

Parent Champions

Frequently asked questions



What will becoming a Parent or Carer Champion involve?

Parent Champions are parent volunteers who give a few hours a week to talk to other parents about the local services available to them.

Parent Champions can make a big difference by sharing their experiences and knowledge with other parents.

What will I gain from being a Parent Champion?

Being a volunteer can help.

- Build confidence and skills.
- Help you to meet other parents/carers.
- Gives you access to free training.
- Develop your communication and language skills.
- Learn new skills to help you return to work.

I am a legal guardian/carer of a child, can I still become a Parent Champion?

Yes, we welcome all parent/carers to register to become a Parent Champion.

I am a dad/male carer, can I be a Parent Champion?

Yes, we encourage Dads to sign up for our Parent Champion Programme.

How do I apply to become a Parent Champion?

Please email deborah.manning@cornwall.gov.uk for more information or to request an application form.

What happens after I sign-up?

Once we have received your application, the Parent Champion Co-ordinator will be in touch to discuss the next steps.

What training and support will you provide?

Parent Champion volunteers will receive full induction training. Training will consist of 6 hours usually split into two 3-hour sessions. This will either be face to face in a central location or online. Additional training modules will also be available following the induction training.

You will also be supported by the Parent Champion Co-ordinator, the Family Information Service, and the Parent Champions Network who will offer continual support and training.

How much time do I need to give?

Parent Champions can give as much time as suits them and their families. Typically, a parent Champion will volunteer around 2-3 hours a week.

Will my expenses be Paid?

Out of pocket expenses can be claimed for through the Council.

Will becoming a Parent Champion affect my jobseekers' allowance or benefits.

As this is a volunteering role, it should not affect your benefits, however it's always an idea to let you work coach know about your volunteering.

I would like to become a Parent Champion but would need help with childcare to participate – could you help with this?

You are encouraged to attend groups that your child will also enjoy and benefit from, it's during these sessions where you will have the opportunity to chat with other parents. For events where it might not be appropriate to bring your child, the flexibility of this role allows you to choose events that fit around times when you already have childcare available. This ensures that you can still contribute meaningfully while managing your childcare needs.

I can't see a scheme in my local area, but I want to volunteer. What do I do?

Please complete a form to let us know of your interest. We are always looking to see if we can expand our Parent Champion programme and will look into whether this is possible in your area.

I've changed my mind about volunteering, but I have filled out a sign-up form. What should I do?

Please email deborah.manning@cornwall.gov.uk to let us know you have changed your mind, or if you want to discuss your options further.

What documents do I need before starting my role as a Parent Champion?

You will need to complete an application form. Cornwall Council will then complete a DBS check on you. This is a police check to ensure you are suitable to carry out the Parent Champion role. This is free of charge, and we can offer support to complete these forms.

I have signed up but haven't heard from anyone. What should I do?

Please email deborah.manning@cornwall.gov.uk to check we have received your application.

Who will support me?

You will have contact with the Parent Champion Co-Ordinator Debbie. If you have any concerns or questions, please email deborah.manning@cornwall.gov.uk or call 07591 44532.

I'm nervous about volunteering.

It can be scary to start something new especially if you haven't done something like this before. Once you have received your training, you will be able to chat to other parents whilst attending your local groups. We will arrange a meet up in your local area so that you can meet other team member such as parenting support workers who will be able to offer you support when you need it.

Your confidence will grow over time and a good place to start is a group that you are used to attending, talking to parents that you have met before. Once these conversations start you will start to feel more comfortable speaking to people you have not met before. It may also be possible to be paired up with another Parent Champion to help build your confidence.

Contact us

Email: deborah.manning@cornwall.gov.uk

Call: 07591 444532 Web: FIS.Cornwall.gov.uk