



Shropshire Parent and Carer Council Monthly Newsletter. May 2023

Welcome to the May edition of PACC's monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or require any further information, please email info@paccshropshire.org.uk



Feedback on the Local Offer Newsletter

As well as producing a PACC monthly newsletter, PACC also coproduce the [Shropshire SEND Newsletter](#) with Shropshire Council and the local health Integrated Care Partnership to provide information about events, activities and support services to the Shropshire SEND Community.

We are currently collecting feedback on this newsletter so we can ensure that it is helpful and providing the information that you need.



SEN travel assistance for the 2023 / 2024 school year

All applications for travel assistance for September 2023 will need to be received by 30 June 2023 at the latest.

For nursery and post 16 aged students all students in these age groups need to apply annually for travel assistance.



Find out more



PACC Conference- "Inclusion in Shropshire"

Information & Support | Influence & Change



PACC Conference - "Inclusion in Shropshire"

Friday 23rd June 2023

Registration 9.30am for a 10am start

Close at 2pm

Lunch and refreshments provided

Shrewsbury Town Football Club, Montgomery Waters Meadow

We will be hearing from families about their experiences of inclusion in schools, what works well and what can be improved. We will be updating attendees on the work being done in Shropshire to create an inclusive approach in Shropshire early years, schools and colleges and to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families. The keynote speaker will be Karen Levell, Service Manager SEND and Inclusion at Shropshire Council, who will provide an overview of the Shropshire SEND Vision and work of the SEN Team.

PACC understands that attending conferences in Shrewsbury is a challenge for many SEND families because of restricted travel options. With this in mind we are offering to provide transport from key pick up points throughout Shropshire depending on interest.

To book your place and to tell us about your transport needs please complete the form on the following link

<https://forms.office.com/e/ttm1N01yyj>

'Influence and Change' - improving the lives of SEND families in Shropshire.



www.paccshropshire.org.uk

Find out more



info@paccshropshire.org.uk

New Shropshire Personal Assistant (PA) Jobs Noticeboard website launches plus Direct Payment updates from Adult Social Care

Direct Payment is a social care personal budget which is used to meet an assessed social care need, either for children and young people aged 0-18 under the Children Act 1989 or young people aged 18 and over via the Care Act 2014.

The information in this article relates to adult social care for those young people aged 18 and over.

A Direct Payment allows adults to receive funding directly from the council, so they can choose how and when they receive their support to meet eligible care and support needs. They can give people greater flexibility and choice in how they receive the support that best suits them.

- Further information on Direct Payments from adult social care can be found on the [Direct Payments in Adult Social Care website](#)
- **A new free service has recently been launched called Shropshire [Personal Assistant \(PA\) noticeboard](#) this website lists PAs looking for work and is where Direct Payment recipients (adult social care) can advertise for a PA**
- The following three videos feature local people who receive direct payments explaining how they use their payment and receive support:

In the first, Rich says that direct payments give him freedom, flexibility, and choice. Using his payments, he has employed a team of personal assistants that offer a personal service and enable him to live the life that he wants, a life full of excitement and surprises. You can watch Rich's video: <https://youtu.be/WLI5qTo--Sw>

In the second video, Grace says that direct payments enable her to pick and choose what works for her, and to choose what she does, where and when. She says that direct payments are a 'game changer that gives me so much more freedom'. You can watch Grace's video: <https://youtu.be/xvgdtBtJqWo>

And in the third, Oliver explains why and how he uses direct payment plus Richard describes working as a PA: <https://youtu.be/fEATVA8hPjY>

- More Direct Payment news and updates linked below:
 - ['Game changing' payments on offer to Shropshire social care recipients - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)
 - [Direct Payments Leaflet](#)
 - [Direct Payment Standard Hourly Rates 23/24](#)

Health Engagement

Over the last few months PACC has been working more closely with Health Teams to look at a few areas that require improvements.

Parent Carers were invited to participate in discussions with the Outpatients Advisory Group to explore potential improvements to systems and delivery of services to better meet the needs of the SEND community. Families provided clear and considered examples for change with Health Representatives feeding back how valuable the sessions had been.

This engagement has led to:

- All outpatient letters from SATH (Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals) will now include a statement asking for information to be provided about any reasonable adjustments or additional requirements that may need to be accommodate the needs of the patient and/or the carer better.
- A walk through of the Childrens Outpatient Department will be scheduled for some PACC Reps to explore what could be improved about the environment and experience on the wards.
- Ongoing discussions about training, awareness, and improvements will continue.

We have also been invited to support some work with the Palliative and End of Life Care Team, exploring how the care and support families receive during their time with these services can be improved and where the gaps are in the offer. We will be releasing a survey to families over the summer to understand this in greater detail.

We continue to engage in the Learning Disability and Autism Programme and Delivery Boards, the Autism Partnership Board, The Children and Young People Mental Health and the Physical Health Delivery Boards, as well as the subgroups. These areas of work have been ongoing for some time which we have been making representations to on behalf of the SEND community.

Further information about our activities with Health Teams will be shared in the future.

In the meantime, if anyone has any experiences they wish to share with us across any of these areas of work, we would really appreciate you getting in touch with us via info@paccshropshire.org.uk



Short Breaks - An overview of what's what

Short Breaks is a generic term that covers activities and overnight opportunities for children with disabilities. These are all funded by Shropshire Council, but are delivered by different providers.

All In Short Breaks via Actio

Actio are funded by Shropshire Council to manage their All In Activity Program. Membership of All In is approved by Shropshire Council. These are activities that range from sports clubs to arts sessions, from Horse Riding to Swimming. They are activities for children with SEND who find it hard to access mainstream activities. They are not funded to provide personal care or support those with complex needs who require 1:1. Actio plan the program and empower providers to deliver a supportive environment that is more sensitive to the needs of children with SEND across the Shropshire community.



All In Holiday Club via Action for Children

AFC are funded by Shropshire Council to deliver a holiday club open to children who have an All In membership and require more support than may be available at the other All In activities. The holiday club is offered to those who have assessed social care needs and those who may not meet the threshold for assessed care and support, or may only be offered a limited amount of assessed care and support but are still struggling in mainstream activities. This is not supported by Actio, it is managed by Shropshire Councils Short Breaks Team.



Overnight Residential Short Breaks and Domiciliary Care via Action for Children

AFC are funded by Shropshire Council to deliver their Overnight Residential Short Breaks and Domiciliary Care (care in the home). These are both offered to families whose child has had a Social Care needs assessment and has been awarded overnight short breaks and/or a Personal Budget for Social Care (delivered via Direct Payments). These are managed by Shropshire Councils Short Breaks Team and assessments are carried out by Shropshire Councils Disabled Childrens Team.



SEND Cricket Camps

The cricket camps are held at Shelton club which is designated one of the Shropshire disability cricket hubs. The new club house will be used as the camp base, providing some indoor space and toilets.

Shropshire Homes Pavillion, 27 The Furlongs, Leighton Park, Shrewsbury SY3 5FU

The day will involve a range of activities and games to develop ball skills in a fun way. The afternoon session will offer the opportunity to play short cricket matches to test out the skills learnt.

Cricket Shropshire are keen to support young people with SEND to join them and to learn new skills, make friends and have fun.

The first camp is at Spring half-term on the 2nd June and is open to All In members 12 plus and Actio members who are 18plus. Dependent on age it is also possible for siblings to attend.





SEND Cricket Camps

If you have learning difficulties, physical, visual or hearing impairment, or are a parent/carer of someone that does and are interested in getting involved with cricket, please get in touch and come and give it a go.

SHELTON CC - OUTDOOR SESSIONS
Shropshire Homes Pavillion,
27 The Furlongs, Leighton Park
SY3 5FU
for 12-17-year-olds
FRIDAY 14th APRIL
FRIDAY 2nd JUNE
FRIDAY 4th AUGUST
FRIDAY 18th AUGUST
All 9.30am-3.30pm
Free of charge



Contact Sacha Lee via
sacha.lee@shropshirecricketboard.co.uk

To BOOK: <https://forms.gle/yfyqutWwXF9Xxb1Z8>
or use the QR code on the right



Find out more 



The Hive would like to invite you and your families to our Open Day on Friday 2nd June. Between 10am - 2pm we will be offering creative drop-in sessions. We welcome all ages, and this event is FREE to attend.

Our activities include:

- Taiko drumming
- Face-painting
- Sun printing
- Djembe drumming
- Podcasting workshop
- Printmaking
- Chill-out zone
- Archaeology lab

Activities for Children and Young People



Identity school of dance

Inclusive dance school for children & adults with special educational needs & disabilities based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire

TIMETABLE

Tuesday

- 5pm-5.45pm Mini Street dance (5+)
- 5.45-6.30pm Young Adults Street dance (14+)
- 6.30-7.30pm Contemporary dance (14+)
- 7.30-8.30pm Senior Street dance (16+)

Thursday

- 5-6pm Mini's Musical Theatre (5+)
- 6-7pm Senior Musical Theatre (14+)
- 7-8pm Limitless MEGA CREW training (16+)

COMING SOON

New exciting classes & much more!
keep an eye out on our social media pages



Identity_schoolofdance



Identityschoolofdance

Now enrolling new students
Email: Enquiries.isod@outlook.com
www.Identityschoolofdance.com

KIDS



SUNDAY SEN SESSION

9.30AM-12PM

£4

PER CHILD

EXCLUSIVE FOR SEN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



WWW.UKLITTLERASCALS.COM - 07501855387

Derwen College



FREE ENTRY
Open from
10am both
days

Derwen Fete

Saturday 27 May

- Stalls and games
- Derwen-made ice cream
- Local artisan crafts and food
- Childrens inflatable fun
- BBQ and Bar
- Duck race
- Live music
- Tombola
- Raffle

Sunday 28 May

- Local artisan crafts and food
- Childrens inflatable fun
- Dog show



Derwen Marketplace
Explore our outlets

Dog show classes: £2 per entry per class

- Best puppy (8-12 months)
- Prettiest bitch
- Most handsome guy
- Best veteran (7 years and over)
- Cleverest dog
- Best child handler (10 years and under)
- Best young handler (11-16 years)
- Most elegant tail
- Most appealing eyes
- Dog the judge would most like to take home

www.derwen.ac.uk
Whittington Road, Gobowen SY11 3JA
01691 661234

The Derwen sponsored 10k Walk / Run

also takes place on Saturday 27 May, 10am.
Medals and flapjacks for all entries. To register visit:
derwen.enthuse.com/cf/derwen-10k-challenge

INCLUSIVE GROUP

Multi-Activity Inclusive Sessions



ACTIVITIES INCLUDING BOWLS, CYCLING, GYM, SPORTS & MORE!

TUESDAY 10AM - 12PM
TUESDAY 1PM - 3PM
WEDNESDAY 10AM-12PM
THURSDAY 10:30AM-12:30PM
£4.50 PER SESSION

SHREWSBURY SPORTS VILLAGE, SY1 4RQ 0345 000 7002

PEDAL FOR HEALTH

Inclusive Cycling Session



PROCEEDED BY CYCLE-CAFE AT 12PM-1PM with cycling4all shropshire

EVERY WEDNESDAY
1PM - 3PM
£4.50 PER SESSION

SHREWSBURY SPORTS VILLAGE, SY1 4RQ 0345 000 7002

If there is an activity your young person attends, please get in touch for us to share this on our monthly newsletter!



Whit week Activities (27th May- 3rd June)

Day	Provider	Activity	Age Group
Saturday 27th May & 3rd June	Taking Part	Moving & Grooving	7-14 Years
Saturday 27th May & 3rd June	Sports Village (SCLT)	Cycling	7-16 Years
Saturday 27th May & 3rd June	Sports Village (SCLT)	Sensory Stay & Play	0-5 Years (8yrs for Siblings)
Sunday 28th May & 4th June	Country Treks	Horse Riding	4-17 Years
Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st May	Lower Bush Farm	Holiday Club	8-17 Years
Tuesday 30th May, Wednesday 31st May, Thursday 1st June	Life Shed	Forest School	8-17 Years
29th May- 2nd June	Action for Children	SEND Holiday Club (Complex Needs)	4-18 Years
Friday 2nd June	Shropshire Cricket Board	Cricket	12-17 Years
Saturday 27th May & 3rd June	Ignition	Sensory Drama	7-18 Years

[Find out more](#)

CONNECT SESSIONS

**SAT 27th
MAY**

OSWESTRY; 10 am - 12pm
Holy Trinity School, Oswestry

SHREWSBURY; 2 pm - 4pm
The Grange Youth Centre, Shrewsbury



Inclusive session for all the family!

New Families FREE first session

Book via the website by 6pm Thursday

empathy
for special children
www.empathyforspecialchildren.org

empathy for special children

Empathy for Special Children is a registered charity, working across Shropshire to improve the lives and reduce social isolation of those growing up with a Hidden Disability. Empathy are a professional organisation and a short breaks provider. With a team of volunteers overseeing 3 core projects and a committed team of staff delivering a variety of activities across the county every week.

[Find out more](#)

Fos

FRIENDS OF SEVERNDALE, FUTURES &
SEVERNDALE AT MARY WEBB

Chair: Jayne Parry Secretary: Cesca Cawood
Telephone: 01743 563333 Registered Charity No. 1096455

Severndale Specialist Academy
Monkmoor Campus
Woodcote Way
Monkmoor
Shrewsbury
SY2 5SH
Principal: Brian Thomas
Tel: 01743 563333

FRIENDS OF SEVERNDALE



6th CHARITY GOLF DAY

Friday 16th June 2023

at

Shrewsbury Golf Club

to fund Upgrade of Interactive Sensory Room for the
Special Students at Severndale

- £160 per team of 4 to include a 2-course meal and 18 holes of golf
- £350 to sponsor a hole
- £75 to advertise your company logo in the course guide/programme

For a booking form or any other information please e-mail
friendsofseverndalegolf@gmail.com
or call Dawn Griffiths on 07929 790553



Carers Week

Events organised by Shropshire Council

This year events are open to Parent Carers of young people under 18.

**We're supporting
Carers Week!**



5-11 June 2023

Over 35 activities across Shropshire are set to take place throughout Carers Week and beyond (from Monday 5 June to Sunday 18 June 2023), to celebrate and recognise the contribution made by Shropshire's unpaid and family carers.

The events have been organised by Shropshire Council's carers support team and, throughout the fortnight 5-18 June, carers will be able to take part in both face to face and online events.

Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, and help people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support. The campaign is brought to life by thousands of individuals and organisations who come together to provide support for carers, run activities and highlight the vital role carers play in our communities.

Activities throughout the fortnight include:

- Canal trips
- Garden and museum visits
- Walks and talks
- Quizzes
- Music, art and craft sessions
- Complementary refreshments
- And much more.

Find out more



Healthy Lives Programme 2023



Healthy Lives Programme

We are in the final stages of preparing the programme to share with families. This year we are very excited to have a number of new activity providers, including Drummond Outdoors, The Hive, Dinky Donkeys Experience, 4All Foundation, Condover College, Nerdy Café and Rock! Music School



The programme will be available to 14 – 25-year-olds and there will be a range of activities offered throughout the summer. We are currently making the final tweaks to the activity programme, but we are asking you to register your interest in the programme now. Those families who register will then be contacted directly to have individual conversations about support needs and to help you book your preferred activities. The programme cannot provide 1:1 but some additional support will be available and if a young person has an existing support worker they are welcome to attend. If 1:1 support is needed to support participation we will work with families to explore how this can be provided.

This year, the programme will also have a number of all age family activities.

To register an interest in the programme, please follow the link. More information on our all-age family activities will follow soon! Please make sure you are following our Facebook page for up-to-date information!

REGISTER NOW

Useful Resources

(Click image to load website)



Being Me

Each month we will be shining a spotlight on a young person in our SEND community. If your young person would like to share their story with us, please contact Abi@paccshropshire.org.uk

This month meet Tom!



Hi, my name is Tom and I am 18 years old. I attend Pontville residential school in Ormskirk during the week which I love and at weekends I live with my family in Whitchurch. I have been doing this for 4 years.

I love Marvel, CBBC, Disney and musicals to name a few. I love going to the cinema, the theatre, charity shopping, walking my dog and having a good cup of tea. I am enjoying making new friendship groups and doing lots of new activities such as going to watch Shrek the Musical and yoga with Buddies.

During the week I enjoy going to Hope Street café where I join in the activities and help the owner (Sheila). This is a community mental health café near my school. I do work experience in the primary part of my school which I find very rewarding.

When I am home for the weekend and holidays I enjoy going to Buddies, High Flyers dance and Darwin dancers. I enjoy meeting my friends each weekend.



Preparation for Adulthood



What is Preparation for Adulthood (PFA)?

Our early life experiences help us to prepare for life as an adult and this should be recognised as early as possible, although there is an expectation that Young People with SEND focus on PFA from Year 9.

Conversations about a young person's future should involve themselves, their parent carers, their teachers and anyone else who works with them.

What areas does PFA cover?

PFA covers all areas of your Young Person's life that will enable them to have the best outcomes as they enter adulthood, including:

- Further education
- Activity Plans
- Finances and Benefits
- Employment and Volunteering
- Annual Health Checks
- Staying Healthy
- Being Part of the local community



How does our PFA journey start?

Planning for transition into adulthood should start from the Year 9 annual review of the EHC plan. Each review thereafter must focus on preparing for adulthood- including the move between children's and adults services outside of education.

The transition towards adulthood review from Year 9 will start to gather information regarding the young persons and their families' aspirations for their future, including who needs to be involved, target planning and the support needed. The review will explore provision accessible to students in order for them to be healthy, participating in society, living independently, and accessing further education and/or employment where appropriate.



For more information, please contact our PFA Navigators



Abi@paccshropshire.org.uk
Denise@paccshropshire.org.uk



Healthy Lives Programme

Monday 24th July – Wednesday 30th August

About the Programme

The Healthy Lives Programme is targeted for 14-25 Year old's in Shropshire with SEND. The programme is aimed at young people with learning disabilities and / or autism who need a higher level of support than is normally provided by the 'All In' programme. We work with experienced, activity leaders, providing an understanding of young people's needs through discussions with parent carers before any activity is undertaken. The programme cannot provide 1:1 support but we welcome that support being provided by existing PA's or family members. While the programme can provide much needed breaks for parent carers it is also aimed at widening the young people's experience, building friendships and support networks, and increasing physical and wellbeing activity levels.

The programme will run over the summer holidays from Monday 24th July to Wednesday 30th August.

Last year over 60 young people participated in the programme and this year we would like to reach even more families.

At the core of the programme, we will continue to offer small group sporting and wellbeing activities, working with local organisations such as Derwen College, the Cavalier Centre and Shrewsbury Sports Village and Drummonds. This year we also have a number of new providers joining us, such as Conover College, The Nerdy Gaming Café, School of Rock, The Hive, All4 Foundation and more.

Activities this year include:

Disney Sing-along, Canoeing, Rock Music Sessions, Games Sessions, Vaulting, Multi-sports, Cricket, Tennis, Afternoon Tea, Canal boat trips and much more!!!

The 2023 programme will include an all-age family activity offer and an improved offer for young people with the most complex needs.

**For more information on the activities available we are asking families to register their interest now!
You will then be contacted by a member of PACC who will support you through booking activities!**

REGISTER NOW

**If you have any further questions or would like more information on any of the activities, please contact
Abi@paccshropshire.org.uk**

FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Enjoyable

Amazing

Mind-blowing

Happy

Amazing

Awesome

What difference did the activities make to you?

- "I enjoyed seeing my friends out of school"
 - "I met new people"
- "It will help me maintain a healthy lifestyle"
 - "I showed off my musical talents"
- "Helped with confidence building, whilst doing something I love!"
 - "I was in my element!"
 - "I learnt new skills"

Proud

Fun



Parent Carer Feedback



“Got to meet new people, try out new activities in new environments.”

“Gave him the chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones whilst doing fun, well organised activities.

“A great opportunity to try different activities with different people.”

“Loved the variety of activities and having clear sight of activities in the diary to break up the week. Great for him to see friends too.”

“She would get upset if she did a club & I (mum) couldn't stay but doing the programme seemed to help with her confidence & she didn't need me there, which was amazing!”



“The HLP gave him opportunity to go out and experience new things. Often over holidays he sees less people, so it was good to continue to be social.”



“He has limited opportunity to go out and interact with his friends or try new activities, so the programme was really welcome over the summer!”

“Improved confidence in new environments and provided important structure during the holiday period.”

Frequently Asked Questions

My young person needs 1:1 support. Can they take part in the programme?

Yes! Young people who require 1:1 support are more than welcome to attend the programme. The programme will not be able to provide 1:1 support, so a PA or parent carer will need to attend the sessions to support.

My young person will only attend if they are with their friends. Is this an option?

When you register for the programme, you will be asked to give consent for your young persons name to be shared with others who are booked on the same sessions. In addition, when you are given the programme and booking form, you will be asked to provide us with the names of any friends on the programme. We cannot guarantee this but will try our best to book friends on the same sessions.

As a family we struggle with transport, will this be provided?

Transport to activities is not provided. Last year a number of attendees shared lifts with other parent carers. You will be notified ahead of activities of who else is attending to see if this is an option for you. We are also happy to provide you with bus routes for activities.

My young person struggles in new environments and with people they don't know. How will they be supported?

Staff will be provided with information of your young persons needs prior to the session. A PA or parent carer is also able to attend with them if they are unable to start the session without extra support.

How do I know if activities will be suitable for my young person?

When you register for the programme, you are asked to provide information about your young persons needs, interests, likes and dislikes. The programme will give details of activities, which will indicate the sessions we have organised for young people with more complex need. Staff at PACC are also more than happy to call and chat through the sessions with you and whether needs can be met.

My young person is on medication, can staff administer this?

Staff will not be able to administer any medication. If medication is required during a session and your young person does not have a PA or Parent Carer with them, you will need to arrange to attend the session to administer any medication.

My young person has food allergies, will staff be made aware of this?

You are asked to give information of any allergies when you register. This information will be passed on to staff at sessions.

Do we need to register if we just want to attend family sessions?

Yes. You will need to register and provide information to access any activities on the programme.

If we book a session and cannot attend what do we need to do?

We ask for a minimum of 24 hours' notice if your young person is unable to attend to try and allocate the space to someone else. However, we do understand the difficulties parent carers face and how plans can change last minute. You will be provided with a contact number to notify us of any cancellations short notice.

What does my young person need to bring to the sessions?

For morning or afternoon sessions you will need to provide drinks and a light snack. For day sessions (i.e., 10am-2pm) a packed lunch will also be required. You will receive more information on your young persons' activity timetable for the programme.

We are holding a Teams drop in session for any Parent Carers to ask any further questions they have about the programme:

Wednesday 31st May. 6pm-7pm

Click [HERE](#) to join the meeting

If you have any further questions or would like more information on any of the activities, please contact Abi@paccshropshire.org.uk

