

Saturday 30th September 2023

VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER



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

Welcome Back

WOW— Throughout the summer holiday, we welcomed hundreds of V4P members and their families, existing and new onto the activities provided. The smiles on the feedback pictures have been so wonderful to see!

Thank you to everyone that participated and fed back to us about their activities. You can see our Summer 2023 Leisure Program's latest video here on our website [Voice4Parents|Gallery](#)

A huge thank you to the whole of the V4P team for making this happen for all the families and to Wolverhampton City Council for funding such



Time to Connect

Our next Autism Café will run on October 21st 2023. As always, everyone is welcome to attend. 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.

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 any questions, concerns or queries.

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 October Coffee Mornings will run on: October 10th and 24th @ Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub, Fourth Ave, WV10 9LZ 10—12PM.



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 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



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Following our annual survey, Voice 4 Parents have reviewed all your feedback and set the following priorities for the next 12 months:

High Priority

Co production - Strategic and family co-production - need to ensure clear understanding of true co-production on all levels , mutual respect , whole family approach and being heard

ASD - pathway, pre diagnostic support, post diagnostic support and support through the whole pathway , 3 pathways (confusion on timescales etc), really unclear, more progress to be made on Autism Board, Black Country & ICB work

Mental Health & Wellbeing - what is Wolverhampton's Mental Health offer, CAMHS and all services , support for the whole family , feedback from families show that families can't get support as their child has other SEND needs , Services don't understand the SEND need to make therapy accessible, 12 week phone call families feel this is a tick box. Families need support when they ask for it not when things hit a crisis, families don't feel listened to . Discharges 50% felt this was inappropriate and families didn't know how to re access or get further support , no exit plan. Clear and appropriate documents presented at SEND Board (data etc)

Leisure /HAF . Leisure need to ensure engagement with SEND community so they can access in their Local Community including Parks, Leisure Centres etc to make sure they are SEND appropriate and all staff have a clear understanding and correct information is available to families . HAF families feedback that HAF is not accessible for SEND families and doesn't always meet SEND criteria (0 to 25)

Social Care - DCYP team role, Short Break although work has started , still need to get access and assessment right and information regarding Wolverhampton Short Break offer and criteria. Carers assessment. Direct payments

Education - EHCPs as a whole with a particular focus on Annual reviews and personal budgets. Transitions, reasonable adjustments, graduated response families need to have a clear understanding of graduated response, a document needs to be produced that is parent friendly (we are yet to see this even though there has been conversations that is has been produced) , schools need to meet more with families and adopt a whole family approach . Exclusions and suspensions . EHCP Hub and Invision 360 , quality assurance and auditing

Health - Health Personal Budgets, access to therapies , waiting list for services, LDA annual health check. Information regarding what the offer is from each service and how therapy is delivered.

Joint Commissioning (Joint Commissioning brings together education, health and social care, to share an understanding of what is needed by children, young people and their families) - we recognise for all the above to work JC work need to drive this

Cost Of living is also a growing crisis for SEND families

Priorities (as work is happening but still get quite significant feedback regarding these from families)

Local Offer

PFA (Preparation for Adulthood)

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NEWSLETTER

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.sunshine-support.org/)

W'ton SEND Moving into Adulthood Careers Fair 2023



CITY of WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Wolverhampton SEND Moving Into Adulthood Careers Fair 2023

Free event for young people, parents, carers and schools

Come along to find out about the options available for further education, training and employment.

When:
Friday 20 October
9am – 3.30pm

Where:
Dunstall Racecourse
Gorsebrook Road
Wolverhampton
WV6 0PE



Book online by 6 October 2023 by visiting www.tinyurl.com/SENDCareers2023 or scanning the QR code

Need more information?
For more information email:
SENDmovingintoadulthood@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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
Registered Charity Number 1151247



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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Feedback Meeting with Inspire

Voice 4 Parents Steering Group members met with Team Leaders from Inspire to discuss feedback from our annual survey. We raised concerns around waiting list, criteria, appropriate support, therapies being adapted, issues around families get refused due to other SEND needs, discharges. We also discussed changes to areas that Inspire can support with and how this needs to be communicated with families. In the coming months we hope to share updated information regarding the offer from Inspire and their criteria, we also plan for the service to attend a V4P coffee morning. Following on from meeting with Inspire we have also requested to meet with other professionals / services so we can share our annual survey findings.

Co Production Meeting

A V4P rep has now attended Invision training (tool used to audit the quality of EHCP's) and will start auditing from Oct 2023.

V4P has feedback that parents need more information regarding decision making panels and the agreement that parents/carers be informed of these and their purpose before they take place

Send Partnership Board Meeting

V4P Annual survey results have now been shared with all partners at the Local Authority Send partnership board which covers education, health and social care. This should inform services of what parents feel is working well and what isn't so services can improve where needed.

Action plans are to be drawn up based on the annual survey by Health partners and inform the Local authority on their Self-evaluation and priorities going forward.

Keep in touch meeting with Strategic partners

Our normal keep in touch meetings with professionals have restarted after the summer holidays After feedback...

We discussed recent transport issues, v4p priorities based on families feedback and discussed the send partnerships self evaluation with the local authority.

With our health partners we discussed camhs and the autism/adhd pathways in Wolverhampton and across the black country as well as how services needed to work better together.

When meeting with social care, we discussed carers assessments with a view to arranging a meeting to fully feedback what families feel is needed in regards of help and support via carers team and short breaks

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NEWSLETTER

An innovative new healthcare Passport has been launched.

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



Helping Hands Black Country are holding another Making connection event on Friday 20th October in Wolverhampton. They are aware that the Black country is vast and there are lots of professional colleagues and families that will not know about our service.

[Read more](#)




See FREE helpful resources at:

[Sunshine Support](#)

Sunshine Support

CAHMS Parent / Carer Workshop

PARENT CARER WORKSHOPS AT CAMHS

NHS
Black Country Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Come and join our CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops. We are running workshops exploring a range of difficulties that children/young people may experience, that can impact their emotional wellbeing.

- Our Parent/Carer Workshops run virtually (Zoom) from 12pm - 1.30pm
- 27/09/2023 Trauma & Attachment
 - 11/10/2023 Communication/Speech & Language
 - 15/11/2023 Autistic Spectrum Conditions
 - 06/12/2023 Depression/ Low Mood
 - 17/01/2024 Anxiety/OCD
 - 14/02/2024 Self Harm
 - 13/03/2024 Anger/Conduct
 - 17/04/2024 Anxiety

If you are interested in joining a workshop, and have a child/young person accessing Black Country CAMHS Services - please contact Andrea Ehgartner on Tel: 01902 444021 to book your place.





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HELP SHAPE THE AUTISM DIAGNOSTIC PATHWAY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BLACK COUNTRY

Voice4Parents - Wolverhampton Parent Carer Forum have been contacted by Richard Lloyd-Johnson - A CAMHS (Child and Adult Mental Health Services), Child and Young Persons commissioner in the Black country Healthcare Foundation Trust to deliver a project around autism diagnosis for children 5-18 and work to shape the pathways across the Black Country. There has already been a meeting for September but there is still a chance to join on October 4th 2023 @9.30-10.30am.

4TH OCTOBER 9.30 - 10.30AM

[Join on your computer, mobile app or room device](#)

Meeting ID: 399 443 497 453

Passcode: cw4BwF

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

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/483FKF3>

For primary parents -

<https://bit.ly/45XS4F6>

For secondary students -

<https://bit.ly/3r7wKOy>

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.

Development and building of these hubs is ongoing so we will keep you updated on the progress across the city.



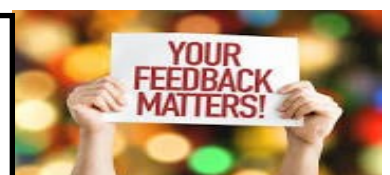
Website

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](#)



Contact us at:

Admin@voice4parents.co.uk