

Wednesday May 31st 2023

VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER



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



Time to Connect

Our time to connect café continues to grow and evolve but will be held on July 1st 2023 (instead of June) — 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 a subsidised prices.

Come along and meet others that understand. Everyone welcome.

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

Power of Words Project

Very soon we will be releasing our Power of Words Project Video. This is what has been created to help professionals understand the importance of using the right words. We have had much feedback from families stating the use of appropriate words can make a real difference to the whole family not just the child or young person.

Thank you to everyone that helped develop this video and to everyone that had some input.



Next Coffee Morning
As always—everyone is welcome.



Please feel very welcome to come and join us for our next coffee mornings.

Coffee mornings will run from 10-12 pm @ Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub, Fourth Avenue, WV10 9LZ

Any questions or queries, please contact us.

June Dates:

- ◆ June 6th—parents and carers only. Lauren from IASS will be present to do 1 to 1 private sessions. You can book your time slot on arrival to the coffee morning and talk in private. This is an ideal time for parents and carers without a caseworker to gain some advice.
- ◆ June 20th—a chance to meet with Bethune Smith who is the Community Connector in Wolverhampton. She will be talking about how to improve physical activity levels by using the green and blue spaces etc, identify what spaces are in the local area and any litter hotspots.

Follow us on Facebook:

[Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)

KEEP
IN
TOUCH

Contact us at:

Admin@voice4parents.co.uk

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Transitions Workstreams

When Wolverhampton was inspected by Ofsted, one of the areas of weakness that they highlighted, was the processes surrounding transition. A Transitions Workstream was set up following the creation of the Written Statement of Action which featured professionals from education (including teachers), health, social care, employment and Voice4Parents. There were two areas of focus:

1. The main transition points - between nursery and school; between primary and secondary
2. 16+ education with a focus on Preparation for Adulthood

The Local Authority will offer information on its website on what children and parents should expect when moving between schools - there will be videos in which year 6 and year 7 children say what questions they had when they were moving between schools as well as information on admissions and the general process. For those who need a bit more help, there should be an enhanced transition offer which is discussed between parents and schools to enable the child/young person to have a smooth move between settings. For those who need a lot more help (including those with EHCP) there should be a tailored offer for these young people which should be discussed at the annual review in Year 5.

second workstream looks at Preparation for Adulthood and focuses on these four areas:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Living as independently as possible
3. Friendships, relationships and community
4. Learning and Employment

These are very broad categories and include information on accommodation; transfer to adult health/well being services; hobbies and leisure; access to social care; employment and benefits. The workstream is aware that there are currently lots of gaps in the area's Preparation for Adult offer and Voice4Parents

Updates

CAMHS has introduced two new trials - one is a Sprint where for two weeks they focus on initial appointments for children and young people on the waiting lists to bring down the wait for a first assessment to only a few weeks. They have also introduced a pilot where children and young people are given a four-session intervention after their first appointment in order to provide help quickly. Have you been part of the Sprint or do you have experience of the four sessions?, if so please let us know your thoughts.

Base25 are diversifying their offer to include Bushcraft and green space appointments and offering Saturday sessions. They also have a Sanctuary Café where parents can go to get some support with their child's mental health. They also plan to introduce a sensory room and a messy playroom. We will keep you updated with progress.

Follow up...

Following on from feedback at our coffee morning where some parents asked about more inclusive books in libraries, the local authority/councillors have made a commitment to get more books into libraries that have disabilities in etc.

Please

e-mail us any suggestions for book titles at admin@voice4parents.co.uk.

Thank you.

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>

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The Written Statement of Action Focus Groups

The Written Statement of Action was published on 8 March, 2022. It outlines the steps that members of the SEND Partnership Board will take, and in many cases are already taking, to bring about further improvements to SEND services in Wolverhampton.

Thank you to everyone that attended the focus groups we put on as well as a huge Thank You to Brenda Wile and Helen Bakewell for speaking with us all.

The points raised in the Ofsted continue to be worked on and improved. We will keep you updated. Thank you for your feedback. Please use the link below if you wish to send us any further feedback regarding The Written Statement of Action. <https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wg>

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."

After discussing this with our partners, it has been agreed that a Co-production group will be established to meet monthly. The aim of the group is to ensure that meaningful co-production occurs both at a policy and strategic level and at an operational level with families so that you are included at the earliest possible opportunity in conversations and decisions that make a difference to you personally. This is really important for those families that access SEN support and are currently within the process of the "graduated response" in regards to the EHCP process. (Education Health and Care Plan).

Joint Commissioning Workshop

V4P attended a Joint commissioning workshop where all stakeholders reviewed the changes needed to support families from 2023—2025. There a strong presentation around blended feeding and the need for finances to enable this to continue. This is an area V4P would really appreciate family feedback on so please drop us an e-mail with your views and how your family could be impacted in any way, good or bad by the blended feeding programme.

V4P continue to work together with the Local Authority and Black Country NHS Trust to make improvements to the ADHD pathway. This includes stream lining the process for diagnosis, raising awareness in all sectors of how ADHD can present itself and the improvement of access to the vital information for children, young people and parent / carers that are needed during this time.

FEEDBACK LINK: <https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wg>

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Strengthening Families Hubs

There are a number of hubs in Wolverhampton.

There is a range of help available for families from the Strengthening Families Hub's located around the Wolverhampton area.

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

This month Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub has re-opened as the first of the Family Hubs. V4P continue to ensure work is ongoing to improve accessible toileting there for families and improving on the outside area for all to enjoy.

Mind the Gap Invite Letter

This is a reminder to register your **FREE** place for our Commitment to Carers Mind The Gap: Celebratory Event on **Wednesday 21st June, 11am-1pm**. See Link:

[Mind The Gap Celebratory Event Invite Letter.pdf](#)

FREE Multi Sport Sessions for SEND children aged 8 -16

@ WestCroft School every Monday 5-6pm. First one is on June 5th—**NO BOOKING REQUIRED**. See Link: [Sessions](#)

In other news: Our brand new V4P Website is currently being developed—Keep an eye out for our release date coming very soon!



Yo!

Yo provides access to events and services in Wolverhampton that offer opportunities to children and Young People as well as their parents and carers. To take a look at what is on offer over the May Half Term please see the following link: (please check with the provider for suitability and availability)

[Events | Wolverhampton Young Opportunities \(yowolves.co.uk\)](#)

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and enjoyable May bank holiday and Half Term Week.

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/bq86NFX8wg>