



Dear SENCO/Inclusion Manager

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely summer

At the beginning of a new school year Waltham Forest Parent Forum would like to say 'hello' and to remind you that we are keen to help you to support families in your school who have children or young people with special educational needs or a disability.

So that there is no confusion about what we do, we have created a 'myth buster' (right). We hope that makes things clearer.

Parent carer involvement(participation) is crucial to the work we do – it can make a positive difference to lives. Participation and co-production is about parents and professionals working together and recognising each other's expert knowledge. By working in this way, they can design, develop and improve services for disabled children in the local area.

WFPF is a member of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) and parent/carers have been participating in service development in Waltham Forest for 12 years through the forum. **We currently have 990 members but would be grateful if you could pass our information on to ALL families in your setting who have children on SEN support or with an EHC.**

JOIN US

walthamforestparentforum@live.co.uk

07528 433640 or 07794 298496

www.walthamforestparentforum.com

Thank you. We look forward to meeting you and your parents very soon

Best Wishes

WFPF Steering Group

MYTH BUSTER

Forums work for the Local Authority

FALSE

Parent Carer Forums are independent. They work with the local authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and other groups, but have working agreements to ensure they remain independent.

Forums may not campaign

TRUE

The role of the forum is to promote the parent voice through participation and co-production. The forum acknowledges the important role that campaign groups have in helping to get the parent voice heard. At the forum we are happy to work with campaign groups by providing information and feeding back issues they raise.

Parent Carer Forums only go to meetings

FALSE

Parent Carer Forums run coffee mornings and events to allow opportunities for families to get together and feedback their experiences. The forum also provides information and training for families which supports participation.

COFFEE MORNINGS

We currently run a range of support groups for forum members, but we are always available to come to settings to talk to SEND parents about the work we do.

If you'd like someone to attend your coffee mornings or events, please contact us.