

History of MCT

MCT Durham PCF - the story so far.....

October 2007 - Every disabled Child Matters Conference - County Hall

Parents and professionals got together to discuss possibility of Working together. A steering group of parents, a professional and Contact a Family arranged first by parents for parents conference.

May 2008 - Making Changes Together I - Seaham Hall

Worked out the Durham Model. Chose the initial Focus Groups, Lead Professional, Information, Transport and Early Years.

October 2008 - Making Changes Together II - Beamish Hall

Updated progress. Chose three more focus groups - Short Breaks, Transition and Therapies - Durham Model 2. Parents signed the Every Disabled Child Matters charter alongside Durham Council members. Email: info@mctdurham.co.uk

April 2009 - Making Changes Together III - Redworth Hall

Reported back on progress. Looked at new initiatives such as Confident Schools/Confident Parents, The Lamb Inquiry and Durham's Disability Strategy.

November 2009 - Making Changes Together IV - Ramside Hall

Celebrated having admin support - Ann! Beginning of big changes in strategic planning, attitude, and recognition of value of parents and professionals working closely together. Process really becoming grounded and fundamental to developing services. Website started. Durham Model 3. Website: www.mctdurham.co.uk

May 2010 - Making changes Together V - Beamish Hall

Went through history of process. Updated focus group achievements. Looked at Accessibility Strategy.

November 2010 - Making Changes Together VI - Hardwick Hall

Making Changes Together, the Story so Far. Focus Group Feedback. Wishes for the future. Short Breaks Update. Education Update. Lead Professional.

May 2011 - Making Changes Together VII - XCEL Centre

Update / revisit EDCM. Disability awareness: challenges and opportunities. The Green Paper: Support and Aspiration. Children and Young People's Plan and Over 14's Transitions Update.

November 2011 - Making Changes Together VIII - Durham Town Hall

Update on focus groups. Transition Protocol Launch. Where are we going?

Information Days - Disability Awareness Week. Links to Education through Communities of Learning. Celebrating what we have achieved!

October 2012 - Making Changes Together IX - Ramside Hall Hotel

History of MCT and achievements to date. Update on Children and Adults Services Merger. Children and Families Bill. Focus Group update. One Point. Looked at Welfare Reform. Presentation from the eXtreme Group.

May 2013 - Making Changes Together X - Ramside Hall Hotel

Making Changes Together (the last six months). Short Breaks update. Introduction to Hartlepool Borough Council SEND Pathfinder. Looked at the changes to Public Health and Care. Focus Group update. Presentation by the Cheesy Waffles Group.

November 2013 - Making Changes Together XI - Ramside Hall Hotel

Short Breaks Consultation. An overview of the SEND reforms. Feedback from Durham County Council Transport Survey. A Young Persons view by Michael. 'Your child's life plan' a table exercise to identify where services that are needed do not exist.

May 2014 - Making Changes Together XII - Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome and Introduction to Making Changes Together. Social Care and Health (new structure and implications for families). Durham's Short Breaks Programme. Presentation on the Wiki Pilot Scheme and video of Shanes Wiki Page. Looked at Durham's Local Offer www.countydurhamfamilies.info

November 2014 - Making Changes Together XIII - Ramside Hall Hotel

Updates from: - SEND Reforms, Short Breaks, Wiki Pilot Scheme, Childrens Therapy Services, Social Care and Health.

May 2015 - Making Changes Together XIV - Ramside Hall Hotel

Presentation of the Care Act 2014. Transitions update. Introduction to the Innovations Programme. Core Assets. Update from CAMHs. SEND Reforms. Presentation from Welfare Rights. Investing in Children.

November 2015 - Making Changes Together XV - Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome and Introductions. Short Breaks update. SEND Strategy. Looked at the Independent Evaluations of SEND Reforms. Transitions update. Presentation from the Cheesy Waffles Group. Local Area Inspection. Welfare Rights update.

May 2016 – Making Changes Together XVI – Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome and Introductions to Making Changes Together. Updates from Short Breaks, Welfare Rights, Investing in Children and Transport. An overview from CAMHS. A review of Durham's Local Offer. Presentation about the SEND Local Area Inspection.

November 2016 – Making Changes Together XVII – Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome to MCT Conference XVII (17). An introduction and overview of Durham Housing Solutions. Updates from Healthwatch, CAMHS, Short Breaks, Preparing for Adulthood and Transport. Presentation from Paul Shadforth - Identifying the Durham SEND population and meeting their needs. Presentation from Bridge Young Carers. Information from Christopher Nash about the Young Persons Event 2017.

May 2017 – Making Changes Together XVIII – Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome and introductions to MCT Conference XVIII (18). Durham Constabulary gave information and a presentation around Hate Crime and Safe Places. Presentations were also given about Preparing for Adulthood, Healthwatch, SEND Toolkit, Complex Communication Needs including Autism and Short Breaks. Irwin Mitchell came along to talk about legal issues and the conference was finished off with MCT's Question Time.

November 2017 – Making Changes Together XIX – Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome and introductions to MCT Conference XIX (19). Presentations were given about Children's Rights and Advocacy in County Durham, Parents Charter and Engagement Strategy, Northeast Autism Society Services and Early Years Support, Post 16 transport, Pathways, Investing in children, Short breaks and Annual Health Checks for people with a recognised Learning Disability over the age of 14 years old and a SEND Local Authority Update.

May 2018 – Making Changes Together XX- Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome and introductions to MCT Conference XX. MCT celebrated their 20th parent/carer Conference and thanked SENDIASS and Durham County Council for their continued support. Feedback from Ofsted and the Local Area Inspection. Parents Toolkit. The role of the school Nurse. Short Breaks. Integrated Children's Therapies. Preparing for Adulthood. Families First Support Programme. The Roller Coaster Group. Durham Constabulary Autism Awareness and the ongoing work.

November 2018 - Making Changes Together XXI- Ramside Hall Hotel

MCT celebrated their 21st parent/carer Conference. Update about the Changes Programme. One Point, early help, and support through to complex needs. Delegates took part in a table exercise to look at the 'biggest gripes around services involved with their child/children with SEND' What parents/carers would like to see at the next conference' and what 'training, events workshops' they would like MCT to organise. Emotional Resilience Nurses. SEND Strategy. Feedback from the Parent Toolkit Training. Healthwatch. Sensory Worx. Short Breaks. Stamp it Out. Updates were given from the Cheesy Waffles Group and the new SEND Casework structure.

May 2019 - Making Changes Together XXII - Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome and introductions to MCT Conference XXII their 22nd Conference. MCT dedicated this conference to MCT Steering Group member Suzanna Green who sadly passed away. Topics covered included Supported Employment. SENDIASS Youth Offer - the journey so far. Durham County Carers Support. 'How to Hide your Autism: The legacy of Masking and Burnout for Autistic children' Kieran Rose, The Autistic Advocate. 'Strategy and Health Needs Analysis'. The eXtreme Group. Supporting Children with SEND in the Early Years. Designated Clinical Officer.

November 2019 - Making Changes Together XXIII - Ramside Hall Hotel

Welcome and introductions to MCT Conference XXIII, MCT's 23rd Parent / Carer Conference. Lisa Stringer gave a presentation about the role of SENDIASS and their Statutory Duty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54R4cDbX6L8>. School admissions/home school transport and transport contract managers clarified their roles within SEN Transport. Paul Shadforth gave a presentation of Durham's Local Offer site www.durham.gov.uk/article/22105 [An overview of Kooth](#) Online counselling, advice support service. Update from County Durham's Designated Clinical Officer, Laura Coulthard. Stuart Cannon (Supported Employment Co-ordinator gave an overview of establishing a Supported Employment Service. Update from Cheesy Waffles Youth Project. Presentation/introduction to Learning for Life.

May 2020 - Making Changes Together XXIV - Ramside Hall Hotel

Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, MCT's 24th Parent / Carer Conference had to be cancelled. Instead MCT produced a YouTube update video a few months later with input from Local Authority, Health, and the voluntary sector.

<https://www.youtube.com/@mctdurhampcf9457/videos>

November 2020- Making Changes Together XXV - Zoom Webinar

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, MCT hosted their 25th Parent / Carer Conference Webinar on Zoom. Presentations were given live or recorded from Paul Shadforth, Short Breaks Solutions, The Sensory Place, Gillian Fortune, Rollercoaster, Durham Works, SENDIASS, Wellbeing for Life, eXtreme Group, CAMHS, DADLG, Durham County Carers Support and update from

Durham's Designated Clinical Officer Laura Coulthard. A poll was taken asking for parent/carer feedback on a number of topics.

May 2021 - Making Changes Together - Zoom Webinar

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, MCT hosted their 26th Parent / Carer Conference Webinar on Zoom with presentations given live or recorded from Preparing for Adulthood, Short Breaks Solutions, Durham Works, Heidi Donkin SENDIASS Autism IASS Officer, The Sensory Place, Paul Shadforth gave an update on the SEND Strategy, Rollercoaster, Cheesy Waffles, Durham County Carers Support, Neurological Pathway update, Transitions, Wellbeing for Life, Time for Calm, Health White Paper and an update from Durham's Clinical Commissioning Group. A Poll was taken asking what sort of training parent/carers would be interested in.

November 2021 - Making Changes Together XXVI - Ramside Hall Hotel

MCT were delighted to hold their 26th Parent / Carer Conference, face to face at The Ramside Hall. Presentations and updates were given by SENDIASS, Short Breaks, Durham Enable/Durham Works, Designated Clinical Officer, Neurodevelopmental Pathway, Team Training, SEND Strategy. Live Well North East provided a session to parent/carers.

May 2022 - Making Changes Together XXVII - Ramside Hall Hotel

As requested by parents/carers MCT held an evening and day conference at The Ramside Hall Hotel. Updates and presentations were given by Short Breaks, SENDIASS/ Durham Autism Hub, and Daisy Chain. Durham's SEND Casework Team Manager gave an overview of the service and structure. MCT gave an update on Team Training which they have been involved with along with Rollercoaster and Durham County Carers Support. Updates and presentations were also given by Durham HELP, eXtreme Group, SEND Update and Developments, SEND Green Paper proposals and Clinical Commissioning Groups and information about the Neurodevelopment Pathway.

November 2022 - Making Changes Together XXVIII - Raddison Blu Hotel.

MCT were delighted to hold their 28th Parent / Carer Conference, face to face at a new venue - the Radisson Blu hotel in Durham. They held an evening and daytime conference. MCT added a new slot called "Have your say" which allows parents and carers to share their gripes openly and freely. Other speakers included SENDIASS, Short breaks, Neurological Pathway Update, Team Training, Feedback from MCT's Have Your Say Events, Key Working Daisy Chain, Cheesy Waffles, SEND Update, SEND Casework Team overview, and Learning Library Outreach Workers.

March 2023 – MCT became a registered charity.

MCT Durham PCF became a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England on March 7, 2023. We are officially registered with the Charity Commission under the charity number 1202217

June 2023 – MCT Durham PCF XXIX – Ramside Hall.

For MCTs 29th Parent / Carer conference the venue was once again Ramside Hall. Following on from the November 2022 conference MCT made the "Have your say" slot bigger and better. They gave parents and carers post it notes and 20 minutes to write what anything that is going well and not going so well. Parents / carers were asked to put these into a bucket and all issues would be forwarded to the relevant department for a response.

Presentations and updates were given from Paul Shadforth - Strategic Manager SEND & Inclusion Strategy Assessment & Provision - Via video, Team Training, SENDIASS, SENDEIC (SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities - short breaks, Durham DSCO (Designated Social Care Officer), Extreme group, Neurodevelopmental Update - Alison Ayres, Sensory Worx - Claire Stirland, PCP- learning disability and autism project.

November 2023- MCT Durham PCF XXX – Ramside Hall 30th

For MCTs 30th Parent / Carer conference the venue was once again Ramside Hall. Following on from the June 2023 conference MCT had our "Have your say" slot bigger and better.

The fabulous Gillian Fortune from Feel Good CIC joined us to give us tips on how to "Stay calm in the moment."

Stuart Cannon from Durhamenable was joined by 2 of Durhamenables service users - Dean White and Sean Ridley. Stuart explained that the DurhamEnable supports jobseekers in County Durham with autism, a disability, or other long term health needs. He explained DurhamEnable is person centred and intensive but IT WORKS! Dean and Sean explained what Durhamenable has done for them and shared heart warning stories describing how Durhamenable has changed their lives.

Other presentations and updates were given from: Fiona Callaghan on Improving information & advice for parents of pre-school children with SEND in Co Durham, Victoria Robinson gave updates on team Training, Paul Shadforth gave SEND updates from the local Authority, Kathryn Gaudie-Jones and Freya from Integrating Children, Lyndsey Dunn and Ruth Pope from SENDEIC - Short break , Lisa Kirton from SENDIASS, Alison Ghent gave a Family Hubs Update, Victoria Robinson gave a SEND Participation Strategy update, Andrea Bell

updated on Valuing Neurodiversity and Needs Led Neurodevelopmental pathway update by Sara Chadwick. Stuart Cannon, Dean White and Sean Ridley from DurhamEnable.

The fabulous Gillian Fortune from Feel Good CIC joined us to give us tips on how to "Stay calm in the moment."

May 2024- MCT DURHAM PCF XXXI - Ramside Hall 31.

For MCTs 31st Parent / Carer conference we had a daytime AND evening conference.

The highlight was finishing the conference with an upbeat and fun dance exercise "Rockbox fitness" from Live Well North East.

Cheryl Temple and Sam Black gave an insight into Preparing for adulthood and asked attendees if they preferred for it to be named "Preparing for life", Heidi and John (A service user) from Learning disabilities CIC explained how fabulous their service is for socialising and getting adults into work and Louise and Nikki explained about the new Waves Parent Support Group to support parents / carers of young people who have emotional or mental health difficulties.

We also had speakers from Team Training, SENDIASS, Family hubs, Have your say - What's good and what's not so good! - MCT, The Needs Assessment Recovery Plan, Waiting Well Update, SENDEIC, Autism Strategy, Cheesy Waffles, Neurodevelopmental Pathway and Valuing Neurodevelopment Project.

November 2024 - MCT DURHAM PCF XXXII - Ramside Hall. 32

For our 32nd conference we only had a daytime conference.

We had planned to have another session from Live Well North East but Debs had to go home due to illness, so MCT did a last minute "Have your say" slot.

Other presentations and updates were given from: Team Training, Local area SEND inspection update, Valuing Neurodiversity project, Neurodivergent support for school project, SENDEIC, Waves Support Group / crisis team, Integrating Children, Investing in Children, Smile Through Sport (1st time as a speaker), SENDIASS, DurhamEnable and TEWV Getting help team.

May 2025 - MCT DURHAM PCF XXIII - Ramside Hall. 33

Still at Ramside , we had a daytime and evening event for our 33rd parent carer conference.

We had speakers from: Team Training, LA Update / Casework Team, Information leaflets for Parents & Carers, Choice Wellbeing / Rainbow Guide, NHS / Health Commissioning Update,

CAMHS Crisis Team / Waves Support Group, Integrating Children, SENDEIC - (Short Breaks), CDDFT / children's Therapies Update, MCT Have Your Say and Wellbeing for Life.

Choice Wellbeing's speaker slot was both inspirational and moving.

May 2026 - MCT DURHAM PCF XXXIV - Ramside Hall. 34

Still at Ramside , we had a daytime and evening event for our 34th parent carer conference.

Due to the SEND reforms issued in February, this conference was primarily used to give parent carers and families have the opportunity to learn about the reforms and share their perspectives to make changes, not only for their own children / young people but for future generations too.

Choice Wellbeing also had speaker slot which again was both inspirational and moving plus we had Waves support group give information on who they are and what they do.