

Dear Sirs

Schools Forum

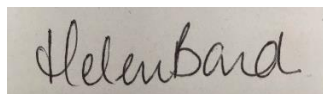
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum.

Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum exists to ensure that the views of Parent Carers are heard across the county of Gloucestershire. By definition, a Parent Carer is someone who looks after a child or young person with a disability, medical need or a Special Educational Need from birth to the age of twenty-five (in line with EHCP's). The Parent Carer Forum aims to promote good practice, identify need and inform planning processes and ensure that there are services to support all children with disabilities or special educational needs. The forum is funded by an annual grant from the Department of Education, it currently employs a part-time Coordinator and has a volunteer committee with a steadily growing membership. The Forum is a strategic partner with Gloucestershire County Council and has good links with the Education Team.

As a strategic partner we have already been in conversation with Phil Haslett about proposals for a High Needs Spending Review and members of our committee have agreed to give their time, voluntarily, to ensure proper co-production throughout the process. As co-production is at the heart of what we in the Forum believe in we would ask that you consider allowing a member of the Parent Carer Forum a seat on the Schools Forum. We believe that this would be a benefit to you as it would allow a parent carer perspective on proposed reform of the High Needs Spend. Our view is very much that this would not be an oppositional position, although the Forum will hold the County Council to account where needed, but one which will help to ensure a more holistic approach to education for children with additional needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully



Helen Bond

Coordinator for Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum