

# **Becoming a Parent Representative**

## **Legislation supporting Parent Participation**

### **The Children's and Family Act 2014**

- **The ambition:**
  - The Department for Education want all children and young people to achieve well in their early years, at school and in college; find employment; lead happy and fulfilled lives; and have choice and control over their support.
- **Section 19 CFA - The Local Authority must have regards to:**
  - The views, wishes and feelings of the child, young person and their parents
  - The importance of allowing them to participate in decisions relating to themselves (or their child)
  - The importance of providing information to enable active participation in decision-making
  - The need to support the child, young person and their parents to facilitate development and enable the best possible outcomes, educational or otherwise.
- **Key changes:**
  - Children and young people and parent carers at the heart of assessment and planning
  - Change in culture – assessments and plans should be undertaken using person centred approaches
  - Focus on the outcomes for children and young people

### **SEN Code of Practice 2015**

- 1.11 Local authorities must consult children with SEN or disabilities, their parents, and young people with SEN or disabilities in reviewing educational and training provision and social care provision and in preparing and reviewing the Local Offer. It is important that they participate effectively in decisions about support available to them in their local area
- 1.12 Effective participation should lead to a better fit between families' needs and the services provided, higher satisfaction with services, reduced costs (as long-term benefits emerge) and better value for money. Local authorities should work with children, young people and parents to establish the aims of their participation, mark progress and build trust
- They should make use of existing organisations and forums which represent the views of parents – and those which represent the views of children and young people directly – and where these do not exist, local authorities should consider establishing them.

- Effective participation happens when:
  - it is recognised, valued, planned and resourced (for example, through appropriate remuneration and training)
  - it is evident at all stages in the planning, delivery and monitoring of services
  - there are clearly described roles for children, young people and parents
  - there are strong feedback mechanisms to ensure that children, young people and parents understand the impact their participation is making
- 1.13 Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families.

## Health and Social Care Act 2012 Amendments to NHS Act 2006

Two legal duties requiring CCGs and commissioners in NHS England to enable

- Patients and carers to participate in planning, managing and making decisions about their care and treatment through the services they commission (s.14u s13h)
- The effective participation of the public in the commissioning process itself, so that services provided reflect the needs of local people (s14Z2)

## The Care Act 2014

Actively promotes participation in providing interventions that are coproduced with individuals, families, friends, carers and the community.

## NHS Constitution

- You have the right to be involved in planning and making decision about your health and care with your care provider(s), including your end-of-life care, and to be given information and support to enable you to do this. Where appropriate the right includes your family and carers.
- You have the right to be involved, directly or through representatives, in the planning of healthcare services commissioned by NHS bodies, the development and consideration of proposals for changes in the way those services are provided, and in decisions to be made effecting the operation of those services.