

# National Conference 2024 Summary

We attended the National Conference 2024 for Parent Carer Forums on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Newcastle.

With the conference being packed into the one day, there was a very full Agenda. We listened to some interesting speakers, heard about the work of parent/carer forums across the country – we were pleased that some of our work was recognised. We also found out some very useful information on national projects which we are sharing in this conference update.



## Keynote Speaker

David Johnston, Under Secretary of State for Children, Families and Wellbeing gave the Keynote Address for



the conference. He spoke about the “war of attrition” that some parent/carers seem to have to fight to get the right support for their children and young people. He also said that the EHCP tribunal process takes a huge amount of emotional investment that no parent/carer should have to undertake.

## OFSTED/CQC Local Area SEND Inspections

OFSTED/CQC Inspectors carried out 26 Local Area SEND Inspections in 2023.

**27%** of local areas were found to have arrangements that lead to positive experiences for children, young people and families

**42%** of local areas arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences

**31%** of local areas had widespread systemic failings

Perhaps unsurprisingly the themes arising from those are: Strategic Governance, Education Health and Care Plans, Health waiting times, commissioning of services, co-production, information sharing and co-ordination of services.

**The Inspectors advised that the parent/carer survey is a key part of the evidence.**

## EFF's Special Mentions

Our Graffiti Wall and our Supporting your Neurodiverse Child resource\*



## Reports, Guidance and Recommendations

We heard details of recently published reports and guidance that are relevant to children and young people with SEND.

[Buckland Review of Autism Employment](#)

[Nice Guidance on Transitions to Adult Services - Updated Quality Standards](#)

[The HOPE\(S\) Training Model for people with a learning disability and autistic people](#)

## Department for Education (DfE) Workshop

We took part in a workshop run by the DfE. This was to contribute to the development of the Best Practice Guidance for Transitions which will form part of the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

## Law Commission Review of Disabled Children's Social Care

The Law Commission has been asked to conduct a review into Disabled Children's Social Care.

Over the next 3 months there will be a national consultation with parent/carers and children and young people. Keep an eye on our social media for details of how you can be involved.



\* co-written with MyOtas and SEND the Right Message.