**Social Care Participation Session report Autumn term 2024**

**Background**

Whilst encouraging co-production in all areas with partners delivering services across Health, Education and Social Care we found that uptake at focus groups was low as parent carers were being asked to attend too many sessions. To ensure that parent carers voices continue to be heard directly by those providing services, we now hold thematic participation sessions with one being held each term for each of the following themes – Health, Mental Health, Education and Social Care (What other help is available). This round was held virtually.

*There were a number of professionals in attendance at the session who heard these voices including Charlotte Lawrence (Fenland Integrated Neighbourhood Team), Jane Watson and Siobhan Macbean (Disabled children’s social care), John Willis (Power 2 Inspire), Heidi Welch (children’s centres), Gemma Whitehouse (Caring Together), Sarah Porter (Ely Primary Care Network). These professionals were all asked to take back issues to their teams that they need to manage and support with.*

*We continue to regularly attend a number of monthly strategic meetings with colleagues in health, education and social care as well as those in the private, voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors where we raise parent carer voices with the professionals involved.*

*We continue to offer weekly Tii hubs for peer support.*

Caring Together explained about the support that they have on offer for parent carers. You can [find out more here](https://pinpointcambs.sharepoint.com/:p:/s/PinpointPublic/EaUTqGS-eqpDp9Rl_lJ6hJMB2cUxpJ--peha8XaWGJ28uA?e=zFqItt).

We heard about the offer from social prescribers. You can get a referral to a social prescriber by asking your GP. They can offer practical, social and emotional support options as well as signposting. They work to identify the barriers to accessing support and work to overcome these. Social prescribers work with parents and families rater than directly with children and young people.

Supporting people with emotional, social and practical support may include:

· getting help with housing

· getting help with transport, mobility, and accessibility

· accessing advice around money, debt, and benefits

· managing forms and correspondence

· making meaningful social connections

· connecting with mental health services and social services

· maintaining healthy lifestyles, activities, and exercise

· finding and maintaining employment and meaningful activities

· getting help with activities of daily living and assistive technology

· Getting help for family members or caring responsibilities they may have.

We heard from the Fenland Integrated Neighbourhood team about the work that they do. Integrated Neighbourhoods are localised teams offering integrated care and support services locally to meet the needs of local people.

You can [find out more here](https://pinpointcambs.sharepoint.com/:p:/s/PinpointPublic/EYu9UyoemA9AswWeAdfctigBN3NTskL3d6CVEU6_YV_qvA?e=pK5SFl).

We heard from children’s centres about the support they offer. They have groups for children under 5 (8 during school holidays) and are fully inclusive of all needs as well as having some specific SEND groups. They also host partners such as MIND so there are often a wealth of professionals and organisations that can help families on site. They can also support with access to food banks and have a range of free clothes for under 5s. Children’s centres are able to support with short term loans of specialist equipment such as adapted tries and sensory resources. To keep up to date with what’s happening in your local children’s centre, the easiest way is to follow them on social media <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireCC>.

Disabled children’s social care made us aware of a consultation that is currently open until **20th January 2025** regarding law changes in children’s social care.

You can access the [full consultation paper here](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/cloud-platform-e218f50a4812967ba1215eaecede923f.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/sites/30/2024/10/Disabled_-Children_Social_Care_CP.pdf).

There is a [summary version here](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/cloud-platform-e218f50a4812967ba1215eaecede923f.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/sites/30/2024/10/24.117_LC_Disabled_childrens_social_care_Summary_WEB.pdf).

[This is where you can give your views](https://consult.justice.gov.uk/law-commission/disabled-childrens-social-care/).