

Dear Education Committee,

I want to put forward my name ([REDACTED]) as an interested stakeholder in the shape of education for children with special educational needs. My role as stakeholder would be both professional and personal.

As a paediatric oncologist with a specialised interest in brain tumours, I often witness and counsel children and families who live with the consequences of having a brain tumour for the rest of their lives. Importantly, transition back into education after surviving brain tumour/cancer can be fraught with difficulties as the needs and abilities of the child have often changed in view of the diagnosis and treatment for the brain tumour. I understand how difficult it can be for both the families, children and education establishment to find a new norm for the child and continue to strive to enable the child to meet their maximal potential. I want to help shape an education system which can adapt in the face of such changes for the child and family.

From a personal perspective I am mother to four children, one of who has special educational needs and has a statement of educational needs in place. My journey through this process has been both heart-breaking and at times brilliant. I understand exactly the difficulties faced by individuals and families in advocating for the child. I also have seen absolute brilliance in terms of the school and associated agencies in developing a plan around the child. I think that my son's school is honestly the epitome of integrating special needs education into a school and ensuring that the child hasn't just been 'mainstreamed' but really properly integrated.

I would be really keen to be involved with the education committee team. I think that I have a wealth of knowledge and experience to draw on from both professional and personal background and would be committed to advocating for all families and children who experience special educational needs.

With kind regards

[REDACTED]

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