



Southend SEND Independent Forum



What is a forum?

Southend SEND Independent Forum was formed by parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Our aim is to make sure the services in Southend meet the needs of SEND children and their families.

The forum is independent and not part of the council or health service.



How do we help to make services meet childrens needs?

Our forum promotes parental voice to influence change through listening events, discussion groups and working groups.

We gather the views of local families and work with the council, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.

Who can join a forum ?

WELCOME

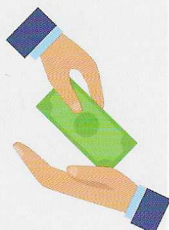
The forum is open to parent carers, family members, guardians and foster parents of children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities 0-25 (no diagnosis needed).

If you live in Southend-on-Sea or access services from education, health or social care in Southend-on-Sea, we would love you to join us.

Does it cost to be part of the forum?

No. Parent Carer Forums are FREE to join. You will not be charged to be part of the forum.

You will receive a newsletter which shares information about social events and ways you can share your views and experiences of services.



Ways you can get involved

There are lots of different ways to get involved from completing a survey or attending an event. Everyone is welcome.

There are also roles such as a parent carer representative within the forum.

The more people that get involved, the more we can accurately represent what it is like for children, young people and their families.



Is the forum a campaign group?

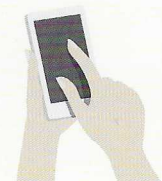


No, campaigning is not aligned with the forum's ethos. We work with services to help them understand the experiences of families and find solution to issues. In addition the funding we receive from the Department for Education cannot be used to campaign.

We influence change through working together and constructively challenge service providers.

The forum acknowledges the important role that campaign groups have in helping to get the voice of parents heard. We are happy to work with campaign groups by feeding back the issues they raise and providing them with information.

How can I find out more?



You can find our more by visiting:

Website - www.southendsendindependentforum.co.uk

Facebook- @TheSSIF

Twitter - @SouthendSend

You can also contact us:

Email - southendsendindependentforum@gmail.com

We want to hear about all your experiences as SEND families in Southend.