



March/April 2021

## PROGRAMME UPDATE

*Keeping stakeholders, parents and carers informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme*

### 9. Introducing the new Dudley Parent Carer Forum

Dudley's Parent Carer Forum has relaunched as an independent parent carer forum run by Dudley parents and carers to represent the interests of all families of children with additional needs and disabilities in Dudley.

Its 12-strong Steering Group of Dudley Parent Carers will be led by Jenny Jones (CoChair), Claire Powers (CoChair and Treasurer) and Clare Barklam (Secretary). The 12 parents formed a major part of the previously hosted Steering Group and come from prominent local parent/carers groups and communities and each have a wealth of experience in the world of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

We will shortly be launching our signup process for all parent carers in the borough on our webpage [www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk](http://www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk) and have had productive initial meetings with both Dudley Council's SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Team and Dudley Integrated Health & Care NHS Trust and are representing the views of parents and carers already at several meetings we have continued to attend throughout. We will soon be looking for additional Parent Representatives to help us expand our capacity as we work on a more co-productive basis with all local services relating to children with additional needs and disabilities in Dudley.

Parent Carer Forums are grant funded by the Department for Education to ensure Parent Carers have a voice in each Local Authority Area and to support their development and



strategic involvement in local services. Parent Carer forums should also help to keep the parent carer community informed and provide signposting to support and services available locally.

We can be reached by email on [info@dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk](mailto:info@dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk) and via our holding website at [www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk](http://www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk) We also have a public Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/DudleyPCF](http://www.facebook.com/DudleyPCF)

#### Contacts:

- Acting Director Children's Services - Helen Ellis [helen.ellis@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:helen.ellis@dudley.gov.uk)
- Interim Head of SEND – Toni Dawodu [toni.dawodu@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:toni.dawodu@dudley.gov.uk)
- SEND Manager - Sue Powell – [susan.powell@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:susan.powell@dudley.gov.uk)
- SEND Team Manager North- Rob Bennett [robert.x.bennett@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:robert.x.bennett@dudley.gov.uk)
- SEND Team Manager South –Kelly Warne [kelly.warne@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.warne@dudley.gov.uk)
- SEND Programme Manager – Simon Hickman [simon.hickman@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:simon.hickman@dudley.gov.uk)
- SEND Programme Manager – Paul Klein [paul.klein@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:paul.klein@dudley.gov.uk)

[www.dudleyhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/sendimprovement](http://www.dudleyhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/sendimprovement)