



Monday October 31st 2022



# VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER

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

## Welcome to your October edition of our Newsletter.....

WOW WOW WOW

### The Way

We are absolutely delighted to share with you some amazing news regarding 'The Way' in Wolverhampton. From November 5th, The Way will be starting a closed SEND session on Saturdays from 10 -1! Activities will be confirmed in due course. There will also be a weekly, closed session between half 4 and 6pm starting up for SEND families. There will be ear defenders readily available for children to use during these sessions from reception and in time, there is the potential for them to open up their sensory room for SEND families to use. This is just phenomenal news for our city and we cannot wait to see how this evolves.

Watch this space!



The Way—School Street, Wolverhampton, WV3 ONR.

01902 328290

### Coffee Mornings

Due to an issue with heating at Low Hill, we unfortunately had to cancel our Coffee Morning, but next month but we will be back on November 8th with Brenda Wile and Helen Bakewell to give an update on the Written Statement of Action. The Written Statement Of Action is the detailed plan to improve key areas identified by Ofsted after their inspection of SEND Services in 2021. The Ofsted report for Wolverhampton is very important to us all.

Our Coffee Morning on November 22nd will be with Guest Speaker—Anna Dalton, therapeutic and mental health lead. Please join us at Low Hill Hub, WV10 PLZ, 10–12pm. Everyone Welcome!



### Communication Board Training

Our Communication Board training launched on 13th October. It was a massive hit and we look forward to welcoming more members throughout November. "My son was over the moon with his board. Thank you!" said one of our members. The training provided will enable parents to support their children in the long term by using boards as a way of communicating effectively and teaching a child or young person to self-manage. November dates for training are, November 10th, 10-12pm and 15th 6-8pm. **Please book on at:**

[Admin@voice4parents.co.uk](mailto:Admin@voice4parents.co.uk)

### October Half Term Fun

Our Half Term leisure programme was an epic success. Thank you to everyone that attended and offered us feedback. We hope you all had a great time. Huge Thank you to V4P team, The National Lottery community fund and The Black Country Consortium for making this happen. Also a huge Thank You to Colton Hills Community School, Aldersley High School and The Way for helping us with venues, allowing activities to take place.



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## V4P updates from Strategic meetings attended in October



### Inclusion Summit 2022

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The event was provided by Wolverhampton Local Authority (LA) offering a variety of information stalls, one of them being us! The aim was to share information and help people understand SEND and inclusion. Workshops on the day included: race and culture in the curriculum / governance, inspiring change, keys to inclusion, LGBTQ support, supporting health needs in Education and in employment also. Was a wonderful day and very productive.



### Local Offer Update

The Local Authority have recruited a project lead to oversee the re-design of the Local Offer which has been an area of concern for many of our families and highlighted in the SEND Ofsted inspection. The Local Offer should provide SEND families with details on services available throughout the city as well as being a source for information. Many of you have voiced concerns over not knowing what is available within the city, not having contact with services directly and generally not being updated on where you can access help and information. We are actively working with partners to ensure the Local Offer contains the information you need and will update you with all progress.

### Consultations in the Community and Improving Accessibility and Inclusion within Wolverhampton

V4P provided Feedback to The Grand Theatre and Arena theatre on how to make shows more accessible and inclusive. This included but wasn't limited to, alterations to entrances and rest rooms, quiet performances at various times and show and carer tickets and also captions. This is wonderful news! V4P were also able to discuss with The Way, new inclusive sessions and what they would need to look like and how they would best work to be all inclusive to all SEND Families.

### Financial Wellbeing Partnership Board

Ensuring that the needs of our families are heard at Board level and considered in ALL financial support offered by Wolverhampton Local Authority.

As part of the Financial and wellbeing Strategy we informed you about in our last Newsletter, Warm Spaces will be launched by Wolverhampton Council from 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022- opening up community hubs and Libraries as Warm Spaces to families where you can grab a warm drink, food and charge devices/batteries and mobility equipment as well as being in a warm environment where you can meet other families. There is a shuttle service provided free of charge if needed that can pick you up and drop you back home and this is offered all week (including weekends) better still there is no need for a referral, simply call Wolverhampton Council Customer services to book. For more info visit :

[Warm Spaces | City Of Wolverhampton Council.](#)

### Emotional and well-being board

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have been trying to overcome national recruitment issues by taking a different approach to staffing—they've appointed an Occupational Therapist (OT) and a Speech And Language Therapist to work in specialist CAMHS.

Please let us know your experience of CAMHS and Mental Health services (by using the link at the bottom of this page) within Wolverhampton - we can then feed back directly to CAMHS.

### SENCO Network Launch

SENCO's are teachers that have responsibility for assessing, planning and monitoring the progress of children with SEND.

The SENCO network is up and running again for the new academic year and V4P have been involved in planning the new sessions aimed at helping new SENCO's engage with parents.

### Keep In Touch Meetings

We meet regularly with Senior Staff within the Local Authority and NHS/ Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure all feedback is captured and presented to the correct people to inform on what is working well and not so well. We meet weekly with the Deputy Director of Education and Inclusion Manager, we meet monthly with the Deputy Director for Children's Social Care, Alison Hinds and monthly with the Head of Joint Commissioning, we also meet monthly with Health officials and the Designated Medical Officer for Wolverhampton. We can only report back on what you tell us - please keep contacting us and letting us know what your experiences are with services both good and bad - we can only influence change with your help.

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>