



Chairs Report November 2017 – October 2018

PACC, during 2017/18, went from strength to strength. During this year the Steering Group evolved and changed, we extend our thanks to the Management Board members that stepped down and those that joined us. Our journey continued with our local partners across health, social care, education, and the voluntary community sector.

Over the year 17/18 we participated in:

- **EHCP Assessment Process and Review Group**
- **EHCP Moderation Panel**
- **Post 16 working group**
- **Early Years working group**
- **SEND Provision Development Group**
- **Short Breaks non-assessed commissioning group (All In)**
- **Local Offer engagement opportunities**
- **SEND Strategic Board and associated workstreams**
- **SEND Area Inspection Readiness working group**
- **Quarterly meetings with Director of Childrens Services at Shropshire Council**
- **West Midlands Parent Carer Network Meetings**
- **Shropshire Transition Event**
- **Shropshire Partnership Board Summit – Are we serious about Co-production?**
- **Learning Disability Partnership Board**
- **Family Carers Partnership Board**

And delivered and hosted:

- **Training hospital staff about reasonable adjustments for SEND families**
- **Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service development workshops for Learning Disabilities and Autism Pathways**
- **Preparation For Adulthood Regional Workshop**
- **Six Management Board Meetings**
- **One edition of Participate Newsletter**
- **Three ebuletins**

Reports produced:

- **Participation Report – Developing SEND provision in Shropshire**
- **Participation Report - Developing Neuro-developmental and LD Pathways in Shropshire**

Social Media growth:

- **146 new followers on the main PACC Facebook page (currently 685)**
- **Increased Twitter followers to 819**

We developed a new relationship with a local parent group, Parent Supporting Parents, in Bayston Hill. This group had been formed to provide support to local parent carers within the Bayston Hill community. PACC were pleased to help the group and have now supported the development of two further groups in Ryton XI Towns and Much Wenlock following a similar model. These groups benefit from support from PACC to facilitate and host events and provide an extended network for our community participation and engagement work.

PACC has continued to share your experiences and feedback through our national organisation, the National Network of Parent Carer Forums. Over this financial year (17/18) we have engaged in 10 national consultations through our ongoing regional conversations and feedback via our Regional Steering Group Member for the NNPCF. Any written responses we have contributed will have been published on our website where relevant. This demonstrates how connected your voices are to influencing national policy.

PACC also work extremely hard to ensure that locally your voices, experiences, expectations, and concerns are heard by key members of the Local Authority and Health Organisations. In this year we have met with:

- **The Director of Childrens Services (Social Care & Education at LA)**
- **Social Care Managers (Childrens & Adults)**
- **Designated Clinical Officer (SEND Health Manager at the Clinical Commissioning Group)**
- **Women and Childrens Commissioning Lead (CCG)**
- **Early Help and Disabled Childrens Team Managers**
- **SEN Team Manager**
- **Adult Social Care Portfolio holder (Shropshire Council Member)**
- **Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing Service Managers (CAMHS and BeeU)**
- **And many more...**

These opportunities are used to share on the ground experiences you tell us about daily. They are used to shape and influence local decisions being made about services that our families use. We explore the good, the bad, and often the ugly with all these representatives. It is not an easy task to sit and share some of the complicated and heart-breaking experiences that you share with us but they are essential to hear when shaping how a service should improve. What we do enjoy is when you share some of the wins and wow moments from your lives. Being able to show practitioners and their managers what good practice looks like and how good practice should feel to families helps us promote the benefits of hearing your voices, taking note, and taking action. It also improves services we work with strategically.

PACC representatives do an amazing job of championing the inclusion of Parent Carers voices and experiences both individually and through PACCs Strategic work within our SEND community. Because of this, we must acknowledge the hard work that goes in to the ongoing management and daily operational running of PACC. As we have shared in our financial report, over 17/18 and continuing into this year 18/19 we have only had financial capacity to employ one administrator. This means that all other aspects of PACC business are conducted by our Management Board, Trustees, and Parent Carer Representatives on a voluntary basis. This can often be a difficult balancing act for us all as many of us also have jobs or other commitments to maintain as well as our caring roles at home. It can feel like a thankless and underappreciated task at times. Especially when things like the current transport review happens with no communication or prior acknowledgment

of our potential role in this conversation, making us feel that we are still pushing the “Coproduction Rock” up the hill. But we continue to push that rock because we know that although we as PACC can feel isolated at times, we are surrounded by all of you within our wider SEND community. We are not alone.

Having said that, the ongoing resources required from PACC to enable our strategic participation to continue at the rate of growth we have seen in the last few years is becoming exhausted. We have a reducing number of Management Board members, a limited number of Parent Carer Representatives, and an increasing demand for Parent Carer Strategic Participation. We recognise that this is happening for many reasons ranging from personal circumstance to changing personal priorities. This puts PACC in a vulnerable position, so in 17/18 we took stock of where we were and in 18/19 reviewed our position and priorities. Due to the ongoing demand for our time, this work has stalled and is due to be picked up again in the next financial year. This means that it is a great time to join PACC as more than a member. We have reflected and recognise that our commitment to support the development of our Parent Carer Reps team has not been fulfilled, so moving forward we are keen to revisit this. Over 18/19 we are concentrating on increasing our reach to our members through the development of the Parents Supporting Parents groups and plan to extend the Parent Carer Representative team development into 19/20 focusing on recruiting and training reps. We welcome expressions of interest to become a Parent Carer Representative from anyone within the PACC membership.

We would like to thank all our current board, those stepping down, and those standing for election today for their contributions to PACCs strategic aims and vision. Without whom your voices would have no vehicle for change.

Zara Bowden & Mike Thomas
Co-Chairs
PACC