4th April 2019

Dear parents, carers, children and young people of Essex,

Essex Family Forum would like to invite you to take part and have your voice heard!

As the independent Parent Carer Forum for Essex, we are a well-informed, connected and empowered community of families that includes children and young people up to the age of 25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities. We work in partnership with organisations, our local authority and health commissioners aiming for quality outcomes that meet the needs of all our families. Find us here at www.essexfamilyforum.org

Developing a strategy for SEND in Essex

Family participation is very important to the development of Essex services. For 10 weeks until 31st May 2019 a period of public engagement will run and during this time a survey is available through Essex County Council, for you to give your views.

In addition, Essex Family Forum will be hosting Vision for SEND in ESSEX - Parent/carer Engagement Workshops. These are free to attend and will be held at various locations across Essex. We will be running 12 daytime sessions 10.30 am – 12.30 pm and 4 evening sessions 7 pm – 8.30pm. For full details of dates/locations and how to book your place at one of the sessions please visit www.eventbrite.co.uk (search Vision for SEND in Essex or Essex Family Forum) or contact us at hello@essexfamilyforum.org

At these workshops we will be asking you to tell us what's happening now, what's working, and what's not. We would love to hear what you have to say! This will be followed by the opportunity to draw a line in the sand, take stock and think about how you would like to see SEND services develop moving forward. We would like you to share your vision for SEND under two main headings; Developing School led SEND & Growing the Specialist SEND Provision in Essex. (Full details of what these headings mean, can be found in the document Developing a strategy for SEND in Essex)

From small changes and bright ideas to big innovations, we want to hear them all! As parents/carers you have knowledge and insight that makes you experts because of your lived experiences. Your input at these events will be anonymous and fed back forming part of the public engagement that will influence the strategy for SEND in Essex. Take this opportunity to get involved, have your say and together we will make a difference...we look forward to seeing you there!

Yours faithfully,

Essex Family Forum – the parent carer forum for Essex.

For more information please see the links provided: The Full document Developing a strategy for SEND in Essex was published by ECC in March 2019. The SEND Strategy in Essex and more information on how to get involved is on the Local Offer. you are also invited to take part in an Online survey.