



Registered Charity no. 1085491

Local offices:

**01992 586969 – Hertford**

**01442 253344 – Hemel Hempstead**

**01462 456660 – Hitchin**

[contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk)

[www.carersinherts.org.uk](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk)

## **Factsheet PC5 Parent Carer Participation and Involvement**

*Carers in Hertfordshire* believes that the development of services for children with disabilities should take into account what parent carers have to say. Our participation work therefore aims to enable parents of those children to give their views directly to the people who plan and decide about the provision of services.

In order to achieve successful participation and involvement it helps to better understand what the terms used mean. These definitions are based on those agreed by Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership :

**Consultation** is used to explain decision-making processes in which parent carers are asked for their views about an existing agenda

**Participation** refers to when parent carers can have an influence on how decisions are made, as well as what decisions are made.

**Involvement** is an overarching term used to explain any process of consultation or participation, which ascertains and includes the views, wishes and feelings of parent carers in decision making.

**Information/Communication** is where parent carers are advised about what is being done, but are not asked specifically to give their views on the subject.

**contact a family** is a good source of information on participation and involvement nationally for families with disabled children  
[www.cafamily.org.uk/influence](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/influence) or 020 7608 8784

### **How does *Carers in Hertfordshire* involve parent carers locally?**

- Keeping in touch by post and email with interested parent carers; providing regular update information and inviting them to give their views.
- Encouraging parent carers to be involved in Parent Carer Forums organised by Herts County Council Children, Schools and Families (CSF) across the 10 District/Borough Councils. Contact us for details of dates in your area.
- Arranging for representatives of parent carers to take part in County Council consultation meetings.
- Bringing parent carers together in a Parent Carer Action Group to share experiences, discuss what they want to say and put this to the relevant people from health and social care services.

- Being part of the Parent and Voluntary Advisory Group which acts as a consultative group within Children, Schools and Families and includes Parent Carers representing Support Groups.
- Supporting the parent carer representative on the Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership Board.

**If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved,**

please contact Maria Kiely, Parent Carer Participation Project Worker

on 01442 253344 [west.team@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:west.team@carersinherts.org.uk)

*Carers in Hertfordshire*  
22a High Street  
Hemel Hempstead  
HP1 3AE

**To find out more ...**

Here is a summary of some websites that are a good place to start to learn more about participation and involvement for parents of disabled children locally and nationally. If you do not have access to the internet, or if you would prefer us to print off the information for you, please contact *Carers in Hertfordshire*, and we will be very pleased to help.

**[www.carersinherts.org.uk/parentcarers](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk/parentcarers)**

the Parent Participation Project at *Carers in Hertfordshire*

**[www.cafamily.org.uk/influence](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/influence)**

Contact a Family information on participation nationally

**[www.edcm.org.uk](http://www.edcm.org.uk)**

the national Every Disabled Child Matters Campaign

**[www.hertsdirect.org/childrenstrust](http://www.hertsdirect.org/childrenstrust)**

Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership Board

**[www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org)** and search under PAVAG

news about the Parent and Voluntary Advisory Group in Hertfordshire