**Autism in Schools - Parent Supporting Parents Forums**

**Tuesday 4 October 2022**

The first Autism in Schools (AIS) Parent Supporting Parents (PSP) Forums of this school year were held at Grimsby Town Hall.

The Forum was led by Nicola Chappel, Service Manager - Autism in Schools, and we had apologies from Abi Fleming, SEND Parent Engagement Champion.

Practitioners/speakers that attended included:

* Leanne Turner, Psychology Assistant from Compass Go
* Harry Dixon, Engagement and Participation Worker from Compass GO
* Lucy McLachlan, Emotionally Based Barriers to School Attendance (EBBSA)
* Primary/Infant Forum: 6 parent carers and 1 School Champion attended.

Apologies: 1 from a parent carer and 1 from a School Champion

* Secondary Forum: 2 parent carers and no School Champions attended.

Apologies: 1 from a parent carer

* Questions and open discussions were encouraged throughout the session
* Training update included:
  + Contact Workshops –
  + Encouraging Positive Behaviour



* Understanding Sensory Processing



* Leanne gave an update on the Action Plans, based on the individual needs of the school, and the review meetings that she is currently completing with all 10 schools
* Harry shared the key themes of his work with individual children/young people
* We planned in some ‘free’ time at the end of the session to allow parent carers, school champions and the practitioners a chance to mingle and have a chat over a drink.
* Everyone who attended the forums was asked to complete an evaluation form to help us develop future forums. Some of the comments we received can be found below.

The practitioners and the parents/carers, as their comments show, felt that the first forums of this school year were positive and everyone participated in working together to improve the experiences of their children and young people within their individual school. Please see below for parent carer and practitioner feedback.

**The next Parents Supporting Parents Forum for all parent carers and all school champions is on:**

**Tuesday 1 November at 9.30am - 12pm**

Grimsby Town Hall

Town Hall Square

Grimsby

DN31 1HU

Feedback on AIS Parenting Supporting Parents Forum

4th October 2022

“Very engaging and good communication across the forum” School Champion

“Being able to speak open and honestly in a safe group”

“I feel involved and well informed with the project”

*Liked*: “Being with people with the same goal”

“I learned about some of the measures in place to help children”

“So illuminating hearing families lived experience of SEND – Autism” Practitioner

“I really enjoy being a part of this group and find it really beneficial to me, personally”

Would like: “more time together”

*What could be improved:* “More detailed information on how many people/staff have accessed/ have access to training within the project”

*Liked*: “Hearing other people’s views”

“I like the fact that parents can voice their own personal experience and get feedback or advice from other professionals and from other parents too”

“Being heard and listened to”