



PINS Coffee morning Autumn 2025

2025

PINS Coffee morning

- ▶ Today we are covering :
- ▶ What is a Parent Carer Forum?
- ▶ What is coproduction?
- ▶ What is the Partnership for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)?
- ▶ Raffle!
- ▶ Next Steps and Contacts

What is a Parent Carer Forum?

- Children & Families Act 2014 / SEND Code of Practice 2015

Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years

Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities

January 2015

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Collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support	24

“Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families. Parent Carer Forums have been established in most local areas and local authorities are actively encouraged to work with them.”

Parent Carer Forums

Forums' focus is on participation and co-production. They are solution focused.

Forums represent the collective voice of parent carers, feeding back their experiences of local services

Forums are independent of the Local Authority. Where they receive funding to support participation by the LA, they do so with this understanding

Forums provide challenge when things need to improve and work with providers to try to find solutions

The Forum's role is not to take on individual cases. They are not advocating on behalf of individuals; this is the role of SENDIASS

Forums are not campaign groups. Forums work with campaign groups and take forward their concerns to strategic meetings.

Members of



National Network of Parent Carer Forums
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'
www.nnpcf.org.uk

The National Picture

- The Local Forum is part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.
- The national network which has over 150 forums and a national membership totalling over 110,000: they contribute to local, regional and national consultations.
- Each Parent Carer Forum includes parent carers with a range of experiences in Health, Education and Social Care as their children have a range of conditions.



Slide from Contact

Cheshire East parent carer forum

- ▶ Any parent-carer with a child or young person (age 0-25) with additional needs, living in Cheshire East can join
- ▶ Members get a FREE max card to members - a discount card for families with children with SEND.
- ▶ Gather member views about local services, health and social care and feed back to help improve services across Cheshire East
- ▶ FREE training for our members - including around sleep, dyslexia, EHCPs, SEN Support etc
- ▶ Run our Facebook group (4400 members) which offers peer support, advice and signposting
- ▶ Attend coffee mornings
- ▶ We are all parent carers ourselves and are a member led organisation.



What is co-production?



An equal and reciprocal partnership where everyone's experience, knowledge and skills are used to create better outcomes



The legal framework

The requirement to co-produce with children and their parent-carers and young people is embedded in primary legislation

- The views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person and the child's parents
- ..participating as fully as possible in decisions and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation

The Children and Families Act 2014



- actively promote participation in providing interventions that are co-produced with individuals, families, friends, carers and the community.

The Care Act 2014



- The patient will be at the heart of everything the NHS does
- NHS services must reflect, and should be coordinated around and tailored to, the needs and preferences of patients, their families and their carers

NHS Constitution



However, the main reason to co-produce is that it is the best and most effective way of improving outcomes - e.g. Ofsted/CQC report Initial Findings from Area SEND Interim Visits Nov 2020 [COVID-19 series - briefing on local areas' special educational needs and disabilities provision, October 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Slide from NNPCF



Making coproduction work



Start to finish

Don't involve people half way through the decision making process

Start at the beginning (agreeing what you want to achieve)

Finish at the end (reviewing progress and celebrating success)



Person centred not provision led

Tailor your services around what a young person needs and wants, not what you have historically delivered

Work closely with other practitioners in the child's life, especially early help and therapy services

Be solution focussed and be courageous – break down those barriers!

Making coproduction work



Listen

Welcome people and make them comfortable (cup of tea and ask how they are!)

Make sure everyone knows that you take their views seriously (ask them what they need help with rather than telling them)

No-one should feel as if they have to fight to be heard



Empower and enable

Ensure everyone has the information they need to take part in the discussion.

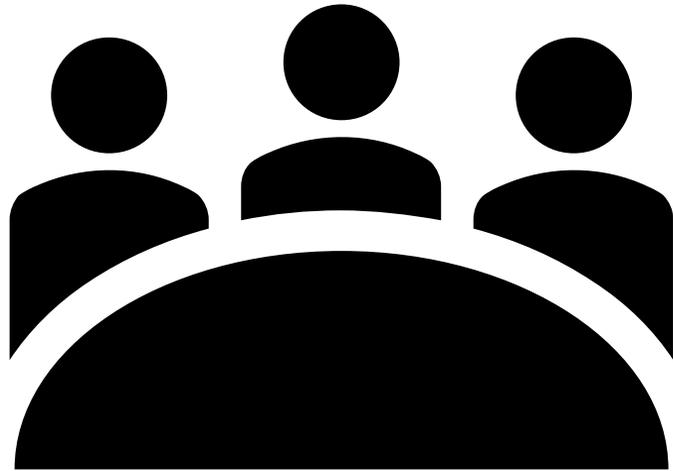
Make sure people have the support they need (e.g. a friend, an advocate)

Make sure you are inclusive (interpreters, flexible appointment times to suit needs, accessible locations)



Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity Pilot (PINS)

- ▶ A joint project involving NHS, Department of education and the National Network of PCFs.
 - ▶ Aimed at enhancing the educational experience of neurodiverse children within mainstream primary schools.
 - ▶ The PINS project was inspired by the success of the national Autism in Schools (AiS) project
 - ▶ Its goal is meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in mainstream schools.
 - ▶ Encourages collaboration between health and education specialists, expert parent carers, and schools.
 - ▶ PINS aims to improve outcomes across attainment, attendance, and well-being.
 - ▶ School get offered additional training on neurodiversity and support.
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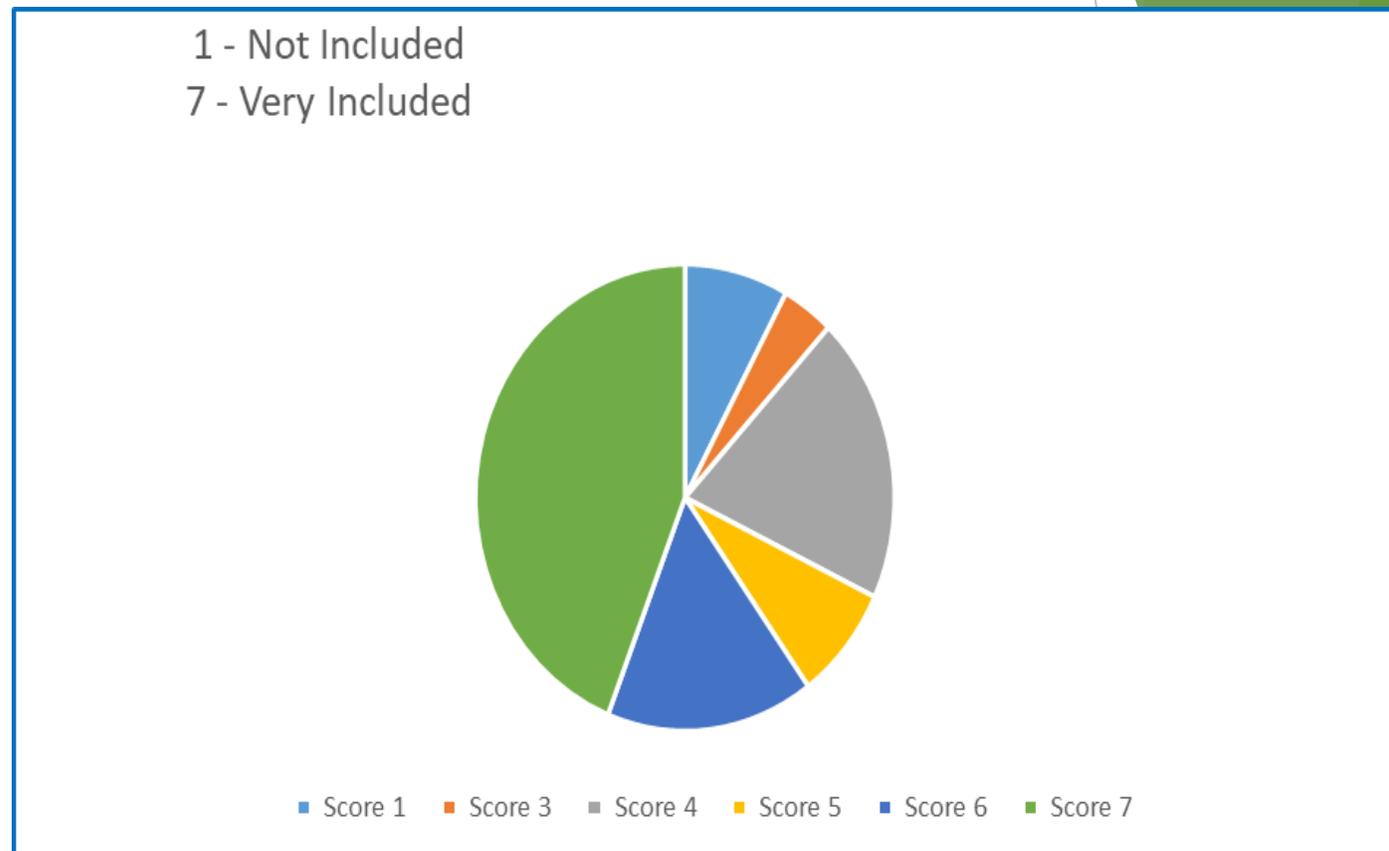


PINS - Role of the PCFs

- ▶ Carrying out parent carer surveys for all schools taking part in PINS
- ▶ Making parents aware of the local Parent Carer Forum.
- ▶ Signposting parents to local resources and the local offer
- ▶ Supporting parents to form peer support groups or coproduction groups to work with their school.
- ▶ Support parents and staff being able to coproduce provisions and adaptations for their children in schools.

Your school survey results

Do you feel your child is included in the wider school community?



Your school survey results

How well does the school communicate with you about your child's development and education?

1 - Never Communicates
7 - Communicates Extremely Well

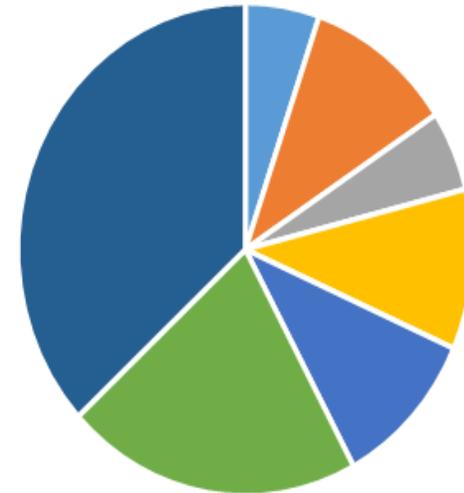


■ Score 1 ■ Score 2 ■ Score 3 ■ Score 4 ■ Score 5 ■ Score 6 ■ Score 7

Your school survey results

Do you feel that the school supports/makes reasonable adjustments to extra-curricular activities and enrichment? eg trips, special events, visitors into school.

1 - Reasonable adjustments are never made
7 - Reasonable adjustments are always made



■ Score 1 ■ Score 2 ■ Score 3 ■ Score 4 ■ Score 5 ■ Score 6 ■ Score 7

Your school survey results

Do you feel your views are heard and valued when communicating with the school about your child?

1 - Never feel heard and valued
7 - Always feel heard and valued



■ Score 1 ■ Score 2 ■ Score 3 ■ Score 4 ■ Score 5 ■ Score 6 ■ Score 7

Your school survey results - quotes

Pikemere has been strong, welcoming and supportive with my child's additional needs

My child has had a good school relationship with staff and other children

We have found the level of SEN Support exceptional, Miss Beresford is proactive and supportive and very approachable with concerns

I feel the process for gaining support is too long



Raffle



Spring Term Coffee morning

- PINS resource box
- The CE Local offer
- What is Inclusion? - The CE SEND Toolkit for Inclusion
- Forming a peer support group for your school.

We are looking for more volunteers



Hold coffee mornings and events



PINS



Represent members experiences at meetings with public services



Check new policies



Support our social media



Join in whatever way suits you best,



At whatever role - parent rep, steering group member, officer

Resources and links



- ▶ Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum
 - [Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum](#)

- ▶ The Cheshire East Local Offer
 - [Local Offer quick links](#)

- ▶ The Cheshire East Toolkit for Inclusion
 - [Toolkit for inclusion](#)

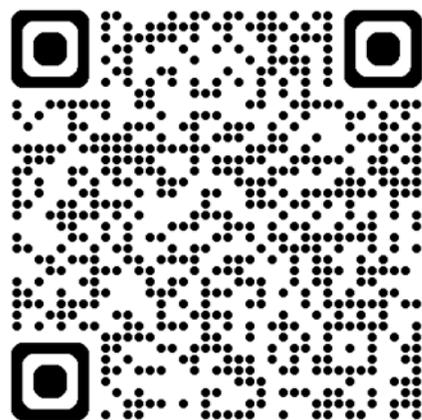
- ▶ Family Hub digital offer
 - [Family Hubs](#)

 - We will cover the local offer and SEND Toolkit more in a future coffee morning



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum

Cheshire East PCF Website



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

