



Saturday December 31st 2022

VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER



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

Welcome to your December edition of our Newsletter.....

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and wish you all the very best for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Message from Chair and Vice Chair.

We would like to thank all Parent Carers for your support over the year and sharing your journeys, good and bad, with us to help to try and shape services for all SEND families in Wolverhampton. As SEND Parent Carers ourselves, we understand your challenges and like to enjoy your successes and really do appreciate that you have taken the time to work with us on work that is so important to us all.

We would like to also thank the Voice4Parents Steering Group who give up their time voluntarily to attend meetings, coffee mornings, focus groups, manage emails, social media and membership as well as ensure leisure activities have been coordinated and run for SEND families in Wolverhampton. Without their efforts Voice4Parents wouldn't be able to do the work we do.

On this note, we hope everyone has had a form of a Christmas Break, however you chose to spend it and that 2023 brings good things to you all.

Best Wishes to you all from Sarah and Jayne.

Annual Survey 2022

The survey is live. We want to capture your views on many aspects of SEND services. It is so important for families to complete the survey as we can compare all responses to responses received in 2021 to identify any progress and to also feedback what you feel we need to prioritise in 2023. To complete the survey, please allow around 45 minutes (estimated time) and follow the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/uXU9gdTAXN> or use the QR code below.

All completed entries will have the chance at winning a prize either a £100, £50 or £25 voucher for a supermarket of your choice.

It is vital we all have our voices heard.

Thank you.



Coffee Mornings 2023

We look forward to restarting our coffee mornings in 2023 at Low Hill Community Centre, WV10 9JJ. Our first one will be on January 10th @ 10am. Everybody welcome.

Exciting News

This month V4P have begun work with the Local Authority and Health to help shape the strengthening families hubs into SEND friendly environments, with early co-production on a new sensory garden being built at Low Hill in 2023 taking place. Watch this space!

Little Red Riding Hood Panto

Our panto was a huge success. The little one's smiles said it all. They were literally howling with delight! "It was amazing, my son loved every second and we felt so comfortable, Thank you!" said one of our members.

A huge thank you to you all for attending as well as a huge thank you to The National Lottery who made this possible with their funding, the amazing panto company— JENCO who did such an amazing job! The Wednesfield Conservative Club for the use of their room and their staff's time serving us refreshments - it is very much appreciated and of course our very own Santa—Paul Beatty for his time and brilliant Santa skills. We would also like to thank all the children that helped put the bags together for us all and for all the V4P steering groups time and dedication to make this happen. It has been a real true team effort and without the input of everyone—it wouldn't have been possible. THANK YOU!

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.

Happy New Year Everyone

This season can be overwhelming for SEND families. If you need any advice on how best to cope, please visit: [How can I help my child with special educational needs cope over Christmas? - Support for Parents from Action For Children](#)

Follow us on Facebook:

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Contact us at:

Admin@voice4parents.co.uk



V4P updates from Strategic meetings attended in 2022



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Health Update from 2022

Our Strategic Partners in Health have asked us to share the following update on what is happening in Health Services;

- We are pleased to have recruited a Transition Nurse Specialist at RWT. Work has started around enhancing transition planning for children and young people in special educational provision. A transition panel has been set up which is attended by various professionals from health, education, and social care. Children and young people with SEND and significant health needs are discussed to ensure a positive transition to adult services and/or further education.
- A Specialist School Nurse for SEND in mainstream schools and 2 Band 4 PHA's have recently started in post who will help facilitate the transition planning for children and young people with SEND within mainstream settings. These are new posts which will aid co-ordination of a young person's journey and transition to and from other settings.
- The Royal Wolverhampton 0-19 Service is now on Facebook and Instagram (Wolves 0-19)! The pages give advice/support around the healthy child programme, with the main aims being health promotion, health protection, prevention of ill health and early intervention.
- Coproduction work with Changing Our Lives - Work took place earlier in the year with the Royal Wolverhampton Trust, further developing their working practise and understanding of/development of principles in co-production throughout the organisation. Workshops took place exploring any barriers to a coproduced approach and potential solutions to these.
- 'Healthy Child Wolves' is a free NHS app for parents and families of 0-5 year olds across Wolverhampton.

It's packed with tips, advice and signposting to support families, from pregnancy to getting a child ready for school and everything in between! You can also find out more about your Health Visiting team and other local NHS children's services, plus advice on what to do if your child is unwell.

The app is easy to download to your mobile - just search for 'Healthy Child Wolves' on the App Store or Google Play.

There are dedicated sections for: My pregnancy, My new baby, My toddler, and Getting my child ready for school. Each section includes a wide range of information and advice such as common illnesses, first aid, breastfeeding, sleep and safer sleeping, teething, and looking after your emotional health and wellbeing.

- The Health Visiting team have appointed two new posts for SEND; a Health Visitor and Band 4 Public health associate (PHA) who both start in December. These roles will support families with children under five years with additional needs and facilitate improved communication between services.

The 0-19 service are hoping to commence group sessions in the New Year which will look at school readiness including Speech and Language support, toilet training, parenting support looking at routines in the home as well as behaviour and boundaries. They hope to also cover healthy lifestyles including oral hygiene.

Terrific for Two's Project

We are continuing to consult on the Terrific Twos project with Public Health and hope to have a representative join us in the early part of 2023, at a coffee morning, to talk with parents and carers.

Culture of Inclusion project

1. Early intervention and identification of SEND
2. EHCP and Annual review of processes and improving quality

We have been consulted on developing various guidance's such as the graduated response and the Annual review process, as part of the Culture of Inclusion project. We have voiced the collective views and feedback from parents and carers regarding these processes. We are also going to start work shortly on the assessment processes for EHCP's and a guidance document for parents and carers on the Graduated response.

Power Of Words (POW) Project

This is a V4P led project based on families telling us how Words and Language used by Professionals have the power to impact families, Children and Young People. Work is continuing on the Power of Words project being Co Produced with Outreach. As we continue going over filming done earlier in the year we would like to again say thank you to all of you who took part, helping to make this possible. We will be inviting Parent Carers to attend a workshop to look at the first edited version and to help co-produce the finished version that will be shared with professionals. Keep an eye on your e-mails in the new year.

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.

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>