

Sharing Views and Consent Statement

Why should I share my view with you?

Essex Family Forum is the Parent Carer Forum for Essex and was established in accordance with the legal requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014.

A parent carer forum is an organised group of parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) from a local area. The aim of Parent Carer Forums is to influence the decisions that affect SEND families and to contribute to developing services that meet the needs of children with SEND and their families. Parent Carer Forums do this by gathering the views of local families and by working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.

As a Parent Carer Forum, we work closely with the NNPCF (<https://nnpf.org.uk>) who is a representative organisation, and consists of up to 152 local parent carer forums at any time across England. Each of the 9 geographical local authority regions are collectively represented within the NNPCF Steering Group. Our Regional Group is the East of England Parent Carer Forums (ERPCF) This means that we can represent regional and local interests at the national level to empower and enable strategic parent carer participation.

We believe that sharing your story with us gives us a stronger collective voice both within Essex and in England.

Consent to share your views and experiences

To include parent and carer views in our on-going conversations to improve SEND provision in Essex and England we will ask for consent to do so. This can be done by asking you to agree to consent, via a tick box statement on a survey, through e-mail, through our Facebook page, or verbally.

Providing consent means:

- that personal information about you will be collected anonymously, stored securely, and will not identify anyone personally.
- The anonymised data will be used and shared with relevant organisations for the purpose of improving SEND provision within Essex and England but will not identify anyone personally.
- once consent has been provided you have the right to withdraw your views and your views will be removed, however where data has been anonymised and amalgamated in certain circumstances it may not be able to be excluded.

We endeavour to make this clear in all circumstances.

We also, understand that for some parents and carers that they not wish to share their experiences. Where consent is not provided, we are still happy to listen and talk to parents and carers, but we will **not** use those views or use your feedback in our on-going discussions.