

SEND together workshop 1

In Lancashire, children, young people, parent carers and those who deliver services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, are starting their journey to work together.

On the 2nd June 2016 #Sendtogether launched this journey, a journey that is innovative, exciting and challenging - as it is a brand new way of working.

There will be challenges on our journey and we already know that we will not be able to give everyone all that they want, but we want to make a difference to the future of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Lancashire.

At the first workshop the discussions and activities produced the following 4 steps needed for this journey to be successful

- **Engage** – this means involving everyone to develop services in the right place at the right time
- **Listen** – We need to spend time listening to what people want so that we don't waste services on things they don't need. We need to make sure everyone has an equal voice and is heard.
- **Participate** – we need to work as a team and make sure collaboration is done equally with everyone involved.
- **Co-produce** – by building on what we know and using people's energy, experience and knowledge to shape our services.

By everyone working together, we can help children, young people and their families to get the right support at the right time. This will be achieved by looking at what we have now and building on this to make a better future.

We are making a fresh start by implementing a new strategy, but this will be challenging as we have limited resources.

#SENDtogether brings children and young people, parents and carers, to be involved in influencing plans for SEND services together - and our next steps are to invite along people from services that support us with our EHC plans.

This includes the people who decide where the funding goes, those from the places and services that we use, and also those who we look up to and who inspire us.

Our four promises from the first day are we will:

- include everybody
- Spread the word in a range of ways
- Share success
- And use any lessons learnt

What are the next steps?

Step one - The SEND together group is going to provide a voice for parents, carers and young people in influencing the plans for SEND during the coming year.

Step two – we will evaluate this new way of working after the next 2 workshops

Step three – we will support young people's participation through POWAR

Step four – we will recognise the Lancashire Parent Care Forum and their role in the workshop going forward.

Step five - POWAR will present progress to Lancashire County Council senior officers and Councillors.

Step six – we will adopt some ground rules going forward

The next workshop will be in November.

If you are not a member of this group and wish to have your voice heard please speak to Liaison Officers, visit your local parent carer group, speak to the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum or contact POWAR.