

Parent forums in Worcestershire are looking for new members

Do you know we have two parent forums in Worcestershire?

Families in Partnership is for parents of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and **Parents' Voice**, a group for all parents. These forums are there to encourage parents and carers to have their say about all sorts of things affecting families, locally and nationally.

Both forums want to keep parents informed about what is going on in Worcestershire and give you opportunities to become involved. They are independent, run by parents or parent carers and are completely free to join. They keep their members up to date through emails or newsletters and social media, you can be involved as much or as little as you like, depending on how much time you have to spare.

Parents' Voice and Families in Partnership are looking for new members, so they can continue to represent the views of families in Worcestershire. What you do, how much and when, is down to you, you can join and receive information, and then decide if you want to get more involved later. Being involved can mean taking part in online surveys or be trained and supported to be a parent representative in meetings (virtually at the moment), or maybe help with the running of the group.

Parents' Voice is for all parents and they want to keep parents in Worcestershire informed, up to date and to be their voice. They share information to help parents be parents, whatever the age of their children.

As a group, they raise awareness with people who make decisions in the county about the need to talk to parents and listen to them when making changes. They want to encourage more parents to have a say and make a difference.

If you'd like to help, they'd love to hear from you. If you're not sure you want to be involved or what you could do, join one of their online coffee and chats to find out more.

Families in Partnership is a parent carer forum, a group of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND.

Their aim is to make sure that the planning and provision of services in Worcestershire meet the needs of SEND children and their families. Parent carer participation is when parents and professionals work together, recognising each other's expert knowledge, to design, develop and improve services for SEND children in the area to create the best outcomes possible.

Families in Partnership is part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) which means that it is also able to ensure that the voices of Worcestershire parent carers reach decision makers in national government.

Families in Partnership is seeking parent carers of children and young people with any type of additional need or disability to join them. Joining does not mean you have to commit lots of time

As a member you can just be updated with newsletters and have opportunities to complete relevant questionnaires. If you have spare time and would like to be more involved there are opportunities to be a parent carer representative or have a place on their Steering Group helping with the running of the Forum.

Join Parents' Voice:

Register online: [Join Parents'](#)

[Voice Online](#) From their website:

[Parents' Voice website](#) Email:

info@parentsvoice.co.uk

Social media: Twitter - @ParentsVoiceWor

Facebook - search Parents' Voice – Worcestershire

Join Families in Partnership:

Register online: [Join Families in](#)

[Partnership](#) Website: [Families in](#)

[partnership website](#) Email:

adminfip@carersworcs.org.uk

Social media: Twitter - @FiPWorcs

Facebook – search Families in Partnership Worcestershire

Local support groups in Bromsgrove and Redditch: supporting families who may need help when self-isolating or in need of help from the community

Support Bromsgrove (www.supportbromsgrove.com) - *for anyone in need or would like to offer their help in their local area within Bromsgrove District*

Support Bromsgrove is a partnership of local voluntary and community groups, including our three local foodbanks. There's an answerphone helpline 01527 306490. Information of local community schemes working across different Parishes / Villages / Neighbourhoods and a directory of organisations is included on the website to help connect the full range of local community support available across the District. The Bromsgrove Community Support Facebook Group, which initially set up the helpline, is continuing on Facebook, helping to connect people to the support they require.

Redditch East Stronger Together - *for anyone in need or would like to offer their help in their local area within Redditch Borough*

Support to the community is delivered by Redditch East Stronger Together (REST) which is a consortia of the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations REACH CIC, Church Hill Big Local and Inspire CIC. They primarily work in the East of Redditch (Church Hill/Winyates etc.) but will try and help anyone. The best way to get in contact is to telephone 01527 919869.

Support Redditch (<https://supportredditch.net/>) also works in Redditch for anything specifically related to COVID-19, mostly about food parcels (although they can offer help with prescription collection etc). You can contact them via email at: info@supportredditch.net or call 01527 359 008.

In Bromsgrove there are also a myriad of smaller local initiatives. You can find out more by visiting the [Support Bromsgrove website](#).