

Wednesday July 24th 2024



'giving a voice to parents & carers of children with additional needs'

VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER

Our Website

Check out our website over the holidays for all your Voice 4 Parents queries

WWW.VOICE4PARENTS-WOLVES.CO.UK

Help and Support in our City over the Summer Holidays

- ◆ Food Banks—<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/benefits/social-security-benefits/food-banks-and-soup-kitchens>
- ◆ Community Shops—<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/community-shops>
- ◆ The Good Shepherd—<https://www.gsmwolverhampton.org.uk/>
- ◆ The Well—<https://www.thewellwolverhampton.co.uk/>
- ◆ The Good Night Project— <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/the-good-night-project>
- ◆ IASS - <https://wolvesiass.org/>
- ◆ Include Me Too—<https://includemetoo.org.uk/contact-us/>
- ◆ Places where kids can eat free or for £1 throughout the 6 weeks holidays 2023—<https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free>
- ◆ cost of living support link in to help across the city [Cost of Living Support | City Of Wolverhampton Council](#)

Summer Short Breaks Family Leisure Programme

Our team are now in the process of allocating places and replying to all requests for leisure. Please check your 'Junk' box regularly to ensure replies aren't missed. If you need to cancel, please let us know by e-mailing events@voice4parents.co.uk. Thank you—we hope you enjoy.



Time to Connect

Our next Autism Café will run on 14th September 2024 and then 12th October and 16th November 2024.

It will be held @ Vanilla Coffee shop, 6a School Road, Tettenhall WV68EJ as always,

There are games and complimentary crisps and squash for the children as well as the chance for refreshments and cake treats at subsidised prices for our families. Everyone Welcome

Check out our facebook page:

[Time to Connect - Autism Cafe | Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)

or visit our V4P website to learn more:

[Time to Connect - Autism Cafe | Voice4Parents Wolves \(voice4parents-wolves.co.uk\)](#)

Please e-mail Emma@voice4parents.co.uk if you have

YO!

Wolverhampton Council have released their HAF Programme (holiday activities and food)

Any queries please contact the HAF team at HAF@wolverhampton.gov.uk,

Yo website—

[About Yo! | Wolverhampton Young Opportunities \(yowolves.co.uk\)](http://AboutYo!|WolverhamptonYoungOpportunities(yowolves.co.uk))

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Coffee Mornings

We are taking a break from Coffee Mornings now until September 10th 2024 @ Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub, Fourth Ave, WV10 9LZ

10-12am

IASS, Rachel Stone Health Co-ordinator - Families First Children's Pathfinder (FFCP), Rachel King & Jennifer Roger - Family first Children's Pathfinder will be in attendance.

Everyone is welcome—so please come along, have a cuppa and meet people that just get it!

Please check out the website under 'coffee morning' tab and keep an eye on your inbox for ongoing dates.



Follow our QR code to our website or visit www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk



Voice4parents



Coffee Morning

Join us for a relaxed parent carer coffee morning on Tuesday 10th September From 10am - 12 Noon

At

Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub, WV10 9LZ

We will be joined by Rachel Stone Health Co-ordinator - Families First Children's Pathfinder (FFCP), Rachel King & Jennifer Roger Family first Children's Pathfinder.

IASS will be available for anyone needing to speak confidentially with them for 1:1 support



<https://www.facebook.com/Voice4P>



Like Us On Facebook

Follow us on Social Media

To become a member follow this QR code



Coffee and Friends

PINS - Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools Project

The purpose of the project is to improve the experience of mainstream school for children who may have an additional educational need. Several Schools in Wolverhampton have been identified to help trial this pilot project.

It works to the principle that meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in mainstream schools is the cornerstone to improving outcomes (across attainment, attendance and wellbeing), parental confidence and delivering the financially sustainable SEND system, as envisaged in the SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan.

V4P have started to visit the schools taking part in PINS Project and have set the following dates for coffee mornings in the schools to come and talk with Parent Carers. If your Child is currently attending one of these schools, please come and join us on the following dates:

Dovecotes Primary - 17th September 2024
Graiseley Primary - 18th September 2024
Holy Rosary Catholic Primary- To Be Confirmed
Northwood Park Primary -16th September 2024

Springdale Primary - To Be confirmed
St Michaels Primary- To Be Confirmed
St Thomas Primary - 23rd September 2024
West Park Primary - To Be confirmed
Woden Primary - To Be Confirmed

If your Child attends any of these schools, please complete the Parent Carer Survey that details your experiences within the school. <https://forms.office.com/r/vRwjKwEr1p>

The information from the survey will be used to understand the current strengths and potential areas of improvement in a school.

The survey is for all parents and carers of children attending schools participating in the project. If you have more than one child attend the school, then you may complete the survey for the number of children you have attending the school.

All information provided will be stored, used and accessed confidentially in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

The individual information provided will only be accessible to Wolverhampton's Parent Carer Forum (Voice 4 Parents). Your individual survey response will NOT be shared. The only time information will be shared is if it raises a concern for someone's safety.

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Our Summer Short Breaks Family Leisure Programme is now open

Voice 4 Parents are delighted to announce that Wolverhampton City Council have funded a Summer Short Break Leisure Programme. These activities are all SEND inclusive for children and young people with SEND (0 to 25) as well as their siblings and are available for families that live in Wolverhampton, however a Voice4Parents membership is required to ensure the SEND criteria attached to the funding is met. Activities are all SEND friendly and because of this groups are being kept small, so places are limited.

All activities are free of charge, however if you do not attend the activities allocated and do not let us know any further activities will also be cancelled.

We will not be able to process any application form without a membership number, if you cannot locate your membership number please email emma@voice4parents.co.uk

If you do not have a membership with Voice4 Parents please follow this link

<https://forms.office.com/r/5EdURQ0qS5>

This is the link to the Summer Short Breaks Leisure Programme

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!Ag2ac1Y3oK7bhl4aMWg1C2BjizMr?e=0ZgzGH>

The link to the booking form is below

<https://forms.office.com/r/zHL2GGF8Pg>

Please note you may not get all activities that you request and once all activities are booked, we will close the application form. Children and young people remain the responsibility of Parent Carer at all times.

Please do not contact provider directly to book.

We hope you have a great time. Please share your photo's and feedback with us!

<https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wq>

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UPDATE ON AVAILABLE ACTIVITIES - SUMMER SHORT BREAK LEISURE PROGRAMME

Voice 4 Parents now have limited spaces on the following activities, note all details for activities can be found on attached programme

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!Ag2ac1Y3oK7bhl4aMWg1C2BjizMr?e=0Zgz6H>

. If you want to book on any of these sessions please complete the booking form

<https://forms.office.com/r/zHL2GGF8Pq>

YOGA 31/07/24 10:00 and 11:00 am - Graiseley family hub

YOGA 05/08/24 10:00 and 11:00 am - Low Hill family hub

YOGA 12/08/24 10:00am only - Low Hill family Hub

YOGA 22/08/24 10:00am and 11:00am - Graiseley family hub

MOSAIC CRAFT - Create your own mosaic candle holder 1/08 and 12/08 10am -1pm

V4P CRAFTS 2-4 1/08 and 12/08

Crafts will include

About Me - create your own poster all about yourself

decorating your own pottery planter,

drawing and colouring,

shrink art - make your own key rings/bag charms

general craft kits

making masks,

solar system and hot air balloons stained glass decorations,

decorate ceramic dragons and rainbows to decorate/colour

Dream catchers

GAMING - 09.08.24, 14.04.24 and 23.04.24 - Spaces on 9:30-12:30 session and very limited spaces on 12:30 - 3:30 session

MINDFULLNESS SESSIONS - 02/08/24 and 16/08/24

Friday 2nd August - 10:am - 12pm - Mindfulness painting

Friday 2nd August - 12pm - 2pm - Design and Paint your own tote bag

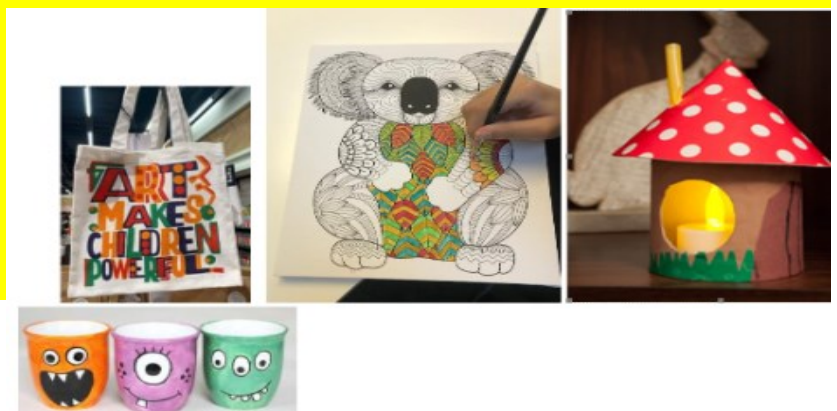
Friday 2nd August - 2pm - 4pm - Design and Make your own house or mushroom nightlight

Friday 16th August - 10:am - 12pm - Design and Paint your own t-shirt

Friday 16th August - 12pm - 2pm - Mini Beasts and Fridge Magnets

Friday 16th August - 2pm - 4pm - Design and Paint your own Mug

Here are some examples of what can be made:



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V4P Wellbeing Sessions

All photos can be seen on our website:

[Wellbeing Sessions May / June 2024 | Voice4Parents Wolves](https://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk)
[\(voice4parents-wolves.co.uk\)](https://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk)

Thank you to everyone that has been too our well being sessions so far. As always feedback is always welcome so please use the link provided:

<https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wq>,

Useful Information Document

Please check out our new and upgraded Useful Information Document on this link:

[Support In Our City | Voice4Parents Wolves](https://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk)
[\(voice4parents-wolves.co.uk\)](https://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk)

If you have any suggestions to improve this or any feedback please feedback

<https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wq>,



Sunshine Support

See **FREE** helpful resources at:

[Sunshine Support](#)

Our Website

Come and check out our website, give feedback and find out more about us, the work we do and sign up to become a member @ www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk or scan the QR code below.

On the page you will find all our strategic work, our updates, our gallery, a questions page as well as information on all our steering group members. There are places to feedback also.

We hope you enjoy it as we are updating it all the time with new information. If you have any queries, comments, suggestions or feedback on the website or if you would like to see something important added, please feel welcome to email:

emma@voice4parents.co.uk



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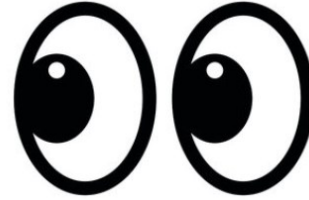
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Wolverhampton CEP's (Cultural Education Partnership) **FREE youth festival** for ages **11-18 years**. Enjoy music from local bands and drop in creative workshops.
<https://wvsamedifference2024.eventbrite.co.uk/>



Check this out



SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST

bookable & drop in sessions plus all-day arts & crafts!

+ festival fancy-dress photo booth!

FOR **7-25 YEARS**

Join us at Same Difference, an inclusive festival for young people, families, and the carers of our city.

BOOKABLE SESSIONS:

- 11-11:45am:** Sensory Music Workshop
for young people under 13 years with moderate learning disabilities
- 1:10-1:50pm:** Sensory Music Workshop
for 11-18-year-olds with moderate and severe learning disabilities
- 3:10-3:50pm:** Sensory Music Workshop
for people with profound disabilities (PMLD)

DROP-IN SESSIONS: (mixed groups)

- 12-12:30pm:** Drumming Session
- 2:15-2:45pm:** Scratch Band - Musical Jam!
- 4:15-4:45pm:** Relax and Unwind Soundbath

Sensory Bubbles with Creative Lives!
12.30-1pm & 2.30pm-3pm

This inclusive event is level access, and hoist changing facilities are available on site.

#WvSameDifference

Please contact info@bigtopmusic.co.uk if you would like more information or to discuss your access needs. Book your **FREE** place by visiting:

WWW.BIGTOPMUSIC.CO.UK/SAMEDIFFERENCE
Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4AN



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Next Step

Next Step provides a service for those 16+ who have varied levels of abilities / disabilities. By supporting individuals from 16 we are there through the transition periods of school to college, then to adult adult services, therefore offering continuity while everything else is changing.



Next Step West Midlands CIC

Provide a service for those 16+ who have varied levels of abilities and / or disabilities.

We would like to invite you to drop in and join us for our Summer Party on

Saturday 17th August 2024
11am – 3pm



at
Fallings Park Methodist Church.
Wimborne Road, Wolverhampton,
WV10 0NN



Come and take a look at what we have been doing as we celebrate our 10 year anniversary.

We will have a BBQ, refreshments, games, Live Brass Band, Magician and much more.
A fun day for all the family.



Anyone interested in our services will have the opportunity to speak a member of the team who will be happy talk to you. Or if you prefer call Diane on 07914716063



Follow us on



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V4P Out and About

V4P attended the carers event at Wolverhampton Civic Centre to support Parent Carers on 12.06.24

Over the past month we have visited several schools to hold coffee mornings and talk to Parent Carers. If this is something that you would like to see or attend within your school, please ask your SENDCO to contact us at adminvoice4parents.co.uk



Local Household Support Fund

This is the list of clinical and community support teams for children and young people in RWT that are distributing Household Support Fund, families can contact directly to find out more

- ASD/ADHD service (community)
- Palliative Care (Community)
- Bladder and Bowel service (Community)
- Respiratory
- Oncology
- Haematology
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Gastro
- Endocrine
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Rheumatology
- Dermatology
- Youth Workers (covering all of the above areas)

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Art attack

Summer art club
Wear old clothes - it's messy!



25th July 10-12

Letters, Words and Collage

Let's use letters, words and collage in a creative way

1st August 10-12

Water colour painting
Watercolour paint is great for painting sky, clouds, sunshine and birds

15th August 1-3

Oil Pastels

Oil pastels are brilliant for blending and creating nature's vibrant colours

22nd August 10-12

Printing on fabric and making a wall hanging
Let's print with all sorts to create an amazing wall hanging

29th August 10-12

Nature plates
Printing and using all sorts to create a nature wall plate

£5 per session

Please phone to book.

info@wildsideac.co.uk
01902 754612

FIND OUT MORE

01902 754612

info@wildsideac.co.uk

www.wildsideac.co.uk

f @wildsideactivitycentre

@wildsideactivitycentre

Wildside Activity Centre
Hordern Road, Whitmore Reans,
Wolverhampton WV8 0HA

Wildside Activity Centre is a registered charity (No. 103094) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 201721)

Please find attached details about some Art Attack sessions for children this summer. Please phone the office to book spaces.

We have also received funding from Sustrans for some Get Active themed walks, these are open to families. There is no charge for these but places are limited so booking is essential, again just phone the office to book.

For details about our other summer activities please follow the links to our website.

Centre Summer Activities <https://www.wildsideac.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Summer-24-activities.pdf>

Water Activities <https://www.wildsideac.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/On-the-Water-with-Wildside-this-summer-2024.pdf>



Get Active

with Wildside and Sustrans

Ditch the car and re-discover the joys of walking and cycling as you explore the green spaces right here in the city



Themed Walks

All sessions are free of charge, but booking is essential. Please call 01902 754612 or email: info@wildsideac.co.uk for details.

Wildside is working with Sustrans and Travel West Midlands to offer a series of led walks and cycle rides in around Wolverhampton's only local nature reserve, the Smetow Valley. We'll be showing you the benefits of being in nature and holding cycle safety activities - including Dr Bike sessions to help you stay safe in the saddle.

Get Active Walking sessions:

24th July, 10am - 12noon:

scavenger hunt

31st July, 1pm - 3pm: the wonderful world of trees

7th August, 10am - 12noon: watch out for wildlife

14th August, 10am - 12noon: walking to a better world (environmental theme)

21st August, 10am - 12noon: the region's transport down the ages

28th August, 10am - 12noon: the art of walking (creative theme)

FIND OUT MORE

01902 754612

info@wildsideac.co.uk

www.wildsideac.co.uk

f @wildsideactivitycentre

@wildsideactivitycentre

Wildside Activity Centre
Hordern Road, Whitmore Reans,
Wolverhampton WV8 0HA



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HealthCare Passports

The healthcare passport 'All About Me', was launched at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and has been used for 2 years now.

It is for those who access children's services at Royal Wolverhampton Trust to take away their anxiety around being nervous about meeting healthcare professionals for the first time.

The 12-page document enables healthcare professionals to understand a child and young persons medical needs and how they can be best supported. This was to avoid parents /carers having to keep repeating themselves when conveying information about their child/young person at health appointments and allowing for reasonable adjustments to take place to ease anxiety.

Voice 4 parents have met with professionals around health passports and address the following issues raised by parents/carers.

Parents/carers report they do not know what Health passports are - **greater information needs to be available and accessible such as on the Local offer and schools need to be better informed regarding health passports**

Parents/carers report they do not know the process - where to send the finished document back to- **A flow chart is to be developed to make the process simpler and easier to understand that will go on the local offer**

Parents/carers find the health passport difficult to fill in due to its length - **considerations will be taken back to leadership as to how parents/carers can be better supported to fill the health passports out**

Parents/carers who do have health passports find professionals do not look at them at their child/young person's appointment - **more training needs to happen for health professionals to see the benefit of the health passport**

How is it flagged on the NHS web portal that a person has a health passport - **this is flagged up easily as is such things as a person's allergy, so it is prominent on the NHS web portal**

It was agreed a Digital Platform is more suitable than the current paper form of health passports that is scanned onto the NHS clinical web portal. The Digital platform would also allow for updates more easily as currently if needs change, a new passport has to be filled out to replace the previous one.

The Digital platform is being looked into and V4P will be asked for initial thoughts before it is considered.

EHCP Update

Unfortunately Parent carers feedback to V4P especially in coffee mornings and events around EHCPs are usually about areas they are struggling with and when things are not working well and have recently been about:

1. Lack of social care input to EHCPs
2. The continual struggle families face when the issues raised with schools are being dismissed and the graduated response not being utilised time after time leaving families upset and nowhere to turn to
3. Annual review processes not being followed correctly by schools
4. Annual review amendments just not getting done in a timely manner
5. Lack of information/process on personal budgets from schools at annual reviews and parents/carers not knowing what they are or what they can be used for.

It was agreed by the local authority that the issues families raise are nothing new and historically been raised. We are assured work is progressing to look at the issues. However parent carers are not seeing change from their perspective and things just seem to not be moving. We will keep you updated on any progress but in the meantime please keep letting us know about how EHCPs are working for you and your family.

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Health Steering Group Meeting

Health Steering group meeting takes place every 6 weeks where health professionals get together to discuss any issues related to Health, review action plans and work going forward in the area of SEND.

- There is a pilot Health Champions program that has been extended which was to utilise and lead Health initiatives within schools by using health trainees to help Children. Phase 2 will include 20 schools and 5 community groups requiring a dedicated coordinator in each school to lead.

SEND Health action plan was reviewed. This plan has an overall overview of all the actions of individual health services plans and actions. This is as a result of V4P annual survey that was produced to give all Parent Carer Feedback. Progress is monitored at each meeting.

Keep In Touch Meetings

A regular meeting has been set up as a keep in touch between Voice 4 Parents and Lucy Newman - SEND Advanced Practitioner within the City of Wolverhampton Council. The aim being to feedback on issues parent carers are currently experiencing in the world of SEND and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's).

Voice 4 Parents raised Parent Carer concerns around:

Not enough places at special schools and there appears to be an increasing need for 'academically able' children with other needs such as sensory or SEMH that can't be met within the mainstream classroom.

Gaps in the ability of some schools to be able to provide mental health support - there was recognition of the pressure schools are under however this is leading to a 'them and us' feeling where true coproduction is not happening in terms of support needed/provided. Parent Carers report that it feels like schools don't always listen and are trying to fit children and young people to the provision available rather than what is appropriate for the Child/Young Persons needs.

- Frustration from parents around lack of accessible leisure facilities in the city - no bespoke offer, no wheelchair swings or adapted areas/ suitable provision. Lots of talk and no apparent action - Voice4Parents stressed the importance of this for true inclusion and to give our Children and Young People a sense of belonging in the city

Support for parent carers is a massive need - mental health support is needed for general wellbeing but also support with challenging schools/services etc when necessary and knowing what is available to them for the whole family. Voice4Parents have been told that this is being worked on by Carers Conversation Team as part of their offer.

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Wolverhampton's Homelessness Prevention Strategy Consultation

Wolverhampton City Council Homeless Strategy team are seeking the views of Wolverhampton residents, partners and stakeholders on the proposed priorities and outcomes for the City's new Homelessness Prevention Strategy. The Strategy sets out the steps the city of Wolverhampton needs to take to help tackle homelessness and is based around four priority areas - Advice and Guidance, Support, Emergency and Short-term Accommodation and Move-on Accommodation. The draft strategy is attached to the consultation which can be found here - <https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cwc/homelessness-prevention-strategy-2024>

They would really appreciate you taking 10 minutes to complete the survey to help shape the commitment, making sure you can let us know your priorities.

The Council's Homeless Strategy Team would like to ask for your support in enabling us to reach as many residents in the city as possible so that we can deliver a strategy that takes account of and responds to the differing needs of our residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact the team @

homeless.strategy@wolverhampton.gov.uk if you have any questions.

Feedback from our members

We are very keen to obtain any feedback from our members on anything you feel important. What is working well? What are you finding a struggle? What do you think of our website or about anything in our Newsletter. Compliments are also received with gratitude.

There are a number of ways to feed back to us; using the link below, on our website under the feedback tab or on our facebook pages,

FEEDBACK TO US: families can feedback to us on any of the areas mentioned in this Newsletter by using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wq>