



SHROPSHIRE
Parent
And
Carer
Council

It Take's a Village...

Supporting Schools and Families to work together:
Understanding each others value, perspective and experience.

Information & Support, Influence & Change

Shropshire Parent and Carer Council (PACC)

- ▶ A Parent Carer Forum, championing the voice of the SEND community
- ▶ Vision: To make Shropshire a place where SEND families thrive and have the same opportunities as others
- ▶ We work with any family supporting a child or young person with SEND aged 0-25. Across all service areas.
- ▶ An experienced led organisation
- ▶ Key work areas; Influence & Change, Information and Community Support
- ▶ For more information visit www.paccshropshire.org.uk



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"It takes a village to raise a **child**" is a proverb that means that an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

“We are weary of assessment and panels and reports. We want help - not intrusive paperwork”

“I would like to know what is available but I also feel ashamed to ask for help”

“They don't take your experience seriously, they just see you as 'oh the parent'. Well actually I am my children's expert; I live with them 24/7 and know what causes a problem.....”

“I just seem to have spent half my life battling for one thing and another”

Being a Parent Carer

WHAT IF YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD YOUR LIFE MAPPED OUT BUT THEN THINGS DIDN'T GO TO PLAN?

Autism in Schools

Creating capable environments means thinking about;

- How individuals communicate
- Personalised routines and activities
- Environments which meet the individual's needs/preferences in respect of space, aesthetics (including sensory preferences), noise, lighting etc

Changing the environment and not the child

When a flower
doesn't bloom, you fix the
environment in which
it grows, not the flower.

–Alexander Den Heijer



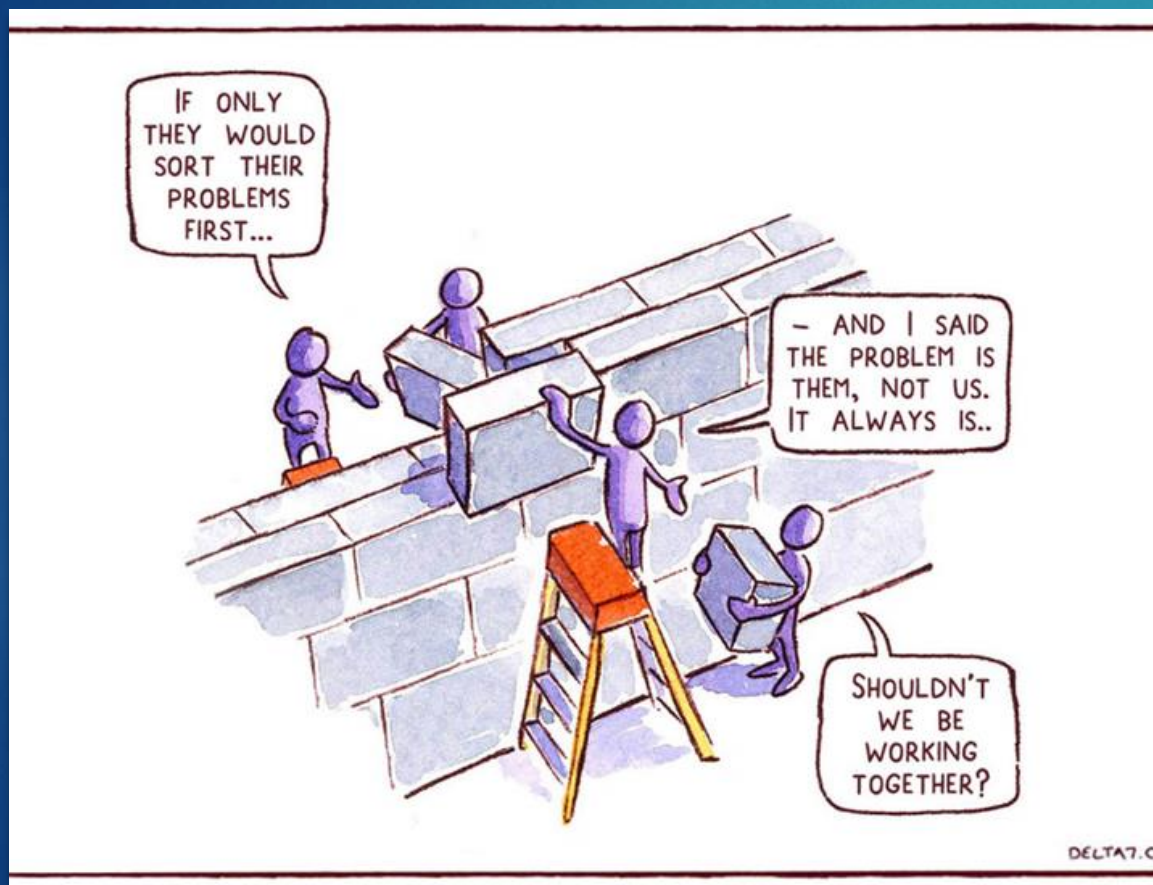
Families told us.....

- ▶ There were too many missed opportunities in their child's education journey
- ▶ Small issues were often left to escalate into major problems

Shropshire Parent Carers asked for;

- ▶ Improved understanding of Autism
- ▶ Early support and intervention to avoid negative impact on mental health
- ▶ Recognition of the impact of sensory needs
- ▶ Support to reduce the isolation of autistic students
- ▶ Improve communication between families and school

Working with Parent Carers



Things to think about;

- ▶ Finding the right place for parent carers to meet – somewhere they will feel safe to share their ideas and experiences. That might be in school or in a community space and it might be with or without school staff present
- ▶ The use of social media – creating closed Facebook groups or What's App groups – enables ongoing communication and discussion and provides more flexibility
- ▶ Facilitation of groups – support to be solution focused
- ▶ Create regular opportunities for parent carers to share feedback and ideas with senior management team

Other Benefits

- ▶ Peer support
- ▶ Accessing a wider network of support
- ▶ Information sharing
- ▶ Building resilience and confidence

'Meetings have established stronger parent to school relationships and have allowed parents to develop new supportive and empowering relationships between themselves'





They say it
takes a village
to raise a child,
thank you for being
part of my
village.

Sarah Thomas
& Zara Bowden

PACC Shropshire

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