

To view the full send code of practice, visit  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/398815/SEND\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_January\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)

The parent friendly guide is available at  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/417435/Special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilites\\_guide\\_for\\_parents\\_and\\_carers.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417435/Special_educational_needs_and_disabilites_guide_for_parents_and_carers.pdf)

For further information about how you can get involved please email:  
[engagementofficer@p-d-f.org.uk](mailto:engagementofficer@p-d-f.org.uk)

There is also lots of useful information available at  
[www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org](http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org)

You could also discuss any concerns and ways you can be involved further with your child's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). Details of your child's SENCO will be available from your child's early years setting or school office.



The Parent Engagement Officer  
is managed by  
Portsmouth Disability Forum

**Do you have a child with  
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities?  
Want to get involved?**

**Is anybody really  
listening?**

**Where do I fit in?**

**Will my  
voice be  
heard?**

**What is the local  
area Ofsted  
inspection?**



**Parent Engagement Officer**

## Is anybody really listening?

Parents are very important to Portsmouth Disability Forum (PDF) as they often know things the professionals have not heard. They are able to tell us what is working well and what is going wrong. They are often able to give ideas and suggestions on how to improve and are vital to professionals as their points of view can really make a difference.

Are you listening?

## You say you are listening, but is that enough?

The short answer is NO! We are currently looking for School SEN Champions who can volunteer alongside both Portsmouth Disability Forum and local schools to share information and to involve parents in improving services and helping in decision making.

Where do I fit in?

## Where do I fit in?

Portsmouth Disability Forum are looking to recruit Parent champions to help listen to parents and share views and experiences. You don't need previous experience. Your child does not need a diagnosis or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for you to participate.

School SEN Champions are volunteers who will be given information to share with other parents to ensure everyone is informed of opportunities going on in their city and the information available to parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

## Do I have to do it alone?

School SEN Champions will work alongside others in local clusters. Most schools belong to a cluster which is a group of linked schools who all meet together to share ideas and best practice. By working in cluster groups parents will not be alone and can support each other. It also means that you can continue when your child moves on to their next school.

What is an inspection?

## What is the local area Ofsted inspection?

An area Ofsted inspection is conducted by The Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) and The Care Quality Commission (CQC) to see how responsive a local area is to the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families. It is a chance to show examples of what is going well and to highlight any difficulties the local authority or the local health services are currently facing in supporting families. Inspectors are from two different regulatory bodies to ensure a robust process is carried out. Family contributions are important to the process.

The local area Ofsted inspection will judge the opportunities for children and young people from birth to age 25. The inspection will also be judging how the SEND code of practice has been used in the area to ensure that professionals are working to the highest standard and children, young people and their parents are informed of the services available to them. They will also look at the Portsmouth local offer to ensure the information available is easily accessible and up to date.

*[www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org](http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org)*