




Shropshire Parent and Carer Council Monthly Newsletter.

October 2023

Welcome to PACC's monthly newsletter.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please email
info@paccshropshire.org.uk



Would you like to speak to a PACC Navigator?

Are you a Parent Carer struggling to navigate what is available for your young person?

We can chat to you about:

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

Navigator Drop-In

As Parent Carers ourselves, we know how difficult it can be to navigate the SEND world, and find suitable support, information and provisions for children and young people.

Therefore, we are offering drop in sessions with a PACC navigator to ask any questions and find out about local provision.

Whether it is EHCPs, activities, education provision, health services, direct payments or you would just like a chat about support, please get in touch to book a call.



Self-Evaluation Framework Feedback

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who was able to complete the recent PACC Self Evaluation Framework survey, supporting our representatives to ensure that the SEF process is informed by the experiences of Shropshire SEND families. We received over 160 responses in less than a week, which provided a range of valuable insights. The key information gathered from the survey is shared in the table below.



SEF Question	Rating out of 10 (1 – strongly disagree, 10 – strongly agree)	Comments
Children and young people’s needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way.	3.52	This is one of the lowest ratings and feedback highlights the negative impact that the current long wait for assessments in many services, has on early identification.
Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support.	4.85	This is the area that received the highest rating, however there were concerns that parent carers didn’t always feel listened to and access to the right support was still a challenge.
Children and young people receive the right help and support at the right time.	3.15	This was the area that received the lowest rating, with concerns about EHCP’s not being updated, families not receiving support until they are in crisis and a lack of co-ordination between services.
Children and young people are well prepared for their next steps and achieve strong outcomes.	3.91	There are concerns about an ineffective PFA review process, poor communication with families, service not working well together and delays in transition between children’s and adults service resulting in poorer outcomes.
Children and young people with SEND are valued, visible and included in their communities.	4.27	Parent carers felt that this was something that was very much left to them, with little support from the system. Young people have little opportunity to met outside of school and parent carers report feeling isolated, particular those living in rural areas.
Leaders are ambitious for children and young people with SEND.	4.40	‘Leaders’ was interpreted in a number of ways with more positive feedback about school leaders being received. System leaders were felt not to be visible and communication from them poor. There was feedback about there being lots of discussion but little action.
Leaders actively engage and work with children, young people and families.	4.16	Similar feedback to the previous statement but with a particular focus on the lack of quality communication.
Leaders have an accurate, shared understanding of the needs of children and young people in their local area.	3.88	Responses highlight that many SEND families do not feel listened to and do not feel that local leaders understand the challenges they face on a daily basis.
Leaders commission services and provision to meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people.	3.72	In this area there was a focus on the lack of capacity in services, in particular the lack of support during school holidays, a lack of Speech and Language therapy input and no psychological support for families. Poor communication was again highlighted as an issue.



Half-Term Activities

DraytonArtsFestival.org

S.E.N.D. HALLOWEEN DISCO PARTY

TUESDAY 31st OCTOBER 2023
10.00AM - 2.00PM

Market Drayton Royal British Legion

DJ MIKE SMITH

BUFFET SNACK LUNCH · SPOOKY GAMES ·
FREE ENTRY/DONATIONS

Parents and Carers also welcome

Sponsored By SUNDAY TICKLE

OCTOBER

Half Term

MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	9.30AM-5PM
WEDNESDAY	SEN 9.30AM-5PM
THURSDAY	9.30AM-5PM
FRIDAY	9.30AM-5PM
SATURDAY	9.30AM-12PM
SUNDAY	SEN 9.30AM-12PM

Little Pascals READY, STEADY, SLAY!

PLEASE NOTE WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY ARE EXCLUSIVE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.
MONDAYS WE ARE CLOSED TO RUN OUR PREBOOKED HOLIDAY CLUB



Park Hall
Countryside Experience

Pumpkinfest

HALLOWEEN

Bug Eating
Creepy Crawly Haunted Cave
+ Deadly stage shows with zoo director Scott
Stage show's with Mark O'Shea on 21st, 22nd, 28th & 29th Oct at 1pm.

AT **EXOTIC ZOO**

21ST OCT - 5TH NOV

PUMPKIN PICKING IN OUR HAUNTED WOODS

PLUS WE WILL BE UNVEILING A SECRET NEW SPECIES OF ANIMAL ARRIVING AT THE ZOO!



Wednesday 1st November 2023
Spooky Potion Scavenger Hunt
11am-12.30pm



Join our ranger on a scavenger hunt at Severn Valley Country Park. Collect 'spooky ingredients' from around the park and mix up a magic potion!

Children £4 (accompanying adults free)
 Suitable for ages 4 and up.
 Call 01746 781 192 to book and pay for your place in advance.

Photo by Markus Spiske at Unsplash.com

Tues 31st Oct to Thurs 2nd Nov 2023
11am-3pm
PUMPKIN SELF LED TRAIL



Pick up a map from the visitor centre and see if you can find all the pumpkins hidden around the park! There might be some spooky surprises along the way!

£2 per trail map
 Collect trail maps from the visitor centre!

Photo by Bekir Donmez at Unsplash.com



HALLOWEEN TIPS

FOR NEURODIVERSE CHILDREN!

→

Sensory-Friendly Costumes
 Opt for costumes made from soft, comfortable fabrics to accommodate sensory sensitivities. Let your child choose a costume that feels good for them.

Practice Trick-or-Treating
 Visit the neighbourhood and practice the trick-or-treating route with your child beforehand to familiarize them with the surroundings.

Prepare a Social Story
 Create a visual story or social narrative explaining the Halloween traditions to help your child understand what to expect during this time.

Noise-Cancelling Headphones
 If loud noises are a concern, provide noise-cancelling headphones to help reduce auditory overload during parties or events.

→

Offer a Safe Space
 Designate a quiet, calming space at home where your child can retreat if they feel overwhelmed.

Role Play Trick-or-Treating
 Practice the trick-or-treating through role play at home to help your child feel more comfortable with the process.

Prepare Treat Bags Together
 Involve your child in preparing treat bags to promote engagement and provide a sense of control and excitement.

Communicate with Neighbours
 Inform your neighbours about your child's needs, so they can offer a more understanding and accommodating Halloween experience.

→

Choose Daytime Celebrations
 If night time events are challenging, consider attending Halloween celebrations during the day, when it might be more comfortable for your child.

Create a Visual Schedule
 Use a visual schedule or countdown to Halloween to help your child anticipate and prepare for the event.

Practice Saying 'Trick-or-Treat'
 If verbal communication is a challenge, practice saying "Trick-or-Treat" at home to build confidence before heading out.

Respect Your Child's Limits
 Be mindful of your child's comfort level and be prepared to adjust or skip activities if they become overwhelmed.

→



**Sorry - no trick
or treat here**

Please do not disturb - thank you.

**TAYLOR
SUPPORT!**



halloween
DISCO

Friday 3rd November 2023 5-7pm

Taylor Support Building
78-83 Severn Walk
Sutton Hill TF7 4AS

£3 entry cash only on the door
£1 Parent/Carer

email to book - enquiries@taylorsupport.co.uk

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



Shropshire Carers Support Team

Shropshire Carers is a dedicated Carer Support team, within Shropshire Council, providing information, advice and support to adult family and unpaid carers.

Our vision is to enable carers to live their best lives by providing timely and quality information and support.

We are not a time limited service and may be working with individual carers for a short time or for longer periods of time, or carers may dip in and out of our service depending on their individual needs.

The service offers Carers:

- 1:1 support - we work with you to explore the options available to you as a Carer.
- Information and advice – personalised for you.
- Support line – 01743 341995 - operating Mon-Fri – 9-00am till 5-00pm.
- Signposting or referral to specialist advice and support – e.g. benefits advice, advocacy.
- Regular check in and chats to check on your wellbeing
- Assistance with planning ahead – the right information at the right time.
- Peer support groups – virtual and in the community
- Information and training workshops.
- Events and activities
- Carer Register – a means of sharing important information quickly with you by a method that suits you best. With enrolment to the register you will also receive a carer ID/emergency card, emergency plan and free 5-part email course delivered by Mobilise.

Carers can self-refer, or referrals are made via statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations.

Contact Details:

Shropshire Carers Support Line on 01743 341995 (Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm or email: shropshire.carers@shropshire.gov.uk)

Our Carer Support Practitioners are always willing to help 😊



www.shropshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

Shropshire Council



24 November 2023

National Carers Rights Day raises awareness to help carers understand your rights so you can get the support available.

Carers are people who care for our support someone else, who needs help wither because of ill health or disability. Carers are not paid. Whether you are new to your caring role, or you have been caring for a while, we encourage you to get involved. Come and meet us!

Shropshire Carers Support Team is holding an information stall to mark this day so we can talk to you about your rights and what is available to support you.



Market Hall,
Claremont Street,
Shrewsbury, SY1 1HQ



Friday 24 November 2023
10.30am – 3.00pm

For more details:



Email us:
shropshire.carers@shropshire.gov.uk



Call the team on:
01743 341995

Working with [Mobilise Online](https://www.mobilise.org.uk)



- Do you look after someone who couldn't manage without your help?
- If you do, you are probably a carer.
- Do you know your rights as a carer?
- Would you like to know more about the Shropshire Carers Support Team?
- No need to book - we look forward to you dropping by!

www.shropshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

Shropshire Council



Recognising and Supporting Carers in the Community
Come and join us at this **FREE** event
Refreshments included



Oswestry Library
9 Arthur Street,
Oswestry, SY11 1JN



Thursday
23 November 2023
10am to 12.30pm

For more details:



Email us:
Shropshire.carers@shropshire.gov.uk



Call the team on:
01743 341995

Working with [Mobilise Online](https://www.mobilise.org.uk)



www.shropshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

Listen to talks about:

- **Social care funding and how to ensure your personal monies are best utilised and safeguarded**
By Matt Hignett (FPFS), Beaumont Wealth
- **How may a Carers Assessment help you?**
By Margarete Davies (Shropshire Council)
- The event is being hosted to celebrate national Carers Right's Day 2023
- You can also join by live stream from home (please book this in advance)



Bridgnorth Library,
67 Litley Street,
Bridgnorth, WV16 4AW



Thursday
23 November 2023
10am to 12.30pm

Just come along or for more details:



Email us:
Shropshire.carers@shropshire.gov.uk



Call the team on
01743 341995

Working with [Mobilise Online](https://www.mobilise.org.uk)



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Fostering trust, hope, dreams

Ever thought of becoming a foster carer? If so that is great news - there are children out there who really need you!

New Chapters FosterCare is a small independent agency based in Upton Magna, near Shrewsbury. We are recruiting local foster carers to support local children who, all too often, are placed away from their communities.

Children who enter the care system have often experienced some form of trauma, such as separation and loss or abuse.

Because of this, we recognise the importance of having a parenting approach that helps children feel safe, valued and genuinely listened to.

In the past eight years this approach has helped children and young people to form safe and meaningful relationships that enable them to believe they can achieve their aspirations.

We also recognise the importance of providing our foster carers with the training they need to work therapeutically, knowing how to accept the child unconditionally, being curious about why behaviours are happening and, through this being genuinely empathetic towards the child.

Being a foster carer is a challenge, not only because of the complexities that a foster child may present but also because it changes the dynamics in the family home, especially if you already have children of your own.

However, the emotional reward that being a foster carer brings, cannot really be expressed in words. It is about helping a child to realise that there are safe and trustworthy people who they can turn to in times of need.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a foster carer, visit www.newchaptersfostercare.co.uk or speak to our friendly team on 01952 463251.



Local Foster Carers Needed for Local Children

Start your fostering journey today!

New Chapters FosterCare

newchaptersfostercare.co.uk tel 01952 463251 email info@newchaptersfostercare.co.uk

Hear from Chat with

A chance for families of children with disabilities or special additional needs to meet services from education, health and social care. Plus Shropshire Parent and Carer Council.

The theme for Autumn is Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support, Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and annual reviews.

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help

Mon 13 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm
The Centre, Oswestry, SY11 1LW

Mon 20 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm
Sunflower House, Shrewsbury, SY1 4E

Fri 1 Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm
Raven House, Market Drayton, TF9 3AH

Thu 14 Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm
Helena Lane Community Centre,
Ludlow, SY8 2NP


Shropshire, Telford
and Wrekin

 Shropshire
Strengthening
Families

 PARENT AND CARER COUNCIL
PACC
Championing your
voice
SHROPSHIRE

You Said, We Did' - Developing a SEND Early Help Offer in Shropshire.

At the end of 2022 PACC engaged in some work on exploring what a good Early Help offer for SEND would look like, following concern from the Shropshire SEND Community that they were not receiving effective 'early help'. Information about this work and the resulting report is available on the PACC website: <http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/developing-a-send-early-help-offer-in-shropshire> Since publishing the report PACC has continued to work with Early Help leads to respond to the feedback given. One of the key points raised was the need for SEND families to be better informed about the local SEND system and have increased opportunities to come together to benefit from peer support. It was also felt that those working in the Early Help system would benefit from an improved understanding of what life was like for SEND families. In response to this PACC is has been pleased to be part of a team developing Early Help SEND Drop In events. The first round of these 'Hear From – Chat With' meetings have now been agreed and details are shared in the poster below. Please share this information with other parent carers and use the opportunity to find out the information you need to know. If you have suggestions for future topics, please let us know.



SEND Santa Experience



Sunday 17th December

10:00-12:00: 0-8 Years

12:00-2:00: 9-15 Years

2:00-4:00: 16+

(*timings subject to change dependent on demand)

Albert Road Day Centre,
Shrewsbury,
SY1 4HY

£12.50 per young person, including all activities, Santa visit and gift.

You will be allocated a designated slot and then sent a link to Eventbrite to make payment

- Sensory Table
- Craft Table
- Colouring Table
- Toy Tombola
- Food and Refreshments available to purchase

Each booking includes an hour in the activity room, a visit with Santa and a custom gift based on your child/ young persons interests.

Please note Capacity for this event is limited. A non-refundable payment is required to secure your booking. We cannot guarantee that all requests will be allocated a space, due to limited availability.



SEND Santa Experience

Following the success of last years event, we are pleased to announce that we will be running a SEND Santa Experience again this year!

This event is open to all Children and Young people with SEND aged 0-25 in Shropshire.

There are a limited number of slots for this event, and spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

