

Friday September 30th 2022



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

# VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our NEW V4P Newsletter.....

Keep up to date with what is happening behind the scenes with V4P.

*Wolverhampton City Council*

## Local Support Grant

As a team, we have successfully helped over 220 families in Wolverhampton with funding towards food shopping and energy bills.

Combatting the rising cost of living is something we are very proud to help with. We will be presenting feedback on how families have been impacted by the Cost of Living Crisis at the next SEND Board in October.

*As a forum, we have ensured that all Parent Carer feedback has been shared with Wolverhampton Council to support the new Financial and Wellbeing Strategy. Thank you to everyone that fed back to us. We presented your feedback to Councilors and Senior Management at the Strategy Launch and will keep you updated.*

## Summer Leisure Programme 2022

Our Summer Programme was an amazing success. Accommodating over 200 SEND families in our city, we had a blast. THANK YOU to everyone that came along, shared photographs and feedback and THANK YOU to all involved in making this possible. Black Country Consortium and The National Lottery Community Fund made all these dreams a reality.

## Exciting News

**A huge THANK YOU to everyone that voted for Voice4Parents in the recent Dobbies local funding applications.. We have been fortunate enough to WIN funding from them and will be using the funds with absolute gratitude at Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub.**

**Keep an eye on your inboxes because we will be launching our SEND Leisure Offer for October half term in the next few weeks.**

## Communication Board Training

We are incredibly lucky to be able to undertake 'communication board training' following successful funding from Severn Trent. 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.

On October 3rd we will receive forum training and then roll this training out to parent carers on Oct 13th, 10-12 and Oct 21st, 6-8pm.

You can book by e-mailing:

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

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

## V4P Coffee Mornings

Our Coffee Mornings relaunched following the summer break on 13.9.22 @ Low Hill Hub. Parent Carers met with Councillor Chris Burden, City Of Wolverhampton's cabinet member for Education, Skills and Work.

Families were given the opportunity to talk to him about what is important to them. The meeting was brilliant and we will update everyone going forward on any changes that are made as a result of this. A big thank you to those that attended and for sharing your experiences with Councillor Burden.

September 27th saw us being able to meet with Elaine Westwood from IASS where she discussed their role and spoke with our parents carers. We had a brilliant and very productive session. Thank you to Elaine. We also had the amazing chance to meet with Jo Hartell, Wolverhampton's brand new ADHD nurse. She discussed her new post with us and future plans. A huge welcome to Jo and thank you for joining us. We are looking forward to supporting Jo in her new role and will let parents know, over time how she is getting on. If any parents needs advice / support from Jo now, please forward V4P any questions and we will happily forward them to Jo on your behalf. Thank you.

**Further Coffee Morning Dates: October 11th, November 8th and 22nd 2022, Venue TBC.**

Follow us on Facebook:

[Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton)

Contact us at:

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

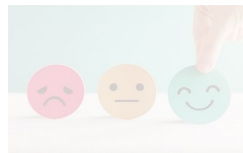
# V4P updates from Strategic meetings attended in September



## Preparation For Adulthood Steering Group:

Many families have fed back to us that they aren't aware of Medical Annual Checks for all young people 14+ with a learning disability. The group are looking at how to increase the uptake of these checks to ensure young people are receiving correct care. Has your young person received an annual health check? How did they find this?

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## Local Offer Workshop:

Discussions have started around re-building the Local Offer. Families identified this was an issue at Ofsted Inspection last year. We fed back family concerns on the site not being accessible and lacking a search facility. Please have a look at the Local Offer Website and let us know your thoughts on what you would like to see in the Local Offer and what is missing?

## Emotional Health and Wellbeing Board:

Updates were given from service providers Kooth, Base25 and CAMHS. CAMHS have seen positive results from a mix and match therapy service when offering group therapy, bookended with individual therapy but are still facing considerable problems with retention and recruitment which means that waiting times are not yet decreasing. Please let us know your recent experiences of CAMHS, Are you waiting to be seen? How long have you been waiting? Has any support been offered in the time being?

## Physical Inactivity:

Children and Young People and Families Steering Group: Presentation was given by Public Health looking at Health Related Behaviours showing many Children and Young People were not eating 5 portions of fruit and veg a day, with 30% of Key stage 1 children having never visiting a dentist. Physical activity severely reduces in those at Secondary school to Primary and only 30% of respondents could swim a length. We have requested some SEND specific statistics/ breakdowns but in general this is in line with our own findings from your feedback - Cost of Living is severely impacting the purchasing of fresh fruit/veg and nutritious food, SEND Health services are slow to respond to need and a lot of activities/open spaces aren't accessible to our families. Please continue to feedback to us on how you and your families access Leisure and any difficulties you experience in carrying out activities/ physical activities.

## Short Breaks/ General Leisure Offer for SEND:

Work is starting to look at the Short Break offer in Wolverhampton. Although, still in early days, jointly, we are starting to look at what is available locally and any gaps in this offer. We have fed back on the difficulties you have experienced in accessing respite and what you have told us is needed from a short break offer but please keep us updated on what your family needs, how you find the process and what is ultimately offered to you and your family.

## SEND BOARD:

Focused on the Written Statement of Action progress. There are plans to include an update for everyone in the Joint SEND newsletter that will be distributed shortly. It is also planned to hold focus groups with Parent Carers to update on progress and answer any questions you may have. We will let you know dates for these when we have them.

## Online Conference with The Regional Families Hub:

The Family Hubs are a new national initiative funded by the D of E to help ensure all babies, children and families have the support they need through a network of family hubs across England from pregnancy to 24. We are working with our LA as they create and build family hubs that are accessible to all, particularly those families who are living in poverty, experiencing discrimination and exclusion and those that have children with SEN or disabilities.

V4P are working to make sure the SEND voices of Wolverhampton's families are heard and that all new family hubs are places of warmth, no judgements and are fully accessible to everyone.



## 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 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 your feedback - 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 above using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wq>