



WELCOME TO THE
PARENT AND CARER ALLIANCE C.I.C.

Specialist Community Connector



WHO ARE THE ALLIANCE?

Independent organisation of 3 Directors and 4 Family Support Workers who are all parent carers themselves.

Supported by 2 Independent Social Workers and a team of Volunteers

Our Aims are that families:

- Feel less alone, more recognised and supported,**
- Are better prepared and informed, and**
- Are able to champion getting the needs of their vulnerable children met**



WHAT DOES THE ALLIANCE DO?

We provide specialist advocacy support and work on improvement projects with community organisations and charities, local authority and health providers.

We work at making a positive difference by responding to the issues raised by our community of parent carers and their families

Our involvement in research has included co-working with Professor Luke Clements on research into improvements to Disability Needs Assessments, and

Gaining an award for 'Making a positive difference to society'



THE FOCUS FOR HAF

The HAF programme provision and activities are inclusive of all children and young people, including those who may have a disability or who have Special Educational Needs.

- Be safe and not to be socially isolated
- Have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
- Be more engaged with school and other local services.

Families who are on benefits need support with food and holiday provision.

Families with disabled children are twice as likely to be living in poverty and isolation and suffer greater barriers to participation.

We see our role as supporting providers to understand the challenges, to find ways to overcome the barriers and to increase accessibility.



PURPOSE OF SPECIALIST COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

To improve the HAF programme for SEND families, and to deliver more inclusive and accessible provision through improvements to HAF provider training programmes and to the resources used by the families and providers.

The feedback provided by the Specialist Community Connector will be used to inform the redesign of any new Gloucestershire HAF programme.



HOW IS THIS TO BE ACHIEVED

Through consultation with our members, gather their experiences and opinions to enable the review of

- Current soft launch arrangements
- All About Me and All About Us forms and processes
- Provider accessibility and inclusivity training sessions
- The evaluation form questions
- The session programme and evaluations.
- Data from Spring HAF – including parent and family feedback questions
- Previous GCC survey findings and questionnaires and
- Dietary requirements vouchers



HOW IS THIS TO BE ACHIEVED

By attending and providing input into relevant meetings to raise the understanding of the barriers that families face, provide any ideas for future activities and

- Feedback to HAF team, District Leads and Community Connector's
- Feedback on gaps / opportunities for summer, advising providers on accessibility.
- Advise providers during the run up to summer and winter HAF
- Support with data analysis and understanding how to support parents to access and improve accessibility.
- Develop surveys for the summer, and
- Support the design / specification of a new data base for a future programme



FEEDBACK FOR THE ALLIANCE

“I love the support and kindness shown to one another by everyone in the Alliance, and the understanding of how hard it is to negotiate the services paid to support us. It means a huge amount, just knowing you aren't alone. And that's before you get into the amazing levels of specific knowledge you can access and the advice given from other people's experiences, too”

“The Alliance has not only helped us to gain more confidence in asking for what our daughter needs but has given us a lot of understanding of how/who to ask and what we CAN ask for. They've helped us gain a better understanding of our daughters needs and identity and the importance of celebrating her”

“The Alliance has made a massive difference, when I was on my own, I felt lost, confused, and frustrated, once the Alliance started helping me, everything felt easier and things that I couldn't say, were finally heard because Alliance gave me my voice back. This saved my mental health and my families wellbeing”