

## **Results of survey on moving and handling training for parents Hosted by HPCI (Herts Parent Carer Involvement) Nov 2020**

This survey was open to parent carers across Hertfordshire whose children or young people have significant physical needs and use specialist equipment now or might do so in the future. The survey was publicised to parents on HPCI's parent network and social media, directly to those on the caseload of an occupational therapist and PNI advisory teachers at HCC and to relevant Hertfordshire special schools.

16 parent carers completed the survey. This is lower than we would have liked but under the current circumstances with all the extra pressure on families this is perhaps not unsurprising.

### **The results:**

There were responses from across the county except Watford, Welwyn & Hatfield and East Herts.

- 94% of responses were from parents of children aged 5 to 16 years and 6% 17 years plus.
- Education settings 25% from mainstream schools, 56% special schools, 6% Out of County schools and 13% from FE Colleges.
- Previous training - only one parent had received moving and handling training before which was organised by Carers in Herts.
- 20% of parents were not using any specialist equipment at home currently but expected to do so in the future.
- 80% were using specialist equipment listed and 30% were also using other specialist equipment not listed.

**What should be included in the training?** Parents mainly wanted to know more about how to transfer their child safely in and out of the car, the bath and the toilet. There were 3 other suggestions not listed that can be considered for inclusion in the training by the occupational therapists.

- 90% of the parents said they would be happy to complete a workbook prior to the training with 10% not prepared to do so. Therefore, consideration will need to be given on how to gather the information where parents are not able or confident to complete the workbook.
- Considering the idea of using refresher videos - 90% would or would possibly use them with 10% saying no.

**Other key points made** by parents were that:

It's important for the trainers to understand the needs of the children before the parents attend so trainers don't have to ask and parents don't have to say in the session.

Good parking is vital as many have large vehicles that are suitable for wheelchairs

Options for different times and dates should be available

They would welcome the opportunity for other family members to receive the training who may help with care for the child.

**What next?** The results have been shared with the working group and will be used by the parent rep and the occupational therapists designing the training.