

Friday June 30th 2023

VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER



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

Website Launch Day

Come and check out our new website and find more about us, the work we do and sign up to become a member @ www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk

Or scan the QR code

We hope you enjoy it. 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



Time to Connect

Our time to connect café continues to grow and evolve but will be held on July 1st 2023 (instead of June) and 29th July — 4—6pm @ 6 School Road Tettenhall Wood, WV6 8EJ.

This is such a warm and inviting space that aims to offer support and a safe place to socialise for us all. There are activities for everyone as well as complimentary snacks and juice. There is also a chance to have hot drinks at subsidised prices. Come along and meet others that understand. Everyone welcome.

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

Positive Behaviour Support Workshops

Please click the link to find out more.

[workshops_LD.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

Power of Words Project

Thank you to everyone that has contributed towards our POW project. Videoing has now ended and we are starting to put all footage together. We hope to launch officially by September but would like to offer families who were involved in the project the chance to see the final version first at a pre launch event.

We know this will be a very valuable piece of work and going forward, we hope it makes huge difference to us all. Keep an eye on the website for future updates.

Coffee Morning

We are taking a break from Coffee Mornings now until September. Please check out the website under 'coffee morning' tab and keep an eye on your inbox for new dates.



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Family Hubs

There are a number of hubs in Wolverhampton.

There is a range of help available for families from the Family Hub's located around the Wolverhampton area. (please see link below)

[Family Hubs | Wolverhampton Information Network](#)

Advice and support is available on all aspects of parenting including pregnancy and early childhood, keeping children safe and healthy, behaviour issues, relationships, domestic violence, drug and alcohol issues, problems at school, bullying etc.

EHCP template workshop

This was attended by V4P steering group members, Local authority reps from SENSTART, Dept for Education and a Regional Parent Carer Forum representative .

The workshop was to discuss the local authorities' proposal to change the current EHCP template, which they propose to remove short term targets from the ECHP as they should be discussed between families and school on a termly basis.

It was agreed a pilot would be carried out of the new EHCP template on some new EHCP's following the assessment. This then would be assessed and views of parents/ carers/young people would be taken and the issue of the template discussed again in December 2023. No current EHCP's format will be changed.

SEND Board - Partnership board with ownership for SEND

These are some of the agenda items discussed at Send Board in June:

The Written Statement of Action highlight report update and feedback was given as to where the local authority currently are.

Update from Adrian Wells (lead local authority officer responsible for joint commissioning) on the Short Breaks paper - it was highlighted that since the 2019 Short break review, work has been slow to move on the recommendations of the review. There was an agreement from SEND board to make short breaks a priority.

New School Nurse Bulletins

The 0-19 School Nursing Service has launched a new digital bulletin called 'Building a healthy future', sharing latest news from their service, alongside important healthcare messages. Check them out below:

For SEND parents - <https://bit.ly/3WpYVmR>

For primary parents - <https://bit.ly/3Wq7uy2>

For secondary students - <https://bit.ly/42V2t2Y>

Follow us on Facebook:

[Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)



Contact us at:

Admin@voice4parents.co.uk

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Co-production

Co production is about

- Involving parents and carers in the planning and development of services provided to parents, children and young people.
- This happens when parents and carers are valued in shaping and delivering services they use and need.
- It is not being given information or just taking part in consultation. Participation empowers parents and carers to take an active role in influencing what services do, how they do it and to what standard.
- By working in coproduction with the local authority, education settings, health providers and other providers, Voice4Parents can highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well and challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.

"We believe that parents, carers and professionals are stronger and more resourceful when they work together - and when we do this, we achieve good outcomes for all our children and young people and their families."

- We will continue to have monthly co production meetings with partners across the city to ensure the above principles is at the heart of everything .

Autism Board

Voice4Parents are a member of the Autism Board which meets quarterly and this board is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority. Wolverhampton has decided to adopt the national strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026. There are 6 national themes and 15 actions that have been adopted at local level. The six aims are:

1. Improving understanding and acceptance within society;
 2. Improving autistic people's access to education, and supporting transitions in adulthood;
 3. Supporting more autistic people into employment;
 4. Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people;
 5. Building the right support in the community and supporting people in in-patient care;
- Improving support within the criminal and youth justice system

There have been workgroups set up for each of these themes and a member of Voice4Parents is on each group so that we can feed back your experiences with autism which will be used to shape future changes.

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>