



Tuesday October 31st 2023

# VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER



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

## Coffee Morning

**Our Coffee Mornings are back!**

We have been delighted to welcome our existing and new members back to our coffee mornings this month. The turnout has been brilliant and it was great to see so many of you. Thank You!

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

Our November Coffee Mornings will run on: November 14th and 28th @ Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub, Fourth Ave, WV10 9LZ 10–12PM.



Time to Connect

Let's grow our community together

## NEW VENUE FOR NOVEMBER

For November our Autism Café will be held at:

Warstone's Busy Building  
1c Cleverley Drive, W'ton WV4 4QL.  
This venue hosts a sensory room for use during the session. Please note: all children are the responsibility of their parents / carers and must be supervised at all times. Thank You

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.

## 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.



## 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://www.sunshinesupport.org/)

### RAW Newsletter

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

[Read More...](#)

## The Way Youth Zone

### Sensory Saturdays

**SEND Families**  
10am – 12:30pm



Weekly themed activities in a calm, relaxed setting


- Sensory room
- Arts and crafts
- Climbing wall
- Board games & lego
- Parachute games
- Soft play
- Music
- Cafe

50p per person  
All ages welcome, accompanied by an adult





**The Way Youth Zone**  
School Street, Wolverhampton WV3 0NR  
[www.thewayyouthzone.org](http://www.thewayyouthzone.org)  
Registered Charity Number 1151247

**Barnardo's Lived Experience Epilepsy Consultation Project**  
(on behalf of the Black Country ICB)


Believe in children  
Barnardo's

**Are you aged 12 -18?**

Do you have epilepsy and have received support through the NHS and want to help? We want to hear your views!

Please contact Barnardo's Project Workers on 01384411722 or email us on  
[EpilepsyConsultationProject@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:EpilepsyConsultationProject@barnardos.org.uk)

**Thank You!**



### Learn how to get your Child assessed for ADHD

<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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## Co Production Meeting

These are Monthly meetings that take place with V4P, Local authority and other partners to discuss how we try to improve Co-production at all levels.

This is to improve communication with parent carers and young people and help them to become involved in decisions effecting them.

V4P are to be involved in the auditing of the quality of EHCP's going forward.

## POW- Power Of Words

Voice 4 Parents and Wolverhampton Outreach service presented the POW project to SEND & Inclusion Partnership Board in October

Power of words is a collaboration between voice 4 Parents and Wolverhampton Outreach Service. It was developed with the aim to promote a culture of reflection upon the language that is used when interacting with young people who have SEND and their families.

It comprises a short film, a booklet and training for a range of services across the city to access

We want to thank all Parent, Carers and young people who took part in this project,.

The video and further information can be found at [The Power of Words | Voice4Parents Wolves \(voice4parents-wolves.co.uk\)](http://The Power of Words | Voice4Parents Wolves (voice4parents-wolves.co.uk))

## Health Steering Group

Voice 4 Parents presented the results of our annual survey to Health Steering Group in October this was very well received by all members. We discussed the concerns that families had raised and how changes can be made. There was an agreement that an action plan would be drawn up and V4P would work with Health partners to pull together a Health Newsletter which details the responses to families concerns in more details. This will be send out to families in the coming weeks. We have also started to have meeting with different services to discuss families feedback in more detail and to work out a way forward. **V4P Priorities—2022—2023**

Priorities following our Annual Survey and Parent Carer Feedback provided

[Read results....](#)

## Specific Learning Difficulties—FREE COURSE

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

Please check out the following link that has been shared by the Black Country Healthcare team.

[Halloween | TimeToAct | Reduced Publications \(nas-email.org.uk\)](http://Halloween | TimeToAct | Reduced Publications (nas-email.org.uk))





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## Wolverhampton SEND and Inclusion Strategy

Wolverhampton SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board is seeking your views on its draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy. The strategy, which has been co-produced with stakeholders, sets out the duties of SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board and will be delivered through a SEND and Inclusion Improvement plan. To find out more, read the strategy and have your say, please visit <https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/send/send-inclusion-strategy-2024>.

**Voice4Parents and IASS** will be discussing the strategy and supporting parents and carers to complete the survey at the **Voice4Parents coffee morning** on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am -12.00pm**  
Low Hill Family Hub  
26-28 Fourth Avenue, Wolverhampton WV10 9LZ

If you would like further information on the strategy you can contact [nicola.harris2@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.harris2@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
If you have any queries or want to feedback to us please email [admin@voice4parents.co.uk](mailto:admin@voice4parents.co.uk)  
If you would like help to complete the survey contact [ias.service@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:ias.service@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

Deadline for responses is Friday 17 November 2023.

## contact *For families with disabled children*

### Fears quality of special school eye testing service at risk

Contact and along with learning disability charities SeeAbility and Mencap, have raised concerns over proposed changes to the delivery of eye testing in special schools. NHS England will roll out eye testing to all special and residential schools from April 2024 and has been consulting on its new delivery model. Under the proposed offer, children in special schools who need glasses will be offered just one pair rather than one 'plus a spare' under the current tried-and-tested model running in 83 special schools. NHS England has also removed the requirement for test providers to conduct familiarisation visits to help prepare autistic and learning-disabled children for eye testing. We are also concerned that practitioners conducting the test will no longer be expected to undergo specialist training for working with autistic and learning-disabled children. [NHS England's 'proof of concept' evaluation of the current scheme in 83 special school found 75% of participating schools reported significant improvements in children's learning and behaviour after getting glasses under the current scheme.](#)  
[Read our webpages to find out more about eye care for disabled children](#)

### Clinically vulnerable children still waiting in line for their covid vaccine

Invitations for eligible disabled children to get their covid vaccine were due to be sent out from this Saturday 14 October, according to NHS England. A relief for parents of clinically vulnerable children who have been struggling to get their child vaccinated before winter arrives. The autumn covid vaccine campaign has been running for a month now, but some highly vulnerable children are still unvaccinated. NHS England told the learning disability and autism stakeholder forum that there was slight delay in ordering the children's vaccines. Additional paperwork required for supporting use of new vaccine may have contributed to some of the problems and confusion, it added. One parent was told there were no suitable vaccines available for her toddler who has a weakened immune system and a complex neurological condition. Pharmacists advised another parent they had the vaccine in stock but were not yet authorised to vaccinate young children. A licensed vaccine for children is now available and NHS guidance clearly states people who are immunosuppressed (including children) are a priority for the vaccine and booster jab along with people in care homes. Carers in receipt of carers allowance or caring for a disabled person are also eligible. If you are experiencing problems securing a timely covid vaccine or booster for you clinically vulnerable child, please get in touch. [Read more about eligibility for the covid and flu vaccines here.](#)



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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## Local Offer

Progress is being made on Wolverhampton's new local offer, and the Local Authority are getting to the stage of user testing. Voice 4 Parents have sent some suggestions questions that could be used in the Local offer user testing phase. We will also be sending out further information in the next few weeks on how families can get involved in this but if you would like to express an interest please email [admin@voice4parents.co.uk](mailto:admin@voice4parents.co.uk)

## Wolverhampton SEND Moving into Adulthood Careers Fair

Voice 4 parents were really pleased to attend this event and see all the opportunities available to our young people post 16. The young people who attended were so engaging and it was wonderful to see how much they and their families got from the event. It was lovely chatting to everyone there and gave us the chance to network with other organisations. Well done to everyone involved in pulling the event together.

## Preparation for Adulthood RISE Workshop

This month, V4P took part in a full day in person workshop bringing together multi agency partners and parent carer representatives from across the SEND system, to share and consolidate programmes of work related to PFA and transitions. The workshop was delivered by NDTi (national development team for inclusion). A lot of great ideas were discussed and further work will continue on how to implement these to the best advantage of the children and young people of Wolverhampton with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

It was a very positive day and V4P look forward to continuing working on the Preparation for Adult-



An innovative new healthcare Passport has been launched.

[All About Me](#)



Sunshine Support

See FREE helpful resources at:

[Sunshine Support](#)

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## Christmas Pantomime

We are happy to announce that we will be providing this 'Sinbad the Sailor panto on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. There will be 2 timeslots, 10am and 1pm purely for our send families at:



**Wednesfield Conservative Club, 98 Neachells Lane, Wolverhampton WV11 3PR.**

The Panto has been kindly funded by national lottery and the venue has kindly gifted us space free of charge. The sessions will be free and can be booked by visiting our website—[WWW.VOICE4PARENTS-WOLVES.CO.UK](http://WWW.VOICE4PARENTS-WOLVES.CO.UK) and checking out the HOME tab. Please keep an eye on your e-mails. Please ensure you hold a valid V4P membership number before applying. Spaces will be given on a first come first served basis only. Please do not contact us to ask about spaces until after November 20th 2023.

JenCo Promotions  
Tel: 01785 824824

**Family Pantomime**



**Sinbad  
The  
Sailor**

**SUNDAY 03 DECEMBER**  
**SHOW TIME: 10:00 AM**

JenCo Promotions  
Tel: 01785 824824

**Family Pantomime**



**Sinbad  
The  
Sailor**

**SUNDAY 03 DECEMBER**  
**SHOW TIME: 01:00 PM**

# Happy Halloween and Happy Half Term