



Thursday 30th November 2023

# VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER



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

Welcome to your last edition of our Newsletter before Christmas 2023.....

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and wish you all the very best for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

### Message from Chair and Vice Chair.

We would like to thank all Parent Carers for your support over the year and sharing your journeys, good and bad, with us to help to try and shape services for all SEND families in Wolverhampton. As SEND Parent Carers ourselves, we understand your challenges and like to enjoy your successes and really do appreciate that you have taken the time to work with us on work that is so important to us all.

We would like to also thank the Voice4Parents Steering Group who give up their time voluntarily to attend meetings, coffee mornings, focus groups, manage emails, social media and membership as well as ensure leisure activities have been coordinated and run for SEND families in Wolverhampton. Without their efforts Voice4Parents wouldn't be able to do the work we do.

On this note, we hope everyone has had a form of a Christmas Break, however you chose to spend it and that 2024 brings good things to you all.

Best Wishes to you all from Sarah and Jayne.

### How to become a member?

In order to go straight to our membership form, please use this QR code.

Please be ready to show proof of address and SEND need if asked. Also note memberships and membership number queries are processed every Monday evenings only. Outside of these hours, we cannot guarantee a swift response.



### RAW Newsletter

Real Arts Workshops (RAW) provide bespoke creative arts workshops that breakdown barriers and develop confidence and self-expression

[Read More...](#)



Sunshine Support

See FREE helpful resources at:

[Sunshine Support](#)

### Our NEW Website

Come and check out our new 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](http://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk) or scan the QR code opposite.

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](mailto:emma@voice4parents.co.uk)





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## Help and Support in our City

- ◆ 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/>
- ◆ Sunshine Support—[Resources - Sunshine Support \(sunshine-support.org\)](https://resources-sunshine-support.org)

## Learn how to get your Child assessed for ADHD

<https://theaimgroup.co.uk/courses/level-2/specific-learning-difficulties-free-online-course>

**The Way Youth Zone  
Saturday Sensory Sessions  
10-12.30pm.**

**Check out details here:**  
[The Way Youth Zone](#)

## Specific Learning Difficulties—FREE COURSE

<https://theaimgroup.co.uk/courses/level-2/specific-learning-difficulties-free-online-course>

## Travel Unit Team

The travel unit team are looking for people to feedback to help improve their services.

Please take a few moments to feedback by scanning the QR code provided.

Thank You





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## Coffee Mornings

Our Coffee Mornings have been wonderful.

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

Our Coffee Mornings will be back from January 2024—16th and 30th of January @ Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub, Fourth Ave, WV10 9LZ

10—12PM.

## Time to Connect

We will share with you our new Time to Connect Autism Café dates for 2024 ASAP. Please keep an eye on your emails and check your junk box regularly. Also keep an eye on our facebook page and website.

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](mailto:Emma@voice4parents.co.uk)

if you have any questions, concerns or queries.

Don't forget our website is packed with support and guidance.

Visit our 'support in the city tab' for more info!

[WWW.VOICE4PARENTS-WOLVES.CO.UK](http://WWW.VOICE4PARENTS-WOLVES.CO.UK)



# Sinbad the Sailor Christmas Panto 2023

We hope that everyone attending the Pantomime on December 3rd 2023 has tonnes of fun!

Please do let us know if you are unable to attend so we can allocate the places to other families.

As always, we would appreciate any feedback following the event using the links below. Thank You.

KEEP  
IN  
TOUCH

Website

[WWW.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk](http://WWW.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk)

There are a number of ways to feed back to us; using the link <https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFx8wg>, on our website under the feedback tab or on our facebook pages.

Follow us on Facebook:

[Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)

YOUR  
FEEDBACK  
MATTERS!

Contact us at:

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



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## NHS 'reasonable adjustments flag' to take off in the spring

All health and care organisations from March 2024 must start identifying and recording if disabled patients and clients need reasonable adjustments. The NHS 'reasonable adjustments digital flag' was developed to ensure disabled people have equitable access to healthcare. Reasonable adjustments are mandatory under the Equality Act.

Parents can approach health care providers, your GP for example, now, to ask for their disabled child to be logged on the system as requiring reasonable adjustments. Staff will code your child's record with a flag, and this will be immediately visible to staff when they are referred or arrive at an appointment. If your child needs specific adjustments, you can ask for them to be coded as 'bespoke'.

The legal duty to make reasonable adjustments is 'anticipatory', meaning they must be arranged in advance of any appointment. The digital flag is currently being integrated across all health records and patient consent will be sought to share this information.

[Read more about the reasonable adjustments flag.](#)

## Inclusion Conference

Voice 4 Parents were delighted to attend Wolverhampton's inclusion conference again this year, which is a conference for education leaders and other professionals across the city.

We ran 3 workshops with Wolverhampton Outreach service around our Power of Words project. These went really well, we had a lot of positive discussion and it helped professionals reflect on their own practice and make changes to the language and the conversations they have with families.

The day was such a positive day with workshops also running on

- Families First for Children Pathfinder workshop
- SEND and Alternative Provision workshop
- Education, Employment & Skills workshop
- Inspiring Change for SEND sharing experience of the young people's and POW's

What does inclusion look like in practice locally

There was also an inspirational talk from guest speaker Willard Wigan, the world famous micro sculptor from Wolverhampton, where he shared his experience of growing and having a learning difference.





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## Co-production meeting

We attended a coproduction meeting with Local Authority partners, where we discussed feedback from the V4P Annual Survey that is based on Family Experiences.

On from this, the Local Authority will be providing details on the newly revised local offer that will now offer a section about - "YOU said WE did", where the Local Authority will feedback on how they will address the issues parents have raised

## LOCAL OFFER

The Local Offer is currently being revised to include common questions/searches that parents/carers make on the local offer to make sure that there are no gaps in terms of information and accessibility.

We are meeting with the Local Authority next month to set up a tester using group for families on the Local Offer to ensure that before it is publicly launched that it is what Parent Carers have said is needed/wanted. We will be asking for volunteers to come and test the new Local Offer website to make sure the information families need is included. Please keep an eye out for further emails regarding this.

## SEND strategy consultation

On the 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 Voice 4 parents hosted a Coffee morning with IASS to discuss with families the SEND and Inclusion Strategy, we have fed back to the local authority, we will keep you updated and share the strategy with families when it has been finalised. We would like to thank all families who attend and this who completed the survey.

## Power Of Words (POW) Project

This is a V4P led project based on families telling us how Words and Language used by Professionals have the power to impact families, Children and Young People. Work is now complete on the Power of Words project that was Co Produced with Outreach.

As we can now share with you all, we would like to again say thank you to all of you who took part, helping to make this possible.

Please take a look at our video and let us have any feedback. Thank You

The video and further information can be found at

[The Power of Words | Voice4Parents  
Wolves \(voice4parents-wolves.co.uk\)](https://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk)



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### Health Inequalities

This month - meetings have resumed around Health inequalities experienced by children and young people with SEND. A focus was made specifically on Autism. Voice4Parents are aware that many of our families have Children/Young People and Adults that are diagnosed as Autistic or in the process of being diagnosed as Autistic. To inform this work, we will soon be launching a questionnaire based around Autism, diagnosis, Pathways/Process and Support that we will be asking all families with autistic members to complete. Please keep an eye on your emails for this questionnaire and help us make sure that services for Autism in Wolverhampton meets the needs of families.

We are also reviewing the Oliver McGowan training, how many staff have received this in Wolverhampton, what else could be done to bridge any gaps in training and if there are other professionals who would benefit from the same or similar training. Findings and any progress in these areas will be reported to the Autism Board, where Voice4Parents are also present to ensure families voices are represented. Further information on this mandatory training can be found at:

[The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism - elearning for healthcare \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](http://e-lfh.org.uk)

Health Passports were also discussed and information from the Voice4Parents Annual Survey was given. Many Families are not aware that Health Passports are being offered and used in Wolverhampton to help make medical appointments easier for Children and Young People. Information on Health Passports:

[All About Me \(royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk\)](http://royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk)

Voice4Parents also discussed waiting times for Health Services and Diagnosis Pathways for both Health and Mental Health, we advised that families need appropriate support whilst on waiting lists that meets the families needs and helps with ongoing issues.

### Graduated Response

The Graduated Approach/ Graduated Response is a way of identifying and responding to SEN in schools where support is offered based on a Childs/Young Person needs - using a "Assess, Plan, Do and Review" method.

Many Parents have advised that they are unsure of what this means and where they fit into this process, not knowing how to access this support or how it is offered/delivered.

Voice 4 Parents Steering group members attended a workshop on the graduated response to discuss and feedback on the following areas

- Review draft content from the perspective of parents/carers with different experiences
  - Identify actions needed to get wording for Local Offer content agreed
- Share views about what format the content needs to be presented in.

When the documents are finalised by the local authority, we will share and signpost families to help and information available.

### Mental coach app for 12 to 18 year old

Please check out the below links by clicking on them:

[Click Here for Poster](#)

[Click Here for FAQ's](#)