 the data from 450+ parents and 250+ SENCo’s was compiled, it found Lincolnshire generally was faring well, however at the bottom of the services rating for 2016, 2018 and 2020 was CAMHS and Healthy Minds (new service - so 2020 only), despite CAMHS being regarded highly by CQC.

As is usual, the survey findings are presented to the Local Authority, the NHS, DfE and other relevant stakeholders plus the results are posted in the public domain on the LPCF website.

LPCF were subsequently invited to present the findings to the SEND Health Committee hosted by Lincolnshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and the NHS Mental Health Partnership Board. The meetings raised the issue of the negative perceptions around Mental Health Services and the presentation was delivered to the NHS Mental Health Board who sought to understand the underlying issues, which were about what / how people lead them to perceive a poor Mental Health service.

In essence the single greatest hurdle identified in the survey was the referral process, whether they be directly from parents about their child or through GPs etc. There was an established threshold for CAMHS but people were still not getting to the service they needed with ease often seeking CAMHS when Healthy Minds was more appropriate.

The lack of clarity extended to professionals making inappropriate referrals which were often rejected and this was a problem as it created further negativity from both parents and professionals.

Since the meeting, Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation NHS Trust (provider of Mental Health services) has created a new Lincolnshire **Here4you self-referral line** 0800 234 6342. Details can be found at [www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/self-referral](http://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/self-referral), where young people can now outline their situation. They will be given tips and strategies on ways to help themselves, or may agree together that if they need some extra support, they will help them to know where is the best place to go and who to speak to. With the information provided they should be able to get an appropriate level of support for their needs.

This has helped to simplify the advice/referral process. It may seem like a small simple improvement, and whilst it is in its early days it has potential to be a significant game changer for families and professionals.

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum and Health are on a journey together towards full co-production but are heartened by part of their written response to our findings stating – *“We are reviewing mental health support in Lincolnshire (including emotional wellbeing, behaviour and neurodevelopmental concerns), one of the key objectives of which is to achieve a seamless ‘front door’ where a child’s needs will be assessed holistically and directed by a multi-disciplinary team of professionals to appropriate support rather than having to pick and choose where to refer.”*

In their response they also reported several other significant changes brought about by the findings which demonstrates a wider commitment to engagement, co-production and change.

LPCF enjoy an open positive working relationship with the Designated Clinical Officer and work together on strategic health boards and committees to ensure parents views and experiences are heard, acknowledged and acted upon where possible through open dialogue and creative, solution focused, debate. Has perfect co-production been achieved between LPCF and Health? – No – not yet – but we are on the journey and both parties are seeking to ensure we get there together so we get that oil tanker moving in the right direction, for the best outcomes for families of children with SEND in Lincolnshire.



## LPCF Excellence Awards - SEND Heroes !

To people everyone who made nominations to LPCF for our Excellence Award January - June 2021 **THANK YOU!**

### CONGRATULATIONS

To all the nominees for their achievements.

See LPCF website for all the nominations and “Hall of Fame”.



Winner	Runner Up	Runner Up
<b>Beth and Sharon Warwick</b> Royal Vulcans Cheer and Dance	<b>Branston Community</b> <b>Day Nursery</b>	<b>Orthotics Department</b> <b>Grantham Hospital</b>

### WINNING SUBMISSION

“I would like to nominate my daughters cheer/dance coaches Beth and Sharon for the SEND Hero award.

My daughter is 11 and has multiple and complex additional needs including Autism. We had long looked for an after school activity that she would enjoy and who would support her needs. We tried swimming, ballet and Rainbows/Brownies but none worked out for her. Then 3 years ago she attended a taster session for cheerleading with Royal Vulcans Cheer and Dance.

Since then we have not looked back. Her coaches Beth and Sharon have completely embraced her difficulties and always try to find a way to include her in everything they do. They recognised quickly what her needs were and put things in place to ensure the sessions were accessible to her.

This included having extra staff/volunteers in sessions to support my daughter if she needed it meaning she could stay for the whole session and slowly build her confidence and skills. My daughter has gone from one hour a week doing Pom dance to doing 3 hours a week training in Pom, Hip Hop and Stunt. She has gone on to compete at lots of competitions which she absolutely loves and lives for.

Over lockdown lessons had to move to Zoom which my daughter struggled massively with. She just couldn't keep up in a group situation and would become frustrated and she was losing her confidence. Her coach Beth was able to offer her private Zoom lessons so she didn't lose her skills and she slowly built her confidence back up. She was taught a Pom solo as well as a group Pom routine so that she was ready to go to competitions again when they restart.

My daughter has Dyspraxia and low muscle tone so dance and cheer do not come naturally to her. She does not always make the same level of progress as her friends. Her coaches always find a way to keep her motivated and adapt awards to recognise her accomplishments and so she doesn't become disheartened.

Her coaches always show my daughter that she is a valued member of the squad, even making her cheer captain for her squad last season. They offer encouragement and are so enthusiastic when teaching her it makes me tired just watching. My daughter is now able to take corrections to her dance to try and improve on what she can do which was unheard of before.

We never thought we would find something that could accommodate our daughter let alone embrace her differences so openly. She loves her cheer and dance and has come such along way. It would not have been possible without Beth and Sharon and I feel that they deserve recognition for all they have done for not only our daughter but for us as a family!

Seeing her hit the floor in a competition, beaming from ear to ear, is something we never dreamed possible for her!

We would love for them to be recognised by winning the SEND Hero award!  
Thank you for reading!



**Recognition for your SEND Heroes**

## LPCF Excellence Awards - SEND Heroes !

LPCF had a bumper crop of nominations for the Excellence Award during January - June 2021.



To all the nominees and parents making nominations  
**THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS**

Full details of our Excellence Award Hall of Fame can be found on the LPCF website at  
[www.lincspcf.org.uk/P\\_Award\\_HOF.php](http://www.lincspcf.org.uk/P_Award_HOF.php)

Nominated	Organisation
Beth and Sharon Warwick (Winners)	Royal Vulcans Cheer and Dance
Branston Community Day Nursery	Branston Community Day Nursery (2nd place)
Orthotics Department	Orthotics Department (3rd place)
Other nominations in alphabetical order of Organisation	
Rebecca Linnell	Carers First
Laura Bentham	Community nurse
Ellen Goodley	Frampton Playgroup - key worker
Louise Johnson	Happy Hooves Equine Assisted Learning Centre
Paul Hewlett & Megan Lyon	Inclusion 21
Toni Woods	Kisimul School
Hayley Jacklin	Market Rasen pre-school
Lucy Creasey	Occupational Therapist
Mrs Ojeh	Osbournby Primary School
Sue Porthouse	Portage
Jeanette Jameson	Quadring Primary School
Teaching assistants, SENCO and school system	Queen Elizabeth's High School
Carl Mallett	SEND Caseworker
Spectrum Gaming	Spectrum Gaming
St Lawrence Team	St Lawrence School
Cherida Gibson	Teacher (Wilds Lodge)
Mr Williams	Teaching Assistant (East Wold PS)
Kathie Robson	Young Carers



**For a list of all submissions and winners please see the LPCF Website > Feedback > Award where you will find a link to all past winners and submissions**



**Recognition for your SEND Heroes**

## How do we obtain views?

Usually parents' views are collected during our regular coffee mornings and events. LPCF coffee mornings are held bi-monthly in the following areas:- Boston, Spalding, Bourne, Sleaford and Woodhall Spa.

They are hosted by a LPCF volunteer who has been through our induction process and who is a parent of a child with disabilities and/or SEN.



The coffee mornings are held in an informal, friendly environment where parents and carers can relax and gain support and information relevant to their needs. For some, it is a place to offload worries and anxieties.

Others share good experiences of what works for them. It is a time for parent to parent support and for some, it is the realisation that parents are not alone with their experiences, which disperses feelings of isolation.

We are now offering these through Zoom technology.

## What we do with these views



LPCF volunteers gather issues that are important to parent carers and then LPCF feed them back anonymously to service providers such as the Local Authority and NHS Lincolnshire, to enable them to know if, where and how services need to be improved.

This report outlines the issues raised during the report period. Any feedback LPCF receive from service providers in response to this report will be included on our website—so keep checking our website for more details.

Have a look at the next few pages for how LPCF parents' voices are being used to effect change.

## Where do service providers come in?

LPCF are the communication link between parents and service providers through which information can be shared to and from both parties.

EDUCATION  
HEALTH &  
SOCIAL CARE

It is all very well and good that LPCF are gathering the views, thoughts and opinions of parent carers to help improve the provision and delivery of services but we rely on service providers also to feedback to LPCF about how they have responded to parents' concerns.

We publish their responses on our website for parents to read.

### Glossary of Abbreviations

<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
<b>CQC</b>	Care Quality Commission
<b>EHC</b>	Education, Health and Care Plan
<b>IPSEA</b>	A Charity that provides support
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>ESA</b>	Employment and support allowance

<b>DfE</b>	Department for Education
<b>EP</b>	Educational Psychologist
<b>Lincs CC / LCC</b>	Lincolnshire County Council
<b>OT</b>	Occupational Therapy
<b>SALT</b>	Speech and Language Therapy (Also S&LT)
<b>SEND</b>	Special Educational Needs and Disability
<b>TAC</b>	Team Around the Child

# Feedback Friday!

5th Apr 21 - **Are you aware of the £86 million investment in our Special Schools in Lincolnshire?**

18 NO 14 YES

## LPCF Response –

“Thank you for your feedback.

For those of you who aren't aware of the massive investment in Special Schools please see the seven dedicated pages on our website. [https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/SSR\\_Next.php](https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/SSR_Next.php)

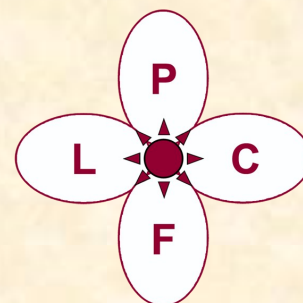
LPCF have been involved with this project from the very beginning as you can see from the information provided. An update has also been included in the latest parents’ voice report available on our library.

The SEND team gave parents the chance to hear about the progress of the project during our Week of SEND - please also have a look at the slides in the "new" Parental Resources page (SEND transformation in Lincolnshire). Hope this helps to keep you informed.”

## Feeding back parents views on Feedback Friday

9th Apr 21 - **What would be useful to you as members of our FB group?**

- 24 [What’s going on in Lincolnshire \(SEN related\)](#)
- 3 Wellbeing tips
- 3 Weekly topic for discussion
- 2 Book recommendations to support your role
- 1 Other



## Comment

Other—Transition to college, what's process/choices of provision are at different settings.

# Feedback Friday!

16th Apr 21 - **Are you aware of LPCF's formal remit e.g. gathering parents views, collating them and representing them to inform positive change?**

17 YES 1 NO

Comment—Knew more about your support to parents.

## Feeding back parents views on Feedback Friday

30th Apr 21 - **Other than Facebook what other social media platforms do you use to gather information to assist you in raising your child with SEND?**

9	<a href="#">YouTube</a>	5	WhatsApp	5	Twitter
3	Instagram	1	Wikipedia	0	Reddit

# Feedback Friday!

23rd Apr 21

**Have you ever been the subject of a scam? Please select all that apply.**

- 25 An email or communication allegedly from HMRC saying you are due a tax rebate.
- 21 A telephone call from someone, claiming to be your internet service provider, wanting to help you prevent unauthorised access.
- 18 An Email or communication from a high street bank.
- 11 An Email or communication from a wealthy benefactor (usually overseas) who wants to share all their wealth with you.
- 10 An offer that seems to be too good to be true and you need to transfer money quickly.
- 8 You've been asked to give away personal information like passwords and PINs.



## Comments

- ⇒ Bank Card was cloned.
- ⇒ Myself and my daughter get so many scam emails and texts, banks, PayPal, Virgin, HMRC, 'you have won' from different stores/companies, and more -can guarantee at least 5 a day each minimum.
- ⇒ Bank account hacked.  
Email account hacked.  
Purchased from an insecure website using bank transfer.
- ⇒ Postal/courier delivery scam texts.
- ⇒ Yes, I get these all the time they are awful!
- ⇒ My poor mum got one saying they were going to arrest her and she had not long lost my dad so had a panic and got upset a bit.
- ⇒ Emails I always forward to report@phishing.gov.uk - don't know exactly what they do with the data - but can check for repeat domain names IP addresses etc and if the scams are catching lots out - advertise the fact.
- ⇒ A couple of times I've nearly fallen for them when I've been absent minded and low. I've rang the bank telling them I'm distressed. The parcel one nearly got me.



## Feeding back parents views on Feedback Friday

7th May 21

**Would you feel more confident in your child attending a Mainstream setting if your school had a safe space?**

17 YES      10 NO      1 Maybe

## Comments

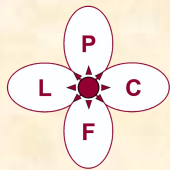
- ⇒ No been there done that and it didn't work for my son.
- ⇒ Our children both have a safe space (as in a quiet area in the classroom they can go and sit in) written into their EHCP but neither has ever been provided with a suitable one in any Mainstream school. I just don't think mainstream understand what it means no matter how much you explain or rant on about it! I totally disagree with isolation rooms which I think some people automatically think of!
- ⇒ Interesting point about Safe Space versus isolation.

## LPCF Feedback

LPCF are involved in the project looking at the development of safe bases within some Secondary school settings. LPCF have taken the important issue of Safe Bases being in or near isolation units at a Safe Bases planning meeting. This point was reiterated by presenters from other LAs who are very clear that Safe Bases MUST avoid being located in proximity to Isolation units AND should be at the heart of the school – not in detached unit on the outskirts of the school.

The Learning from other Local Authorities will help in the development of the framework of Safe Bases in Lincolnshire to allow children with SEND to be better accommodated in Mainstream schools .

# Feedback Friday!



Are you aware we have a new parental resources page on our website?

8 YES 4 NO

[No comments](#)

14th May 21

## Feeding back your views on Feedback Friday

21st May 21

Do you think where you live affects the amount of services and support you receive?

57 YES 1 NO

### Comments

- ⇒ There are a hardly any appropriate respite facilities for 18-35 year olds. Many social workers offer elderly care homes which are not ideal for our young people. Finding private home respite can be difficult with a round trip of 60 miles. It is still parent to parent recommendations with this issue.
- ⇒ Nothing for my daughter and ASD diagnosis 16-18 years she doesn't sleep and can't even be given anything until assessed. I reported it to Pals and the response was the NHS don't have a contract with the CCG in my area. It's an absolute disgrace, everything we are going through is ripping our relationship apart.
- ⇒ Have a word with HealthWatch Lincs, contact on our website information/signpost stands or google- they can look into your issues. Also the Sleep Charity.
- ⇒ We did the Sleep Charity followed the programme they said it wasn't behavioural and to go back to the GP. I will speak to HealthWatch thanks.
- ⇒ Living in a rural county does mean services are often not those of other more populated areas but we do have the benefit of living in a beautiful county with low crime, less expensive housing, high employment (although lower wages) etc.  
It is perhaps a little unrealistic to expect everything we see on the news, TV or FB in such a rural county with such a scattered population but evidence shows that, whilst not perfect, Lincolnshire is achieving better than many counties with SEND. E.g. investing £86m in SEND schools provision.  
What does worry me is that the LPCF Survey in 2020 did show that there appeared to be an uneven delivery of services across the 7 districts in Lincolnshire, perhaps linked to where services are physically located e.g. Lincoln, Sleaford etc.
- ⇒ I live in a very rural area but have a car. I have 3 good state SEN schools within easy driving distance to pick from and pre-pandemic we were out every weekend doing special needs activities in Toynton, Sleaford, Spalding etc. Often 2 or 3 activities in the one weekend. Previously I lived in Memphis, a city of one million people. There were no state SEN schools for my children so I had to pay. There was one monthly Special Needs activity a month that ran for a while and then fizzled out. Otherwise just 3 activities a year - Easter, Halloween and New Years Eve.

### LPCF Feedback

Reading the final comment really does put things into perspective in appreciating some of what is available in Lincolnshire.

## Feeding back your views on Feedback Friday

28th May 21

Has your child experienced a transition from a Special to Mainstream setting?

18 NO 1 YES

# Feedback Friday!

4th Jun 21

How old are your children with SEND? Let us know in the poll below .

We are keen to understand the ages of the families we support on our FB page a little better so that we can help you even more in future.

Just choose the age bracket that represents your child. If you have more than one child, you can tick multiple boxes.

55	6-10	36	11-15	15	16-17		
11	0-5	10	20-25	7	18-19	1	25+

**Comment**

⇒ Could only tick one box but have multiple children.

11th Jun 21

Does your child have a rare condition? Let us know if so (or if not) by answering the quick poll below .

If your child hasn't yet been formally diagnosed with a rare condition, please select 'Awaiting diagnosis'.

28	NO	15	YES	1	Awaiting diagnosis
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**Comments (4)**

Summary

⇒ Parents outlined their child's rare condition and explained its impact etc (Details withheld in line with GDPRs which required information should not be able to identify individual and clearly rare conditions could be used to identify individuals).

17th Jun 21

Which pages on the LPCF website do you use?

7	LPCF Events Page	5	Info > Documents Library	3	Info > Signposting Stands	
3	Info > Parental Resources	2	Info > Help lines	2	Feedback	2 Other

**Comments (None)**

## Feeding back your views on Feedback Friday

25th June 21

What additional opportunities are provided in schools / education settings outside the normal educational day for your children with SEND?

11	None	4	After school activities	2	Breakfast Club
0	Weekend activities	0	Holiday provision		



**Comments (18)**

- ⇒ Whilst the question was about schools and what they provide I never cease to be amazed at how many community groups there are across the county and how accommodating many of them can be to SEND children. These are two classic examples that been nominated for an LPCF Excellence Awards this half year - Royal Vulcans Cheer and Dance & Happy Hooves. [https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/A\\_Award.php](https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/A_Award.php)
- ⇒ Royal Vulcans Cheer and Dance won the LPCF Excellence Award for Jan-Jun 21 - well done!
- ⇒ **Not for this thread but I will ask LPCF admin to create a future post to ask people to identify groups that are open to and welcoming to SEND youngsters but folk can always check on the Local offer for groups in the meantime.**
- ⇒ What is needed are professional led specialist provision just for SEND kids so they can have their own tribe rather than needing to mask to 'fit in'.
- ⇒ It used to be staff at Special schools about 12 years ago, then it was ACH who got the contract then KIDS. Some parents started up their own groups once their young person reached 18. It is word of mouth i.e. parent to parent - Little Miracles Boston/ South Holland, Red Granny's, Going Forward Social Club, The Wednesday club. Some clubs before Covid-19 did " Reasonable adjustments " i.e. Brownies/ Cubs, Scouts, some Equine centres , athletic clubs. Once the Local Offer has been revamped new clubs will appear.

## LPCF Parent Feedback Systems

The key role of LPCF is to gather parents' views and after collation and analysis, ensure service providers and agencies are aware of the views of the LPCF membership.

As well as periodic targeted surveys and gathering case studies, which are reported on separately, LPCF listens to the parents' voices of its membership via a range of methods including LPCF "Your Say" web submissions, coffee events, email, telephone, events and other meetings.

The Covid pandemic has changed much of our gathering technique with greater use of feedback coming from virtual meetings with parents and significantly increased activity on Facebook. To accommodate this we have adjusted our listings that follow.

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Comments from our "Your Say" web page and events such as coffee events, email, telephone etc. Parents can comment on anything; positive or negative and about any agency or organisation they have had experience of that affects their family life.



SOURCE KEY: CM - Coffee Morning and Locality e.g. Boston, FB – Facebook, YS - Your Say web page



### It's not ALL bad - LPCF Awards Nominations

LPCF would like you, as parents to nominate professionals or teams of professionals who have gone above and beyond for you and/or your child.



Who is your star person or organisation?

Have they given you extra support?

Are they attentive with your child?

Do they deserve recognition?

Do they think outside the box and come up with wonderful ideas?

It could be a SENCo, a Teaching Assistant, someone from the Local Authority, a team of Occupational Therapists, a Social Worker, a volunteer or voluntary organisation.

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Supporting Parents - Post 18 finance and decisions etc.

FB 15th April 21

Can I ask if anyone can recommend someone for legal advice regarding supporting disabled children with finances and other decisions post 18.

Our son is in 52 week care (still only 16 but increasingly ending up in financial knots which we are finding increasingly difficult to support him to resolve as he can't cope and withdraws but banks etc. need him on the phone).

Also due to anxiety he doesn't attend any of his meetings or medical appts but is likely to be deemed as just about having capacity. We don't want to control or restrict him, just to be able to support him when he can't do it for himself. I don't want to wait for it to go badly wrong before we put things in place but I have no idea where to start. Thank you in advance.

#### Comments (24) Summary

- ⇒ Direct signposts to Rochelle Victoria, Mencap and Buckles Solicitors from parents.
- ⇒ Everyone in LPCF thanked for opportunity to share information / experiences.
- ⇒ Assessment by Social Care outlined – how it works and process explored.
- ⇒ Some varying experiences of Social Care assessment details shared.
- ⇒ Implications and details about Appointee, Advocacy, Deputyship, Power of Attorney and how it relates to DWP discussed.

### LPCF - Hypnotherapy sessions.

FB 16th Apr 21

I've found the hypnotherapy very useful when I've been able to attend. Feels lovely just to focus on yourself for a little - and have that time validated as important.

### Parents Supporting Parents - Sensory Assessment.

FB 17th Apr 21

Just wondering if anyone could help me.

My sons paediatrician wants my son to have a sensory assessment completed by an OT, but ULHT don't commission this; so told me to go through my GP. So I did this and the referral was sent. Recently I received a phone call from the department saying that they don't offer this in Lincolnshire but there is a charity that can help with costs for a private assessment. Does anyone know who this charity is? The costs of a private assessment is a little beyond me right now! Thanks.

#### Comments (18) Summary

Direct signposts by parents to Bromhead Medical Charity (several recommendations), PAACT for advice, options for private assessment.



Final comment from originator "I still can't get my head around OT not being available for SPD, Dyspraxia etc. in Lincolnshire - they are the best people to support. It really is a postcode lottery. We were lucky and had diagnosis, assessment and support before we moved here."

**LPCF Feedback** "If your child has any Sensory Processing Issues now is the time to express an interest in the pilot which is taking place on 27th April at 10.30am.

The interactive workshop is run by a behavioural specialist who gives you ideas, strategies and techniques to use with your child. Email [admin@lincspcf.org.uk](mailto:admin@lincspcf.org.uk) to register your interest."

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Supporting Parents - ADHD Medication

FB 26th Apr 21

Any ADHD adults here that can give me your personal experience taking Methylphenidate (Ritalin)? Paeds have just prescribed it for my 9 year old (he's also Autistic). I asked them to consider Dexamphetamine instead as its the only one with an oral solution preparation as opposed to tablets/capsules and has less side effects (but is also costs NHS £125pm instead of £4 for Ritalin). Thanks.

No Comments received

### What's working and what's not - let LPCF know.

#### Article about employment of people with disabilities / SEN.

FB 26th Apr 21

Article by SNJ "It's time EMPLOYERS realised the benefit of EMPLOYING YOUNG PEOPLE with DISABILITIES"

##### Comments -

- ⇒ There are definitely some real benefits to employing people with SEND and initially I felt positive about the article - however - why does the article only focus on some people with SEND and seemingly excluding a mention of others?
- ⇒ Some interesting positivity in the article pointing out tangible benefit for employers but I could not get past focusing on just some with special needs rather than all.

##### LPCF Response

LPCF are currently involved in a project with the Local Authority, Lincolnshire Young Voices and other partners looking at getting young people with SEND into employment. If you attended the week of SEND you would have heard Scott talk about the project.

If you have any experiences of getting your young person into employment please comment on the "Your Say page" [https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/P\\_YourSay\\_Add.php](https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/P_YourSay_Add.php) Thank you".

#### Parents Supporting Parents - What did you wish you knew at the outset of your journey?

FB 22nd Apr 21

##### LPCF Post

"At the start of your journey as a parent of a child with additional needs what one thing do you wish you were told?"

##### Comments (29) Summary (including quotes)

- ⇒ "It's not your fault".
- ⇒ Multiple instances of recognising that parents know their child best and are "experts by experience".
- ⇒ "Feel free to grieve but then live their life to the fullest possible way".
- ⇒ Don't always believe professionals.
- ⇒ Read and attend learning courses to improve skills and knowledge.
- ⇒ Parents need to do their own research and support / challenge professionals as needed.
- ⇒ "Focusing on possibilities over problems is how I now try to look at it or thinking outside the box!"
- ⇒ Get a 4 drawer filing cabinet. Record and file everything!
- ⇒ Parents will discover a strength they never believed possible.
- ⇒ Make sure to take care of the carer – look after yourself and be there ready to go when needed.
- ⇒ "Each child is unique" - "listen to your child"

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Supporting Parents - Discovering SEND in Lincolnshire.

FB 29 April 21

I will apologise in advance for the length of this post but I'm hoping somebody could give me some advice.

We have recently moved here from Leicestershire.

My son was in a speech and language unit in Leicester but at his annual review he would have been moved to an ASD unit.

Lincolnshire SEN team want him to move to a mainstream school with no support in place, then review it in 3 months.

There is no way my son would cope in mainstream, never mind without any support in place. He is diagnosed ASD, Dyspraxia, SPD, anxiety.

His old unit had 10 children and 4 teachers with a differentiated curriculum. I have asked for special school but they have apparently all said no, he is too clever? He is approximately a year behind in maths and at least 2 years behind in everything else. Plus needs in self care, and major issues with social communication (He is 7). There is some contradiction about what paperwork they had to look at when they were asked. It beggars belief to me that this could be expected of him.

Lincolnshire are saying he attended a mainstream school before but it was a unit attached to the mainstream school and he never spent any time out of the unit. Leicester are telling me they have informed Lincolnshire it was a specialist provision. I am unsure where to go from here. Has anyone been in a similar situation? If so what was the outcome?

#### Comments (35) Summary

- ⇒ A small number of parents sharing their negative experiences relating to EHC and SEND.
- ⇒ Others provided examples of where they have had positive experiences.
- ⇒ Signposted to local IPSEA – Liaise, who parents acknowledge as being excellent.
- ⇒ Difficulties in transfer of plans from LA to LA and how each LA sets out the requirements of an EHC.
- ⇒ There was debate around what levels of needs qualify for special school and what can be accommodated within Mainstream settings.

#### LPCF feedback

It is very difficult for individuals to comment on cases without all the facts.

Lincolnshire's SEND received a Good OFSTED report on their last visit.

Without knowing the details it is difficult to comment, however when moving between LAs it is crucial for families to plan everything and liaise with the new LA well in advance as the identification of suitable settings takes time to arrange.

Our experience has shown that wherever possible families should work with Education settings and the SEND team to seek a resolution which provides the best available fit for the child.

## LPCF "Your Say"

Got something to say? – praise, grumble or get something off your chest.

Make sure your view, experience or opinion is heard.

Use the "Your Say" option on LPCF's website under feedback.

All your views and experiences help LPCF build a better picture to help improve SEND services across Lincolnshire. Help make a difference!



## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Helping Parents - Leisure in South Lincs.

FB 30th April 21

Thank you for allowing me to join, we have just moved into Lincolnshire and are looking for activities to do outside of school (social distancing adhered to of course). We adopted a 14 and 13 year old, 12 years ago and between them they have many needs from Autism, Dyspraxia, developmental trauma, Sensory disorder, attachment disorder to name a few!

Our daughter is very keen to be a lorry driver and our son enjoys gaming like so many other children. Would love to know about outdoor places to visit we are in the South Lincs area around Spalding. Thank you.

#### Comments

- ⇒ I'd always visit Ayscoughfee Gardens in Spalding. <https://www.sholland.gov.uk/article/7033/Ayscoughfee-Gardens>. Peaceful, well kept, walled gardens, small cafe in gardens, bird aviary, fishpond with some large fish etc.  
Plus you will likely see local ducks and if you are lucky spot one of several squirrels in the park / churchyard next door. Nice and plenty of space for a picnic. Also 5 minutes walk into town.
- ⇒ The garden of surprises at Burghley is nice - Belton house too.
- ⇒ A little further afield but Bourne Woods is also good for a ramble around well marked paths (parking and toilets onsite).
- ⇒ Vernatts Nature Reserve on the edge of Spalding. The railway tunnel behind the rugby club in Spalding. Well Head gardens & play area in Bourne. Bythams Spinney.
- ⇒ Is the play area in Bourne good for teens? My teens like to play but a lot of the play areas are a bit small for them.
- ⇒ I'd say it's more for the preteens really.
- ⇒ Snowden's field at Crowland has more stuff for older ones including a skate park.
- ⇒ Rainbow Stars Charity 1186118 (additional needs support/,Lincolnshire ) in Sleaford have lots of meets and support.

### Parents Supporting Parents

### Parents Helping Parents - Dyspraxia Assessment.

FB 4th May 21

Does anyone know who diagnoses Dyspraxia in Lincs? Or if we have to go down the private route?

#### Comments (19) Summary

- ⇒ A number of parents responded with their experiences and route to diagnosis.
- ⇒ What was clear from responses was that they were very varied evidencing a lack of a clear pathway for Dyspraxia diagnosis.
- ⇒ Some options mentioned included referral to / via GP, Paediatrician, Private assessment, Breakthrough Therapy, Physio, OT, School and SEND caseworker.

#### LPCF Feedback

The Designated Clinical Officer for SEND has been invited to host a question and answer session and this will be one of the questions that LPCF will put to him.

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Any good experiences of services

FB 10th May 21

#### Post by LPCF

“Tell us (in a sentence) about a good experience you have had with a service or organisation within the last year?”

#### Comments -

- ⇒ For myself. - Mental Health. Steps2Change.  
Have been absolutely fantastic. Very quick to respond to my self referral. Excellent continuity of care with regards to accessing previous referrals and identifying what I needed. I felt heard. Good communication. Eight week wait. Therapy began and was given long term 90 min sessions. Treated amazingly well. So grateful. Daughter - Early Help. One particular EHW who I made the lead in our TAC. Absolutely fantastic. My daughter opened up to her. She is brilliant. Very capable. Very on the side of the family. Actually believed me. Very valuable service.
- ⇒ ESCO, Community OT, CWD team, PASW & Play Therapist provided information needed for grant for a downstairs toilet which I have to say has been life-changing for us!  
Myself - Virtual 121 parenting class (SCOPE) Adapted brilliantly. Was so glad I was able to access this. Worked incredibly well. I wish more parents had accepted this so we could have done it together as a group. But I enjoyed accessing it and learned a lot. The lady delivering the course was also a source of fantastic support.

#### LPCF Feedback

Please consider nominating services or individuals in the LPCF Excellence Awards.

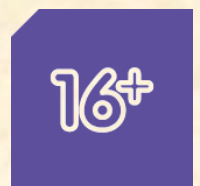
### Parents Helping Parents - Post 16 College difficulties.

FB 10th May 21

Seeking advice please. I reside in Spilsby and teen wishes to attend Lincoln college, transport would be in place, but informed can only attend Boston college due to where we live but the course they wish to do is only at Lincoln, I am struggling to home swap, any ideas otherwise college doesn't seem possible at this rate?

#### Comments (18) Summary

- ⇒ Lots of shared experiences, responses and debate from parents.
- ⇒ Some colleges also apparently offer bursaries for transport to assist parents.
- ⇒ Liaise were advised and recommended for specific legal entitlements etc.
- ⇒ For factual information parents guided to speak to LA Transport and SEND team about exact rules etc.



#### LPCF Feedback

As with anything LPCF will guide parents toward seeking facts from reliable sources. Some views expressed by parents during discussions were challenged for validity, evidence and sources.

### Parents Helping Parents - Children's Counsellors

FB 10th May 21

Looking for recommendations or any suggestions please.  
Does anyone know of a private children's counsellor in our area for ages 7 upwards. Many thanks. (Spalding Area).

#### Comments

- ⇒ Try speaking to Michelle King, Little Miracles Charity (There is a South Holland group) as they arrange child counselling and I'm sure could put you in touch.
- ⇒ “Don't lose hope” in Bourne have children's counsellors

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Any good experiences in past year of Covid?

FB 15th May 21

#### LPCF Post

“Can you identify any positive benefits or learning, through being locked down during Covid?”



#### Comments -

- ⇒ Education staff are so valuable to children and society.
- ⇒ Yes, my neurotypical 13 year old developed a love of reading during lockdown. Before Covid she wouldn't read unless it was required by school. Now she reads every day. I've noticed her vocabulary improving as a result of all the reading too. My 9 year old has extremely delayed speech and we noticed her make a good bit of progress during lockdown - more short sentences instead of just single words, and using the sentences appropriately instead of randomly.  
My 15 year old has been Home Ed since the age of 6 - lockdown gave many special needs parents the chance to try learning at home. While many families are happy the kids are back in school, a significant number found that home learning works better for their child and their family and have decided to withdraw their children from school.
- ⇒ Completed 3 free online courses to gain diplomas, plus tried loads of new baking/cooking recipes. Now trying to lose the extra pounds gained whilst doing so!
- ⇒ We got a puppy before lock down and have had so much fresh air and exercise, but the best benefit has been seeing our daughter grow in confidence in talking to people with her dog by her side.

### Who better to support parents than other parents who are experts by experience

### LPCF “True Tuesday” Post - Parental feedback

FB 18th May 21

#### LPCF Post – It’s True Tuesday

“LCC are investing £86m in helping to improve the Special Schools in Lincolnshire (Source LPCF/LCC).”

Summary (29 comments) including parental quotes

- ⇒ One might think that any investment in services for Special Schools and SEND would be welcomed, however many parents posted negative responses, although it was noted that a number had a previous historical basis.
- ⇒ A number of the responses were addressed for their lack of knowledge of the programme, despite LPCF constantly promoting all the latest news as it arises from consultation to new schools being built e.g. one parent stated “that’s only going to help the teachers wages” but was advised that “The money is actually a Capital Programme - so it is £86m being invested in buildings and not teachers wages.”
- ⇒ Another parent stated “children are failed or have to travel further afield because there are no suitable schools”
- ⇒ “Saying and doing are too different things all together”.
- ⇒ “That’s fabulous news”.
- ⇒ There were other comments from parents, however it was clear from the content that a number of parents were not fully aware of the investment and the programme. LPCF responds to the lack of information with facts and signposting parents to increase awareness of the scheme.

#### LPCF Feedback

As it became clear that there was confusion around the Capital Programme and the £86M investment by the Local Authority, LPCF will be inviting the SEND team to our AGM in June so parents can hear about the strategy directly. LPCF will be encouraging all parents to attend to keep them informed.

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Confusion about referral for ASD Assessments.

FB 20th May 21

Help! need advice please my son's Paediatrician has asked me to get my GP to refer my son for an ASD assessment, the GP has asked for a supporting letter from his school to help the referral. What should I ask the school to provide in this letter? TIA



#### Comments (9) Summary

- ⇒ A number of responses and differing information was provided but it was clarified directly by LPCF via the DCO "We have just checked with the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND and he has confirmed that the Paediatrician can refer a child for an Autism Assessment. This push back to the GP, school and parent has been highlighted (ensuring confidentiality etc) and the only reason he can see for this happening is to get supporting information locally from the school etc.
- ⇒ Please be reassured that LPCF have addressed this issue and will be evidencing this happening, so if anyone is also experiencing the same issues please email: [admin@lincspcf.org.uk](mailto:admin@lincspcf.org.uk) with details. Your details will be anonymised. Thank you"

#### LPCF Feedback

The DCO will be asked to clarify the situation during his Q&A session.

### Parents Helping Parents - College Attendance Days.

FB 21st May 21

Are all the Lincolnshire colleges for age 16-18 only 3 days a week? My daughter needs 5 days a week due to her academic delays.

#### Comments (66 - although many were very off topic and not included) -summary

- ⇒ Parents provided various, mixed experiences and opportunities. E.g. "My daughter was full time, which was 3 days only, so had 2 days at day provision.. (some colleges have day provision)"
- ⇒ "It's (day provision) a place to hang out and do so some skills but not via EHCP."
- ⇒ Development through the £86 investment programme were identified that additional opportunities may arise as a result e.g. St Bernards 6<sup>th</sup> form.

### Parents Helping Parents - Transition to Mainstream Secondary School.

FB 25th May 21

We are starting to look at mainstream secondary schools as my son is in year 5. He has an EHCP and the transition meeting is coming up. Looking for recommendations and advice. Areas we are looking at is South Lincolnshire and possibly into Peterborough as we live on the border. He is academic but has DCD/Dyspraxia, sensory issues and attention deficit. Thank you.



#### Comments

- ⇒ The schools really in our area are The Deepings, Bourne Grammar, Bourne Academy, AMVC and Greater Peterborough UTC have just started accepting year 7. It's such a minefield unless I have missed any that are worth considering.
- ⇒ "Local Offer for SEN and Disability | Lincolnshire FSD" <http://search3.openobjects.com/.../fsd/localoffer.page>
- ⇒ You could also consider Kirkstone House School if your child needs small class sizes and won't cope with the sensory environment of a large secondary mainstream. You would need evidence to support an application.

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Helping Parents - Swimming facilities for disabled children in South Lincs.

FB 25th May 21

Where is the best place at the moment to go swimming? I live in Spalding. My son is Autistic and used to love going to the pool (pre -Covid) but just over a year on he still hasn't been back and I would really like to get him back into it . Maybe get him some lessons. Can anyone recommend anywhere that's good for children with additional needs? My local pool is only available to book for lane swimming not a general family swim. Lessons can be booked but not sure appropriate for him at moment as he would have to go in by himself (no spectators allowed).

#### Comments (12) Summary

- ⇒ Parents provided options including pools in Skegness, Boston, Spalding, Bourne (2 pools), Kings Lynn and Sleaford with a number being known to offer disability swim sessions.
- ⇒ Also signposted to Local Offer where 40 results can be found under swimming pools, some of which have specialist sessions or groups.

### Who better to support parents than other parents who are experts by experience

#### Parents Helping Parents - School Recommendation please.

FB 3rd Jun 21

Can anyone recommend a SEN school or private school in Lincolnshire aimed at ASD (girls) with class sizes of no more than 8?

#### Comments (12) Summary

- ⇒ Schools identified – Ambergate (although larger class sizes), Kirkstone House (depending upon severity), Gosberton House (although mixed sex), Swiderby / Friesthorpe (out of county).

#### School Transport - Problem Resolved.

FB 4th Jun 21

Anyone else received an email at 16:20 on a Friday afternoon to completely change the SEND transport starting on Monday? Phoned the number to be told they'll only answer an email. Sent email with a returned mail to say will reply in 5-10 days.

Parental **UPDATE** - SEND transport have sorted out the change, starting today - so back to normal.

Credit where credit is due, they've acted quickly to resolve issues.

#### Parental Comment - Dyspraxia and Seeking Employment Difficulties

FB 14th June 21

Facebook Article "Dyspraxia: My life with the misunderstood condition"

Comment

- ⇒ My first born was diagnosed with Dyspraxia when he was 6 (20 years ago). It affects so many areas of his life but he looks like he should function the same as everyone else. It causes real issues in employment. Employers don't understand it and it's difficult for them to make reasonable adjustments, when they don't understand the issues. Let alone the issues interviews bring! Just to get a job in the first place. The constant rejections affect him badly and it takes months to try and build back the courage to try again! Obviously the job centre don't understand it either, so causes issues in many areas of life. Great article.

#### LPCF Comment

A clear example of evidence from a parent outlining the difficulties of seeking work for children with SEND.

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Helping Parents - EHCP - Help Please.

FB 15 Jun 21

Hi, sorry bit of a long one. I'm hoping for some help and advice regarding ECHPs. My daughter left her main stream school in September last year and has been attending an alternative school to help her needs.



Special Educational Needs  
& Disabilities

We have regular TAC meetings and back in December it was decided by all professionals that my daughter would benefit from having an ECHP especially for her next stage in education. (She has just left year 11) so ready for college. As she is Dual wielding the two schools have spent the last 5 or so months passing the responsibilities back and forth as to who will write it. After a long few months listening to the schools it was finally decided that the Mainstream school will write the ECHP.

I have had my part to fill in and have completed this, yet every time I request an update as to when the forms will be completed by, they can't answer me and say they are still waiting on information from her current school. Six months in and the EHCP hasn't even been submitted yet.

Has anyone got any advice in how I move forward and getting my daughters needs met! Thank you.

#### Comments (9)

- ⇒ Did you know you can apply for the EHCP yourself? Simply do the application on line and submit. The more evidence the better. May be worth a try!
- ⇒ The same happened with me. I started completing mine as they never had enough evidence to submit one and kept suggesting others should do it. The day I told them it would be submitted on X date, they suddenly decided they would submit one too, making it sound like they were doing me a favour as it would be supposedly looked on even better to both submit the paperwork together showing we were working together! My children went from "they'll never get an EHCP or any support as their situation is nowhere near bad enough" to getting both children with an EHCP and with part time support and later changing to having a full time 1:1 and one in specialist provision. Please do apply for your own! Once you've put your application in, it gives schools a time limit to return their reply rather than them calling the shots. Contact Liaise for support. They are brilliant.
- ⇒ I honestly wished I had, so much time has been wasted, I was told by the team around us that the school would make for a stronger application so I left it in what I thought was there capable hands.
- ⇒ Oh really. I'm glad he finally got his EHCP. Not fair on them though is it? I'm seriously considering just doing one myself now.
- ⇒ I did one for my son at 16 and he got it. I felt schools failed him from year 4 right through to year 11 I was trying for school to do it and one excuse after another. His last school said it was less paperwork if parent was applying for it all. I did make a subject access request from all medical departments, got all his reports and access arrangements reports etc .I submitted it with a letter from the IPSEA website and the council let me know in the 6 weeks school holidays then only had to submit evidence not loads of paperwork. He has been to primary and two secondary schools he only got his EHCP for college.
- ⇒ Thank you, that's really helpful. It is so frustrating when you know your child needs help and you feel you aren't getting any. Well done, looks like I'm going to have to go down the same route.
- ⇒ Best of luck. I wouldn't wait a minute longer. I will look for subject access request template letter. It helps get the data you need. Make a list of all professionals involved get the minutes of TAC meetings too.
- ⇒ Perfect thank you.

*See next page for LPCF Comment*

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Helping Parents - EHCP - Help Please (continued)

#### LPCF Comment

There appears to be schools who are resistant to engaging in an EHC assessment and parents have the right to submit an EHCA themselves after which the school will be required to provide all the evidence needed for the EHCA. It is always worth alerting a school that you will be submitting an application and you are keeping the school informed of this and alerting them that they will have to provide evidence anyway.

They perhaps may like to be involved at this stage of the process rather than at a later date as a sign of working in partnership.

This may then cause a change of stance from them, as attested by a parent in the comments.

The use of a Subject Access Request under Data Protection is something which LPCF have not previously seen but it does add an extra dimension to gathering evidence by parents. Parents should always be given copies of medical reports so they can give copies to schools.

It is concerning to note that alternative provision / school have only commenced proposing an EHCA at such a late stage given the timescales required etc.

### Who better to support parents than other parents who are experts by experience

#### Parents Comment - My experiences and views.

FB 24th Jun 21

As a parent of a 16 year old who has ASD and other ongoing queries I feel so sad and let down by the whole system. Going to court for EHC plan. The caseworker has never been there to help with EHC plan for her needs always putting blocks in the way. The list goes on but now I am been forced to move areas or if I stay put drive my teen 120 miles a day to college. Transport declined, appeal declined as they cite a college is closer. If I move what if she can't cope again and drops out. She is a school refuser weekly. If she stays I can't get a job as I will be driving 4hrs a day.

They cite parent choice, it's my teens choice she would go nearer but the course isn't the same there. If I move I have to find moving costs, a months rent upfront and new cooker as hoping to view a swap next weekend.

Then I will loose £60 a month as a non working parent at present as it a 3 not 2 bed but only person wanting my area. I'm tired of fighting schools, caseworkers the whole world just to be able to continue my teens education and one day begin my life again.

#### Comments (7)

- ⇒ I think that's why these groups are so important. Any parent/carer/family will identify with challenges that life can throw at you because of your child's needs. Challenges that a lot of people have never experienced - so don't fully understand their impact. Some have more challenges than others - but I doubt it has been plain sailing for anyone.
- ⇒ My child is in college I know it has been up and down but he is doing well.
- ⇒ Have you contacted Liaise? Take the LA to tribunal. Always. Trust me on this one. Contact Liaise.
- ⇒ I will do that thank you. My teens school refused for 9 months, took them to ombudsmen, gave evidence and they didn't uphold my complaint , good luck.

#### LPCF Comment

Whilst this provides evidence of a number of issues it also does clearly demonstrate that the Transition period is a critical stage in a child's life and needs to start being planned for 18-24 months before it happens.

Being months away and expecting everything to fall into place is perhaps expecting a lot from systems that are not designed for instantaneous reaction.

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Helping Parents - School Recommendation please.

FB 14 Jun 21

Hi, I am looking for some recommendations for private Special schools in and around Lincoln. We have been unable to get a place for our son at any of the maintained Special schools so are now looking for other options for the appeal.

Comments (1)

- ⇒ Kisimul takes from 8 and is in Swinderby. It's for complex needs and behaviours/ASD. My son is a day border but it's also residential. I can thoroughly recommend. I also have friends with kids at Witham Prospect which is from 11 and they recommend that too.

### Parents Helping Parents - Schools meeting EHC Need.

FB 24 Jun 21

I'm looking for advice on secondary school support for a child with an EHCP. I know I can get 1-1 support for him instead of group support (with a fight) but does anyone know if/how I can get his current 1-1 to move with him (obviously she wants to). Thanks.

Comments (21) Summary

- ⇒ Firstly having 1-1 support or any other support is provided as per the EHC as it is a legal document.
- ⇒ An EHC will NOT identify a named 1-1 as this has a number of issues e.g. if the named person leaves post or is sick etc.
- ⇒ The use of a single TA was challenged by parents as it potentially creates "dependency" in the child which will unravel as things change in life and children with SEND need to be able to adapt.
- ⇒ The issue did identify how 1-1 support in Primary often has a TA who moves with the child however in Secondary the TA support tends to become subject support as no TA could specialise in all the curriculum.

#### LPCF Comment

For a child this is a challenging time whether they have SEND or not. The difficult transition from primary to secondary is a crucial life stage for a child and preparation needs to begin early along with liaison with both schools around the child to provide the best possible experience.

Working with the schools and case worker, keeping a positive working dialogue will often provide solutions which, whilst not perfect, do provide an acceptable way forward.

### It's not ALL bad - LPCF Awards Nominations

LPCF would like you, as parents to nominate professionals or teams of professionals who have gone above and beyond for you and/or your child.



Who is your star person or organisation?

Have they given you extra support?

Are they attentive with your child?

Do they deserve recognition?

Do they think outside the box and come up with wonderful ideas?

It could be a SENCo, a Teaching Assistant, someone from the Local Authority, a team of Occupational Therapists, a Social Worker, a volunteer or voluntary organisation.

## LPCF Parent Feedback

Below are some selected samples of conversations on our active Parents ONLY Facebook Page.



### Parents Helping Parents - Schools Meeting EHC Need.

FB 30th Jun 21

Does anyone have any experience of and advice around getting reasonable adjustments for the 11+ tests? My son has been in his new school for 2 months, the head teacher has agreed with our recommendations obviously with the caveat he hasn't been there very long.

The Grammar school are saying there's not enough evidence it's his usual way of working e.g. needing breaks and extra time and want me to produce more evidence; I'm not sure from where. They seemed very reluctant to consider a break even though I shared his pupil passport and related targets on his GAF, citing a break would impact on other children in the room so the benefit to my son had to be weighed up against the disruption for other children.

Comments (4)

- ⇒ Believe it is up to the Grammar school.
- ⇒ My daughter's school refused to give my daughter extra time or consideration because she achieved without it. I had to get a letter from the Nottinghamshire School Nursing team who were supporting my daughter to write a request.
- ⇒ Think they have to be careful that it's shown that it's a requirement they need to fulfil purely due to the competitive nature of the tests and school placements.  
I'm sure people have claimed before that their child needs extra time when they didn't just to ensure their child passes so I suppose there has to be a quantities measure of how much time is needed due to a specific need or could be seen as an unfair advantage.  
You know, they can't say you can have an extra 30 mins without looking at the requirements of the child.
- ⇒ My daughter got 25% extra time. I'm not sure what was evidenced but it was sat in a different room so it didn't impact the others.

### ⚡ Dads ⚡

**The forgotten parent but the man behind Mam.**

**The guy who picks up the pieces,  
The guy who goes to work,  
The guy who helps pay the bills,  
The guy who barely whines,  
The guy who helps at home with nappies and lifting,  
The guy that listens to my rants and complaints,  
The guy that sticks by me through it all,**

**Dads, we are grateful for you, the forgotten parent. The one that drs don't talk to as it's presumed Mams the main carer, the one who has been asked twice (yes twice now) whether his daughter is biologically his even though they are holding DNA paperwork that says so but it doesn't make sense that she has his genes but he doesn't have her condition...**

**I consider myself lucky as for 9 years it's felt like just him and I against the world yet not many speak of the superdads...**

**So, let's hear it for the dads, grandads, step dads, the non-biological dads – you are appreciated 🍷**





## LPCF Parent Feedback

Feedback submitted to the  
LPCF Your Say system directly from parents.



### Your Say - Praise for QE High School.

YS 31st May 21

#### Queen Elizabeth's High School Gainsborough – First Class Assistance.

Since my son started at this school we have received so much help from them.  
My son has excellent help and understanding for his Aspergers.

Anything from providing a sensory cushion to sit on, to access to a quiet room that he (within reason) can go to for anything from getting away from it to catching up with work.

His TA's are fantastic and he responds to them extremely well. We have open lines of communication with the school by email or phone and if I need to I can make an appointment to speak to them directly whenever I need.

I have regular reports of how he is getting on and he seems to be doing brilliant.  
This is all thanks to his school.  
Thank you.



#### LPCF Comment

Proposed that a submission be made to LPCF Excellence Awards and nomination was made.

### Your Say - My view of the Local Offer

YS 26th May 21

We looked on the Local Offer site but could not see a feedback report, except for 2019. I thought there needed to be an annual report? Am I looking in the wrong place. I followed the PCF website link. Can you help?

#### LPCF Comment

LPCF website checked and LO team alerted to remedy.



### Your Say - Praise of TAs

YS 26th Jun 21

#### Praise – St Georges' Academy

I have been a TA at St Georges' since 2019, and last year my son joined the school and is also on the SEN register. The amount of work that all the TA's have done throughout the lockdowns has been incredible and somewhat unrecognised. They were in supervising classes every day, and supported the children that were in their bubbles. They had to not only sit in on teams lessons and try and support children that way, they were also there to support their worries and upsets during this time. Most of the people who work as TA's do it because they love the job and helping the students reach their full potential.

#### LPCF Comment

Great positive comment in recognising all the work done out there by TAs who have risen to the challenges during Covid. Unfortunately the LPCF Award system does not have a category for a generic job but it may be that parents may like to nominate individuals or school teams for an Award.

# Our Virtual Coffee Event Hosts Christina, John, Lorraine, Stephanie, Emma, Coralie and Rachel.

All of our hosts are parents and carers of children with disabilities and Special Educational Needs and bring with them their own experiences of the challenges they meet on a daily basis.

Most of the volunteers started with us by attending one of our coffee mornings and their profiles can be seen on the team page of our website.

## Thank you

To everyone who kindly took the time to give us their honest opinions.

As Lincolnshire's Parent Carer Forum we believe that families should be involved in any decisions that affect the lives of their families.

The voice of the parent carer and the voice of the child are key to providing good quality service.

Please keep your views coming in. You can use our "Your Say" page, email us your thoughts, feedback to our representatives at your local coffee mornings, Facebook or leave us a message on our answer phone.

Use our LPCF Award system for professionals and or organisations who have provided outstanding services to you and your family. To nominate please see the home page of our website.

## Making parents' views and voices heard with service providers

Contact Details: To find out more about LPCF coffee mornings, events and activities, please use the email address or phone number below.

If you phone, please leave a message and we will return your call.

Website: [www.lincspcf.org.uk](http://www.lincspcf.org.uk)

Email: [admin@lincspcf.org.uk](mailto:admin@lincspcf.org.uk)

Address: **LPCF, PO Box 1183, Spalding, PE11 9EE**

Tel: **07925 232 466 (leave a message)**

To subscribe to the monthly lottery club, use our website (fundraising page) or email [admin@lincspcf.org.uk](mailto:admin@lincspcf.org.uk).

