

# Dudley Parent Carer Forum

## Annual Report 2017 / 18



### We extended our reach once again!

- 80 professionals receive our updates
- 100 parents are on our email list
- 169 followers on Facebook
- 240 followers on twitter
- 800 parents receive the newsletter
- 2,182 views on the website



### 131 Parent carers

Had their views, experiences and ideas heard and were involved in influencing and shaping SEND services across the borough.

They attended over

### 32 Strategic Meetings!



*"I feel the support Dudley Parents Forum has received from DCVS has helped the group to grow in confidence, feeling that we can make a difference. We have been able to meet with professionals and been encouraged to put our views which are valued."*

*Forum Member*

### The Parent Carer Forum has influenced

- Education, Health and Care Plans
- The Local Offer
- Preparation for Adulthood
- Dudley CCG's Improvement plan
- Local Government Associations Peer Review
- Short Breaks decision panel
- SEN Improvement Board
- Regional Meetings



Parent carers volunteered and gave

### Over 300 hours of their time

To ensure services improved for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities



**Volunteer**

*"We have been able to make an amazing impact for parents and carers in the area and their children and have been involved in all new initiatives regarding SEND"*

*Forum Member*

### In 2017 Dudley CVS staff helped empower Forum parent carers to start their own crafting group.

These parents have an abundance of skills and wanted to do something for themselves and others that took them away from their caring responsibilities.

DCVS helped them obtain funding and a sustainable model and they meet monthly to share a range of skills and ideas

To find out more visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1033975506747466/>

**Next steps...** The forum will continue to go from strength to strength by influencing services and collaborating with professionals.

We will build on the great work we have begun and also be involved in the development of the new Dudley Disability Service and the new SEND Area Strategy.

The forum thanks professionals from DMBC SEN team, Dudley CCG, Pens Meadow, Old Park and Sutton Special Schools, Dudley, Halesowen and BMET Colleges and the Local Government Association.