



Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Family Voice Surrey newsletter! We're delighted to introduce this new way of keeping you connected with our community.

Each issue will bring you the latest news, upcoming events, helpful resources, and opportunities to get involved in shaping services for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities across Surrey.

At Family Voice Surrey, parents carers are at the heart of everything we do. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed, and share information that supports families on their journey.

Thank you for being part of our network. We're looking forward to staying connected with you.

In this addition

In this first edition of the Family Voice Surrey newsletter, we're sharing how parent carers are making a difference by influencing services, challenging barriers and strengthening the parent carer voice across Surrey.

Inside, you'll find bite-sized updates on our recent work, opportunities to get involved, and how your feedback is influencing local and national SEND discussions. We know time is precious, especially over the summer, so we've included links to more detailed reports and information if you'd like to explore any topic further.

We're also looking ahead, with opportunities to help shape the future of Family Voice Surrey and tell us what matters most to you.

Highlights from Family Voice Surrey

Let's Move Family Fun Day

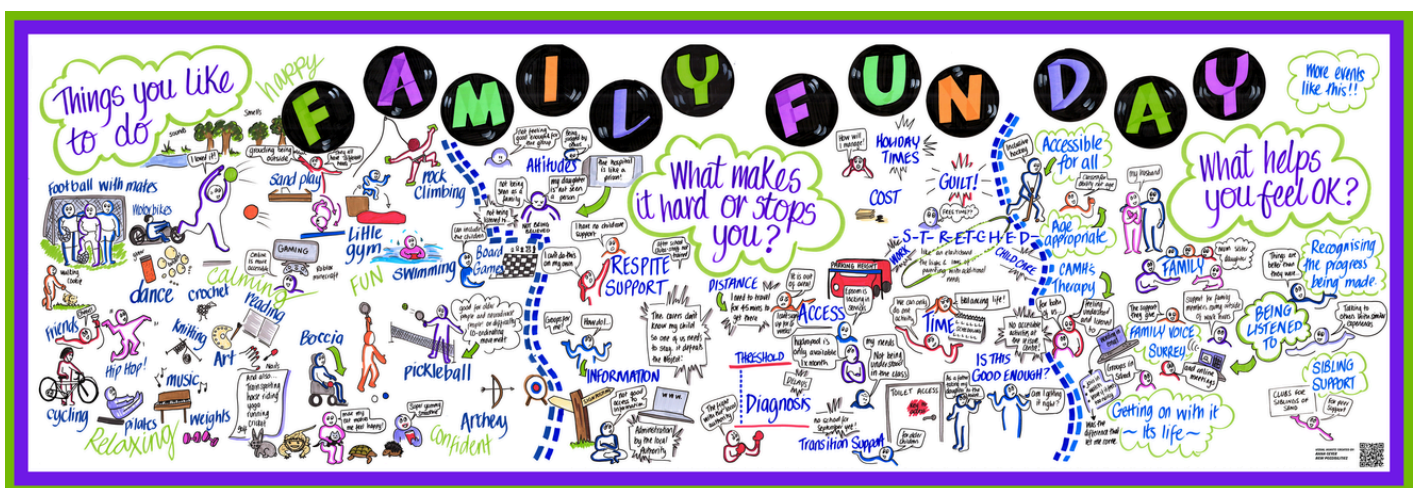
What an incredible day! We were thrilled to welcome more than 300 Surrey families to Guildford Spectrum for our Let's Move Family Fun Day with Active Surrey.

It was wonderful to see children and young people with additional needs and disabilities, alongside their families, enjoying a day filled with inclusive activities, laughter and new experiences.

Events like these are about more than just being active, they're an opportunity for families to have fun together, meet others who understand their journey, and discover local organisations, activities and support available across Surrey.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day such a success. We loved hearing your feedback, and as you can see from the image created at the event, families shared lots of brilliant ideas and reflections.

Your views are so important to us and will help shape future Family Voice Surrey events, ensuring they continue to meet the needs of parent carers and their families. If you have any suggestions for future events either email us at: contact@familyvoicesurrey.org or message us via our Facebook page.



PINS – Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

In April, we successfully completed the second round of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme, working with a further 30 schools across Surrey to help create more inclusive learning environments for neurodivergent children and young people. A heartfelt thank you to every parent carer who shared their experiences so openly.

Your lived experience has been central to this work, helping our team of project workers support schools to better understand the needs of neurodivergent pupils and make meaningful improvements to inclusion.

The feedback you've shared doesn't stop there. We are using what we've heard to shape our ongoing work and strengthen our conversations with schools, Surrey County Council, and other service providers, ensuring the voices of parent carers continue to influence the services and support that children, young people and families receive across Surrey.



Strengthening Parent Carer Voice

It's been a record-breaking year for attendance at our engagement events, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has joined us. It's been fantastic to connect with so many parent carers, share information and create opportunities to learn together.

Thanks to your feedback, we've delivered a wide range of webinars and information sessions on topics including Alternative Provision, Key Stage Transfers, Home to School Transport, Dyslexia, Neurodiversity and Sleep, Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Preparation for Adulthood and Adult Social Care, Ordinarily Available Guidance, Surrey Welfare, EHCPs, Personal Budgets and much more.

Your experiences, questions and ideas help us plan future events and influence the conversations we have with local services. Please keep sharing what's important to you as we'd love to hear what topics you'd like us to cover next.

Your Voice



Everything we do at Family Voice Surrey is driven by the experiences and insights of parent carers. By sharing your views, you're helping to influence local and national conversations and shape better support for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

SEND Reform Consultation

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our collective response to the Department for Education's SEND Reform consultation. Whether you took part in an engagement session, completed a survey or shared your views by email, your experiences helped shape our response and ensured the voices of Surrey parent carers were represented and challenged areas families were concerned about.

Read our full consultation response here:
<https://shorturl.at/XZHjs>

New SEND Communication Arrangements

Following the introduction of Surrey County Council's new SEND communication arrangements, many of you shared your experiences through our engagement sessions, polls and feedback opportunities.

We've brought your views together and submitted them to Surrey County Council, ensuring your experiences are reflected in ongoing discussions about SEND communications. In addition we have arranged follow up sessions with Surrey County Council and the

Read the full report here: <https://shorturl.at/vbxDO>

Annual Parent Carer Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our 2026 Annual Parent Carer Survey. Every response helps us build a clearer picture of the experiences of families across Surrey, providing vital evidence to influence improvements to local SEND services and support. We'll be sharing the survey findings after the summer holidays and will be taking the results to the Additional Needs and Disabilities Board in September.


10 September 12pm

Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)

The government has launched a consultation on EOTAS. To help shape our response we are holding an online engagement session on 10 September at 12pm.

In addition we have a short feedback form you can complete if you can't attend.



[Feedback form](#)



[Event Booking](#)


16 September 10:30-12:30

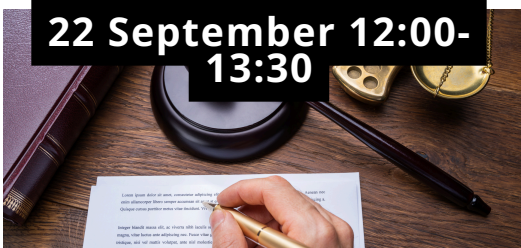
Participation Drop-in

Kate and Leanne run a monthly online drop-in session for Parent Carer members. These sessions are a great opportunity to:

- Hear about the projects FVS is currently involved in
- Share your lived experiences
- Ask questions
- Help shape future workstreams and priorities

We hope these sessions will create an open and welcoming space for connection, feedback, and collaboration.

[Event registration](#)



22 September 12:00-13:30

Appeals and Judicial Review

Join Family Voice Surrey for a free online webinar on Appeals and Judicial Review (JR)!

Learn more about the appeals process and Judicial Review in this informative session led by Rob Price from HCB Solicitors. With lots of opportunity for Q&A.

Whether you're supporting a child or young person with SEND or simply want to understand your rights and options, this webinar is a great opportunity to gain expert guidance.

[Booking link](#)


30 September

SEND Advice SURREY
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
information, advice and support

SEND Advice Surrey

As you may be aware Send Advice Surrey have been doing some drop-in sessions at Family Centres recently, which have been really popular.

However, we recognise not everyone is able to access in person sessions. As a result, Send Advice Surrey will be doing an online drop in session for Family Voice Surrey Parent Carers on the evening of 30th September.

Spaces are limited so please email contact@familyvoicesurrey.org to register your interest.

Help Shape the Future of Family Voice Surrey



As many of you will know, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is bringing changes to how local services across Surrey will be organised in the future. The plans will mean that Surrey will become 2 new local authority areas as shown in the map below. You can find out more on the Future Surrey dedicated website at www.surreylgrhub.gov.uk

While we don't yet know exactly what these changes will mean for Parent Carer Forums, we do know that the voices of parent carers must be at the heart of any future decisions. Before we consider what FVS should look like in the future, we want to understand what life is like for families now.

We know that many families access services across different parts of Surrey. Your child may go to school in one area, receive health services in another, and access leisure activities somewhere else. We also know that every family's experience is different.

This survey is your opportunity to tell us:

- which services your family uses and where you access them;
- what's working well and where there are challenges;
- whether there are services you feel are missing or under pressure;
- how you feel Local Government

Reorganisation might affect your family; and what you think FVS should focus on as we plan for the future.

Your feedback will help us build a clear picture of the experiences of parent carers across Surrey. We'll use what you tell us, alongside further engagement events later this year, to help shape future discussions.

No decisions have been made about the future. This survey is about listening first. We want any future plans to be based on the experiences, priorities and needs of the families we represent.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Your views are incredibly important and will help ensure Family Voice Surrey continues to be a strong, independent voice for parent carers across Surrey.

Complete the survey via the link below - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVSfuture>

FASD Awareness Month – Walk & Talk



17 Wednesday 23 September

10.30am

RHS Garden Wisley

Are you caring for a child or young person with, or who may have, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)?

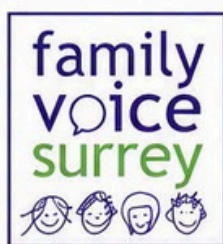
We'd love you to join us for a relaxed morning of conversation, connection and support with other parent carers.

Enjoy complimentary coffee and cake, with the option to take a gentle walk around the beautiful RHS Garden Wisley..

It's a chance to meet others who understand, share experiences and enjoy some time together in a welcoming environment.

To book your place or ask any questions, please email us at contact@familyvoicesurrey.org. We look forward to welcoming you.

We are grateful to RHS Garden Wisley for free tickets for this event.



Speaking up.
Making
a difference.

WE'RE HIRING!

3 ROLES. ONE MISSION.

Help us make sure every parent carer voice is heard, valued and drives change across Surrey.



Family Voice Surrey is the official parent carer forum for families of children and young people (0–25) with SEND in Surrey.

Together, we shape and improve services through co-production and active parent carer involvement.



ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Capture, represent and amplify the collective voice of parent carers. Build trusted relationships, gather feedback through events and conversations and ensure parent carer views shape better services.



10 hours per week term time only



Hybrid role – regular travel to events & approx. 2–3 office days per month



£28,860 PA FTE pro rata



Travel as required – expenses paid

2 ROLES AVAILABLE



SELDOM HEARD VOICES OFFICER

Engage with parent carers whose voices are less often heard, initially focusing on EBSNA. Reduce barriers to participation and ensure lived experience influences decision-making and service development.



10 hours per week term time + 2 weeks flexible working over the summer holidays



Hybrid role – regular travel to events & approx. 2 office days per month



£28,000 PA FTE pro rata



Travel as required – expenses paid

2 ROLES AVAILABLE



COMMUNICATIONS LEAD

Lead our communications to raise awareness, share impact stories and keep families, partners and stakeholders informed. Manage content across digital, print and social channels and support campaigns, events and more.



10 hours per week term time + 2 weeks flexible working over the summer holidays



Hybrid role – regular travel to events & approx. 2 office days per month



£32,000 PA FTE pro rata



Travel as required – expenses paid

1 ROLE AVAILABLE



WHY JOIN US?

- Flexible hybrid working
- Full training and ongoing support
- Opportunities to develop new skills
- Experience of co-production
- A friendly, supportive team
- Make a real difference for families



APPLICATIONS CLOSE:
Thursday 14th August 2025



INTERVIEWS:
Week commencing
24th August 2025

VIEW FULL JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND HOW TO APPLY AT WWW.FAMILYVOICESURREY.ORG

OUR VALUES



BE HEARD
We give families a strong collective voice.



WORK TOGETHER
We are parent carer led and work in true partnership.



BE VALUED
We ensure parent carers are valued as equal partners.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
We support parent carers to understand their rights and choices.

Interested?

If you're passionate about making a difference and ensuring no voice is left unheard, we'd love to hear from you! Visit www.familyvoicesurrey.org for the full job descriptions





As another busy school year comes to an end, we'd like to wish all of our families a restful and **enjoyable** summer.



Our Parent Carer staff team will also be taking a well-earned summer break.

Our office will be **closed** from

24th July to 1st September 2026.



During this time, we'll be checking emails and social media periodically throughout the holidays and will respond as soon as we're able.



While we hope the summer is a positive time for everyone, we know that the school holidays can bring extra challenges for some families. Please remember that **support is available** if you need it:



Family Voice Surrey – contact@familyvoicesurrey.org
(emails monitored periodically during the holidays)



NHS 111 – Mental health support, emotional wellbeing, and urgent healthcare advice.



Mindworks Surrey 24/7 Crisis Line – ☎ 0800 915 4644



Mindworks Surrey Neurodevelopmental Needs Helpline – ☎ 0300 222 5755
(5pm–11pm daily)



SEND Advice Surrey –
<https://www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk/>

We look forward to seeing you again in September!

Help Shape Our Next Issue

Our newsletter is one of the ways we share how we represent, champion and strengthen the parent carer voice.

Your experiences, ideas and questions help us influence change, improve services and ensure the issues that matter most to families are heard.

By sharing your views, you can help us:

- Influence local services and decision-makers
- Improve information, support and opportunities for families
- Secure better outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families
- Challenge barriers and raise issues that matter to parent carers
- Achieve positive change through partnership and co-production
- Represent the experiences and priorities of parent carers across our community
- Champion good practice and celebrate what is making a difference

Get in Touch

Every conversation helps us build a stronger collective voice. Your feedback helps shape future newsletters and supports our work in influencing, improving, securing, challenging, achieving, representing and championing better outcomes for parent carers and their families.

Email us at:
contact@familyvoicesurrey.org

Together, we're strengthening the parent carer voice.

We'd Love to Hear From You

This is our first issue and we would like to know what you like us to cover in future issues?

- What topics would help you feel more informed or connected?
- What information would help you navigate services with greater confidence?
- Are there services, organisations or community groups you'd like us to spotlight?
- Have you discovered a useful resource, charity or local group that other families should know about?
- Is there someone you'd like us to interview?
- Do you have a success story, lived experience or practical tip that could support another parent carer?
- What questions would you like us to ask local decision-makers on your behalf?
- What issues should we be influencing, challenging or championing together?

