



Sunday April 30th 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 and will be back on for our next session on May 13th 2023— 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](#)

Please e-mail Emma@voice4parents.co.uk if you have any questions, concerns or queries.

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.

King Charles 3rd Coronation—May 6th 2023

In light of the Coronation celebrations coming up, our children may feel a bit overwhelmed. Check out this link for some useful information about coping skills and strategies.

[7 Strategies for Coping with Sensory Overload | Multi-Sensory World](#)

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and enjoyable May bank holiday and Coronation Weekend.

Next Coffee Morning

As always—everyone is welcome.

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

May 9th— Sarah Reynolds—Head of Early Identification Support joins us.

May 16th—WSOA Focus Group with Brenda Wile—Deputy Director of Education and Helen Bakewell—Head of SEND

May 23rd—Physio, OT and CAHMS representative present.



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

Any questions or queries, please contact us.

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/3XA862Z>



Follow us on Facebook:

[Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)



Contact us at:

Admin@voice4parents.co.uk



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One Send Portal

On 18th April 2023, V4P attended a Kick off meeting to look at the "One Send Portal". This is the proposed online platform that SENSTART is developing to replace the previous EHCP hub. This is being developed alongside support from Capita, the IT developer. We were shown an initial idea of how this platform can be used and adapted to meet the needs of Wolverhampton. It will be a add on local authority system to share information such as reports from your child/young persons professionals, a communication tool between SENSTART and the local authority on EHCP assessments and annual reviews. etc

The meeting was attended by representatives from Health, Education, and Social Care as well as V4P. 5 further meetings are to follow to develop the design setup, training for SENSTART, and pilot training for parents and school Senco's, along with the Live set up and Post Go Live review.

A further workshop with V4P and school representatives has been arranged for 6th June 2023. Department for Education representatives will be leading on this workshop. We will keep you updated as we progress.

A truly delightful day at Woodfield Primary School

Voice 4 Parents are delighted to attend the community day at Woodfield primary School on April 26th.

Along with other professionals, we discussed SEND in young children with families of the school. This included how to identify traits and needs and how to support those needs to achieve the best possible outcomes, with a particular focus on Autism and ADHD as these were identified by families in advance of being of key interest.



Talks were held by various parties, including Voice 4 Parents, on who we are and our roles within the city. Parents were then able to chat with visiting speakers on a 1:1 basis.

It was a brilliantly productive day.

Joint Commissioning Audit Completed

This month Voice 4 Parents have worked with the Local Authority and Black Country Trust to complete the Joint Commissioning audit, where we work to identify needs, recognising and developing the support for priorities of SEND. These are for Wolverhampton up to 2025. Priorities include but are not limited to the Autism Pathway, Mental Health support, ADHD and Short Breaks. We are pleased that these are the priorities identified by families that have fed back to V4P.

Children and Young People Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs Workshop

V4P attended the Children and Young People Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs Workshop along with partners across the City, including Education, Health, Public Health and Voluntary Sector to name a few. The aspiration is to draw together information to provide a better support system for Children and Young People within Wolverhampton by looking at what Wolverhampton currently offers and what is needed to improve Mental Health Services. Over the next month or so, consultations and focus groups will be held with families by Anna Freud Centre (who are carrying out the data finding and analysis on behalf of Wolverhampton and local NHS Partners).

This is a welcome opportunity for Voice4Parents and our families, who have reported Mental Health as being a top priority for Children and Young People as well as their families - we will update on this work as soon as we receive further details on how you can also be involved.

Wolverhampton LA have now recruited a Quality Assurance Officer who will be responsible for auditing Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to ensure that Wolverhampton plans are of high Quality - welcome to Lucy Newman. Voice 4Parents will hopefully be involved in this work and will be ensuring all your feedback is taken into account.



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The Written Statement of Action

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.

In light of this, Voice 4 Parents will be running 2 focus groups in May on the WSOA.

The first one will take place in May 16th 2023, 10–12pm

@ Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub, WV10 9LZ.

The second will be a virtual meet running on May 17th from 6.30–8.30 pm.
Please e-mail Admin@Voice4parents.co.uk for the link to join.

Brenda Wile, Deputy Director for Education will be leading these focus groups along with other local authority representatives.

Annual Survey 2022

A BIG Thank you to everyone that completed the Annual Survey - This has now closed and the winners of the draw have been notified so please check inboxes/ junk boxes to see if you are a lucky winner.

We are currently collating all responses and will be sharing the findings with you soon.

Thank You

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/bq86NFX8wq>