

Friday March 31st 2023

# VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER



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

Annual Survey 2022

## Thank You Very Much

Our survey closes today and we would like to express our gratitude and say Thank you Very much to every single one of you that took the time to complete our Annual Survey. We strive, as parents ourselves to SEND children to make a real difference for families in our city and this survey is a fabulous opportunity for your voices to be heard. We aim to represent all SEND parents and carer and use every single response from all our members to drive our work forward. Without the responses of all our members, we would be unable to do so—so Thank you!



### Time to Connect

Our time to connect café continues to grow and evolve and will be back on for our next session on April 15th 2023—4—6pm @ 6 School Road Tettenhall Wood, WV6 8EJ

Everyone welcome.

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

[The Good Night Project](#) | [City Of Wolverhampton Council](#)

The Good Night project is a community led partnership aiming to reduce bed poverty and ensure **everyone** in Wolverhampton has a good night sleep in a comfortable bed. Please take a look at the link.

### 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](mailto:admin@voice4parents.co.uk). Thank you.

### Next Coffee Morning

As always—everyone is welcome.

⇒ April 18th : parents and carers only. IASS for 1 to 1 drop in session.

Please feel welcome to come and join us at our next coffee morning. This will be at Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub—Fourth Avenue, Wolverhampton WV10 9LZ

Please keep an eye on your inbox and our Facebook page for May coffee morning dates and information.

### Wolverhampton Music Service Launches

[Big Top Musicians \(Wolverhampton\)](#) | [Big Top Music](#)

**Family Fun At The Way**  
SEND Family Session 10-12:30pm  
Family Session 1-4pm

**Activities:**

- Painting
- Arts & Craft
- Fun Games
- Music
- Sports

Become a member

For more information:  
<https://www.thewayyouthzone.org/>  
Email Sarah.cornaby@thewayyouthzone.org  
Call 01902328290

**THEWAY**  
An @Side youth zone

### 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 - <http://bit.ly/3lyEypT>

For Primary parents - <http://bit.ly/3YQHETS>

For Secondary students - <http://bit.ly/3XA86Z7>

**SEND family sessions continue to run at The Way every Saturday. no booking needed.**

### Grand Theatre Easter Workshops

Great workshops for young people available over the Easter holidays. Details for booking below:

[https://www.grandtheatre.co.uk/stages-easter-workshops-reserved-places-for-haf-application-photo-consent/?utm\\_campaign=13834796\\_Stages%20SEND%20Friendly%20Relaxed%20Workshops%20%2B%20HAF%20Reserved%20Plac-es&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=grandtheatre&dm\\_i=25PV,88IZW,FUIAZR,XT4ED,1](https://www.grandtheatre.co.uk/stages-easter-workshops-reserved-places-for-haf-application-photo-consent/?utm_campaign=13834796_Stages%20SEND%20Friendly%20Relaxed%20Workshops%20%2B%20HAF%20Reserved%20Plac-es&utm_medium=email&utm_source=grandtheatre&dm_i=25PV,88IZW,FUIAZR,XT4ED,1)

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### ADHD Pathway Workstream

key priorities for the workstream are

- Who can make referrals and where they should go.
- Recognition of ADHD traits and when a request for assessment should be made.
- Timeframes, how long will people wait for their initial appointment and then beyond.
- Support available to families and schools to meet the needs of those either on the pathway or post diagnosis.
- To include information on the local offer

Please let us know if you feel any priorities have been missed or if you have any other feedback  
A new ADHD nurse has been appointed and will begin in May.

### The Joint Commissioning Board

This month the Joint Commissioning board began their audit, looking at priority SEND services in the city, and improvements to be made in the coming year and to help develop the Joint Commissioning Strategy which will run to 2025. Priorities include but are not limited to Autism pathway, Mental Health support, ADHD and Short Breaks. The audit is not yet completed and the board will be looking at other priorities to be added. Please let us know what would be your priorities.

### Coffee Morning Update

This month we have had Senior Public Health Specialist attend our coffee morning to talk about health and fitness and the barriers / challenges SEN families are struggling with in regards to physical facilities in Wolverhampton and how to make these facilities more accessible.

We also had Children's Nursing Services attend to discuss the recent changes around continence and to gain feedback from SEN families to help them make the necessary changes.

Thank you to everyone that attended, had a say and showed their support.

Please join us on April 18th and have a 1-2-1 conversation with IASS.

[\(2\) Wolves IASS | Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)



### Written Statement of Action

Our Chair and Vice Chair continue to meet with Local authority, Health, NHS England and DFE representatives to discuss the progress of the WSOA. The next steps will be to gather evidence to see what impact all the changes have made to families and gather feedback from families we will be holding a face to face focus group on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 10am and a virtual focus group on the 17<sup>th</sup> May more details to follow. We will also use our annual survey as evidence of what difference it is making for families. For the next newsletter we have asked the Local authority to share updated plans of progression so we can share with families.

### 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 to 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 on what you tell us - 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.

Follow us on Facebook:

[Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)



Contact us at:

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

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### The Autism Board

In March, the autism board met for its quarterly meeting which featured a range of professionals, Voice4Parents and those with lived-experience. The board has decided to align its autism strategy to the National Autism Strategy and as such there were updates from all the workstreams connected with this which include education, employment, health inequalities, community and in-patient care as well improving support within the youth and criminal justice system. V4P representatives are on all of these workstreams and hope to bring you more detailed updates after the next meeting.

### Health Keep in Touch and Steering Group Update

In our March meetings—these points were discussed:

- ◆ We have fed back a lot on the current Continence service issues parents have been facing around deliveries and items available. Health reported back that they have now put out an expression of interest to recruit a "Continence Clinical Nurse Specialist" whose role will be to look at current issues facing families/carers with the service and provide solutions. Also, it is the aim to bring the product clinic provision team "in-house" for adults so issues can be addressed and dealt with quickly.
- ◆ Inspire - This is the CAMHS team that support children and young people who have a learning disability. We have been informed they will no longer be taking on any further caseloads of families who have issues around toileting/ continence. We have asked what service will replace this, we are awaiting feedback.
- ◆ There appears to be a long waiting list for ART therapy and we have asked for a update and asked for this to be addressed
- ◆ We have fed back that parents have told us that if their child/young person is diagnosed of GDD (global development delay) or MLD (moderate learning difficulties) that they struggle to get the other autistic traits to be acknowledged and supported. Health feels some work needs to be done to raise awareness with families about what learning disabilities are and will be looking into how to support families with this and then making GP's aware to flag this and make sure Annual Health checks are carried out.
- ◆ Health has sent out 700 All About Me—Healthcare Passports to families now to be filled out, at present we are unsure of how many have been returned, it's so important families return these so they can be uploaded on the Health Portal. These can be requested via Community Paediatric Service, by telephoning 01902 446270. We have asked how children without a Paediatrician can request one and will let you know the answer.

### Wolverhampton's Preparation for Adulthood Offer

During March, Voice4Parents were involved in a workshop to develop Wolverhampton's Preparation for Adult offer. There were representatives from colleagues in health, education and social care plus representatives from the Department of Work and Pensions who worked together to identify what is on offer in the four areas of PFA (preparation for adulthood) which include Education and Employment; Independent Living; Friends, Relationships and Community and Health - this can be broadened into categories such a housing, benefits and work, access to mental health support, transport, making friends and access to leisure facilities and parks. We are combining our knowledge to identify the gaps in the current provision and would love to hear from our wider Voice4Parents members on what areas they think could be improved upon so that the gaps which matter to parents and carers are addressed too. If you have any suggestions, please get in contact so your ideas can be fed back and can shape strategic work.

### Local Offer

Voice4Parents are also part of the team planning the new Local Offer. The current Local Offer is set to be designed and in line with the Send Code of Practice parent/carer forums and their members will co-produce both the content and the look of the Local Offer. What are the important things for you and your family on the Local Offer - there will be some focus groups if you want to get involved further.

FEEDBACK TO US: families can feedback to us on any of the areas mentioned in this Newsletter by using the following link: \*

Please include any continence feedback here as per our meeting discussion.

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