



# Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

Registered Charity No: 1141060 ICO registration Z1810966

## **How the “State of SEND in Lincolnshire” survey helps Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum evaluate, develop and design services in coproduction with partners.**

Every 2 years Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum undertakes an independent survey of the “State of SEND in Lincolnshire”. Two detailed questionnaires go to parents and SENCOs with several areas covered by both (such as ratings of services used, exclusions, school transport etc.). While the forum leads on this, the Local Authority and Health are involved in ensuring the questionnaires are on target to provide an overview of most aspects of SEND services in Lincolnshire.

The survey is designed to be quick and simple. The LA pointed us in the right direction to get more information about schools by asking parents to name their school in the survey. This means we can link to the DfE School census to ascertain information and data about the school without having to ask the parents for this. This data has been really helpful. Although there are 100 questions, the survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete; and the styling/system has now been utilised by the LA in some of their work with parents.

The survey results are published in reports which are circulated widely and we have had positive feedback from the LA, Health, other PCFs, schools and SENCOs thanking us for these detailed independent findings. The LA in particular have valued this as it allows them to gauge how well their SEND practice is working and meeting the needs of families. It also allows an overview of the experiences of SENCOs many of whom work in schools which are not LA maintained settings.

Results generally were good with schools and services rated highly and with most parents appearing satisfied with the state of SEND in Lincolnshire. Many aspects of the survey were comparable with data gathered in 2018 and most showed improvements during the past two years which is something all concerned should be proud of. It also flagged areas which need improvement and the forum will be meeting the LA, Health partners, parents, SENCOs and other partners to outline these key findings and will provide further data analysis where this is needed. We are looking forward to doing more in 2022! The results of our survey can be found here.

[www.lincspcf.org.uk/P\\_Info\\_Library.php](http://www.lincspcf.org.uk/P_Info_Library.php)

## **Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum are also using online signposting & information events to replace their regular face-to-face events where services can hear directly from parents’ their views and experiences.**

Lincolnshire Parent Carer has run three virtual events in place of our May event to ensure that parents are still supported during these challenging times. We invited organisations to join via the Zoom virtual platform at a specified time and the sessions have involved the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND, Health colleagues, LCC (Lincolnshire County Council) Independent Travel Trainers, Travel Counsellors, Liaise (the IASS service), members of the Transitions and Early Years Teams, Home from Home Care, Lincolnshire Young Voices, LCC SEND Team, Carers First, the Family Fund, Linkage and The Wellhead Centre (both charities) and Ruskin Mill (an Independent Specialist provider).

Thirty parents joined us for the sessions. There was a 10-minute overview of the support each organisation offered, then parents could ask questions or use the chat facility which meant that everyone was given a chance to participate. Follow up sessions were arranged for those who needed support or more information from a service. One parent commented about the virtual format *“I like it – (it’s) much easier for me to attend this way than getting to a place”*. Organisations also found it helpful to get feedback directly from parents who use, or may wish to use, their services.

