

Parent
And
Carer
Council

# Annual Report 2020 – 2021

Information & Support, Influence & Change

# The Shropshire Parent and Carer Council (PACC)

PACC is the parent carer forum for Shropshire. Our core aim is ensuring that the voice of parent carers informs and influences local, regional and national decision making related to Special Educational Needs and Disability policy and services.

PACC provides representation for families of children and young people aged 0-25 years, who identify themselves as SEND families in Shropshire. Our core funding is provided through an annual participation grant from the Department For Education, we have also secured funding this year from Shropshire Council, Shropshire CCG, Learning Disability England and the Pears Foundation Trust. PACC is a registered charity.

A key principle of PACC's work is that it is experience led and so all PACC's trustees and operational leads are themselves parent carers, who work closely with the Shropshire parent carer community to inform their work.

PACC's focus is on creating an environment that supports co-production, working in a solution focused way, to enable improved outcomes to be achieved for everyone.

An important element of PACC's work is supporting information provision to the Shropshire SEND community, ensuring that parent carers are able to make informed decisions and understand what support is available for SEND families.

## What a Year!

#### Introduction

The past year has certainly been an interesting one, with the impact of Covid19 on both family and work life. While this has brought challenges for PACC, it has also brought many opportunities and because of this it has been a very busy and productive year.

This report shares PACC key areas of activity and its achievements in the 2020 -2021 period.



## Participation Activity 2020 – 21

#### Responding to the impact of Covid 19 on the Shropshire SEND Community

It is clear that the Covid 19 pandemic significantly impacted on the Shropshire SEND Community. School closures, managing on-line learning, shielding and access to the vaccination were all issues that PACC have been involved in during the past year. Ensuring that parent carers had access to clear and up to date information about a constantly changing situation was a particular focus of PACC's activity during this period. Lockdown also influenced the way PACC worked, increasing our on line presence and having to adapt to meeting virtually. While the lack of face to face contact was difficult at times, the move to virtual meetings brought some benefits in terms of availability and attendance, and we have seen a greater focus on cross service working supported by this.

The return to school after lockdown was something that featured particular in PACC's work this year and we hosted a number of virtual parent carer engagement groups via Facebook Live discussing issues relating to the return to school, including concerns about how SEN transport would work and what support would be available for children and young people with SEND in the classroom. We were particularly pleased to be involved in regular meetings with the BeeU Learning Disabilities Team to talk about how they could support Severndale pupils and their families, who were struggling with the lack of routine.

# Examples of Participation Activity related to Covid19

 Sharing Shropshire SEND Community experience of school based support during Covid 19 with the Shropshire Council Performance Management Scrutiny Meeting – June 20

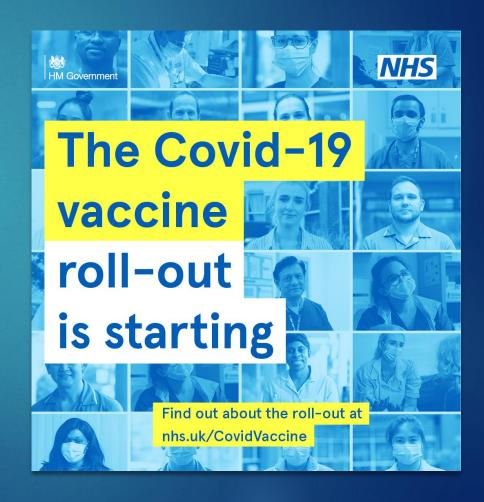
http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/sharing-the-shropshire-send-communities-experience-of-school-based-support-during-co-vid-19

Work on Covid Vaccination roll out – Feb21

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/covid-19vaccination-programme-in-shropshire

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/local-vaccination-update

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/supportingparent-carers-and-those-with-a-learning-disability-toaccess-the-covid-19-vaccination



## Participation Activity 2020 - 21



#### Shropshire SEND Inspection and Written Statement of Action

Following providing key input to the Shropshire SEND Inspection, PACC has continued to provided parent carer representation in the development of Written Statement of Action, including establishing SEND Inspection pages on the PACC website to support regular communication with SEND Community about this work. PACC has taken on a particular role in the development of communication and engagement pathways through all WSOA activities. There is parent carer representation on all WSOA workstreams co-ordinated by PACC, PACC also co-chairs the SEND Partnership Board and attends the SEND Strategic Board.

# Examples of Participation Activity related to the Development of the Shropshire WSOA

PACC Response to Shropshire Inspection report and WSOA updates, 'Statement of Intent' and publication

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/pacc-response-to-shropshire-send-inspection-report

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/work-starts-on-the-shropshire-written-statement-of-action

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/shropshire-rsquo-s-written-statement-of-action-ndash-first-steps

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/written-statement-of-action-statement-of-intent

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/shropshire-s-written-statement-of-actionis-published

 Established virtual SEND Inspection Engagement Groups <a href="http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/send-inspection-action-plan-engagement-groups">http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/send-inspection-action-plan-engagement-groups</a>



# Examples of Participation Activity related to the WSOA Workstreams

Facilitating parent carer engagement in Speech and Language Service review

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/improving-the-shropshire-speech-amp-language-therapy-service-for-children-amp-young-people

Facilitating parent carer input to ND pathway development

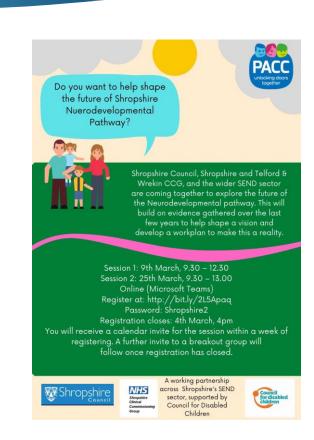
http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/what-does-a-good-autism-diagnosis-and-support-experience-look-like

Worked with CDC and SEN Team to develop 4 workshops – joining the dots (co-production and joint working) and designing the ND Pathway.

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/designing-the-new-neurodevelopmental-pathway-in-shropshire

Parent engagement in the 0-5 Multi Disciplinary Assessment process

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/multi-disciplinary-assessment-engagement-session-for-parent-carers

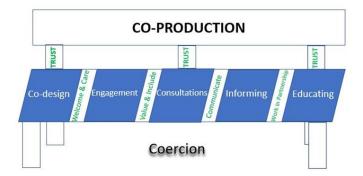


### Participation Activity 2020 - 21

#### Developing co-production in Shropshire

Co-production is at the heart of what PACC does so it seemed right to celebrate 'Co-production Week' in July. We worked with senior leaders in Shropshire Council and Shropshire CCG to ask what co-production meant to them and shared these messages through social media and the PACC website. This year PACC also agreed a partnership approach with The Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust which delivers the BeeU Service in Shropshire. This includes regular meeting with Directors and the Involvement Team and working closely with the new BeeU engagement worker post.

In wider discussions and linking to the WSoA, PACC has worked with children and adult services across Shropshire and Telford to develop a system wide co-production model. This model describes co-production as a 'bench' rather than the traditional ladder, highlighting the collaborative and supportive nature of co-production. Work is continuing on developing this system wide approach.



# Examples of Participation Activity related to Developing Co-production in Shropshire



Promoted co-production week – 'What Co-production means to me' videos and 'Why Co-produce Infographic'

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/coproduction-week-2020

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/shropshire -council-adult-services-coproduction-weekreflection

<a href="http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/coproduct">http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/coproduct</a> ion-in-action-coproduction-week-reflections

# Participation Activity 2020 - 21

#### Supporting the Commissioning of Services

One of PACC's key activities is to make sure that parent carer experience and knowledge informs the design of services, making sure that they deliver the support that is needed, in a way that makes a positive difference to people's lives. This year PACC provided parent carer feedback into a number of commissioning processes, including the tender process for the new Carers Support Service, designing the new provider framework for Adult Social Care and participating in the assessment of bids for the new special school in Shrewsbury.

PACC is also part of the Actio Consortium, which was established to improve and develop community activity opportunities offer within Shropshire for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND, and their families. This year was the first time that Actio commissioned the All In activity programme, as part of the Shropshire Council Short Breaks offer, extending the offer to include a greater range of activities. There was a particular focus on developing a creative activities offer alongside the physical activity programme.



# Examples of Participation Activity related to Supporting the Commissioning of Services

 Providing parent carer representation on Shropshire Family Carers Partnership Board. Provided parent carer input to carer support commissioning process – developing interview questions and assessing responses

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/developing-carers-support-in-shropshire

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/new-shropshire-carers-service-is-not-for-all-carers

 Providing parent carer input to development of new commissioning providers framework for Adult Social Care

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/what-does-a-goodprovider-of-care-look-like-ndash-working-with-adult-socialcare

 Launch of Actio Consortium and All In short break commissioning – Nov 20

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/actio-and-the-future-commissioning-of-all-in

## Participation Activity 2020 - 21



Learning Disability and Autism Programme Draft Vision

#### The NHS Long Term Plan Learning Disability and Autism Programme

Pacc joined the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Learning Disability and Autism Partnership Board in October 2020. This area of work is a central part of the NHS Long Term Plan and there will be a significant increase of funding over the next three years in this area. PACC contributed to Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board system diagnostic and pathway review and co-produced the Shropshire Key Worker bid as part of the national learning disability and autism programme. Feedback was collected on the local experience of Annual Heath Checks for those 14plus with learning disabilities, as well supporting the promotion of these checks. As part of this work PACC highlighted need to improve quality of GP's learning disability registers for the 14-25 age group. Most recently PACC has supported the development of the Shropshire Learning Disability and Autism Programme Vision' which is has now been shared widely for consultation.

## Participation Activity 2020 - 21

#### Other Activity Areas

PACC continues to support the development of the Shropshire Local Offer and the Preparation for Adulthood work happening locally. The PFA work is very much linked to the ongoing development of the Local Area SEND Strategy, which is due to be published on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 21. Having a clear vision about what good looks like for the Shropshire SEND Community is really important for PACC's work because it helps us to articulate what we want services to do and focus on.

PACC meets monthly with senior managers from adult and children's services across education, health and social care to discuss what is happening locally in terms of SEND and any particular issues that need addressing.

PACC is an active member of the West Midland Regional Parent Carer Network, influencing regional and national decision making.

This year PACC has developed closer links with Shropshire schools. Specific work was done with the Severndale parent carer community, in particular providing support around communication, as the school moved to become part of a Multi Academy Trust. PACC has also worked with the Marches Multi Academy Trust to develop school based parent carer engagement groups, supporting parent carers to have a greater say both in school issues and decisions made in the local area about SEND services.



# Other Examples of Participation Activity



Published 'A Sense of Purpose & a Home of My Own' Report – April 20

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/cd-content/uploads/files/A%20Sense%20of%20Purpose%20and%20a%20Home %20Report%281%29.pdf

 Working with PFA Team to improve parent carers understanding of Supported Living - September 20

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/what-do-you-want-to-know-about-supported-living-in-shropshire

Worked with Severndale Academy and Severndale parent carer community to support transition to becoming part of Multi Academy Trust

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/pacc-responds-to-the-severndale-specialist-academy-ofsted-report

# Reach & Information Activity 2020 - 21

Increasing the number of SEND families we are in contact with and ensuring they have good access to the information they need, are key aims for PACC. Social Media networks and the PACC website became even more important this year and as well as ensuring that information was shared on a daily basis through these platforms, PACC also establish a programme of Facebook Live engagement sessions. These sessions were often topic lead and allowed a more relaxed exchange of information to happen.

Early in the year PACC issued a Covid 19 newsletter to bring together key information about how local services were adapting to the new situation. As the pandemic continued to impact we started to work with Shropshire Council and the CCG to establish the Shropshire SEND Newsletter for parent carers. This newsletter has continued to be published at regular intervals throughout the year and is distributed directly to 2000 plus families.

Other information has been shared by PACC through Myth Buster Fact sheets, such as 'return to school' information and a particular effort has been made to share the Ministerial letters to the SEND community, so that the national perspective was heard by Shropshire parent carers.

The School project with a local Multi Academy Trust extended PACC's reach into the mainstream school community. Closed Facebook groups were set up for each school participating and information introducing PACC was developed including a short video.

PACC has taken the lead on developing the Actio website, providing a range of information to SEND families about the programme of community activities on offer, as well as supporting provider development and joint working. We were successful in securing funding to develop Actio promotional gifts bags and a welcome pack for those families who participate in the activity programme. The Actio Welcome Pack includes information about the Shropshire Local Offer and a copy of the Shropshire Short Breaks Statement, along with an activity passport and information about person centred planning.



# Examples of Reach & Information Activity

#### SEND Transport - Is there anything I should know?

#### **SCHOOL RETURNS**

- If the transport arrangements you had in place before March 2020 have changed, you should be notified of this by 24th August by the Specialist Transport Team. Otherwise your school transport should be the same as last school year unless you have changed schools or asked for a different option. You can choose to take your child yourself or make alternative arrangements using either travel expenses or a personal transport budget.
- PPE on school dedicated transport IS NOT required unless this is the usual practice. Some Drivers and Passenger Assistants may still choose to wear a face covering or other PPE. If you have concerns about this, please contact the Specialist Transport Team.
- Children and young people, over 11 years old, on mainstream school transport must wear a face covering unless they are exempt.
- Social Distancing IS NOT REQUIRED on dedicated transport but children will be sat in school bubble groups, where possible, & should use the same seat on each journey. <u>Families must adhere to social distancing measures at drop off and collection points.</u>
- If your child accesses more than one setting, or attends a Short
  Breaks placement & usually travels on school transport between
  settings, this will continue as normal unless you are told otherwise.
- Transport guidance can be found here

  https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-placesof-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-educationautumn-term-2020/transport-to-group-atsetting from 2020

Shropshire SEND Transport advice & FAQs is available at https://shropshire.gov.uk/school transport/coronavirus-covid-19-emergency-guidance-for-school-transport-other-councilpassenger-transport-form-september-2020/



PACC newsletter issues with Key Covid Information April 20

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/pacc-newsletter-spring-2020

Co-produced Shropshire SEND Newsletter for parent Carer with LA & CCG

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/making-sure-that-shropshire-parent-carer-have-access-to-the-information-they-need

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/is-the-shropshire-send-newsletter-working-for-you

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/taking-the-next-step

Co-produced Myth Buster factsheets on the return to school after lockdown June 20

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/return-to-school-factsheets

Sharing Ministers letters

http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/shropshire-send-newsletter-lockdown-3-edition-ampminister-s-letter-to-send-families

# PACC Infrastructure Activity 2020-21

Due to the increased focus on virtual engagement activity due to Covid 19 PACC invested in the management of it's social media network through the purchase and development of core suite of social media tools and materials.

To ensure that PACC maintained its legal responsibilities independent oversight of our annual accounts took place and core insurance cover was maintained. Additional insurance cover around cyber security was also purchased to ensure PACC's approach to personal data storage and management was sound.

653 paid hours of support were delivered for PACC by the Participation lead and Communication and Engagement lead. PACC was successful in securing joint funding from Shropshire Council and CCG for 21/22 period, to fund admin support in recognition of PACC's contribution to WSOA workstreams.



## What has PACC achieved?

#### **Participation Outcomes**

- The voice of parent carers is strongly represented in the Shropshire Written Statement of Action and the resulting SEND Governance structures at all levels.
- Key Short break services are secured for the next three years through the creation of Actio Consortium of which PACC is a founding member. The All In short break activity programme has been shaped by the views of parent carers.
- Shropshire parent carers have a stronger voice in the strategic planning of neurodevelopmental services and working in partnership with families will be central to the pathway.
- Shropshire parent carers are now able to influence the development of Learning Disability and / Autism services in Shropshire through PACC representation on the LD&A programme and Delivery Boards.
- There is an increased focus on embedding co-production in health services and decision making because of PACC's input to the SEND inspection. This is now a key priority in the WSOA and PACC is increasing its presence in health decision making.
- The key themes of Shropshire parent carer feedback are heard on a monthly basis by Senior Management Team, increasing their understanding of SEND issues and raising the profile of the SEND community in strategic decision making.
- Regular meetings with Directors of the local mental health provider have been established, which have increased Shropshire parent carers voice in strategic decision making in this sector and have raised the profile of the needs of the SEND community within the services delivered by this provider.
- Due to PACC representation Shropshire CCG and Local Authority agreed to make the local decision to extend the eligibility for Covid vaccination to all those with a learning disability. PACC also highlighted that the GP registers were not robust in terms of identifying young people with learning disabilities 16 25 and suggested an alternative approach where other indicators were used to identify eligible individuals with learning disabilities in this age group. GP's therefore accepted young people for vaccination that otherwise would have been missed from the programme. The letters sent to all young people with a Learning Disability identified informing them of their eligibility for the vaccine, included information about annual health checks and the GP Learning disability registers, increasing awareness of these opportunities. This work highlighted an issue with the learning disability diagnosis pathway which is now being considered with a view to improving this process.

## What has PACC Achieved?



#### **Reach & Information Outcomes**

- Feedback on the Shropshire SEND Newsletter, coproduced by PACC, Shropshire Council and Shropshire CCG evidenced that this was meeting the needs of parent carers. 21 out of 25 parent carers who responded to the survey issued said they felt better informed because of the newsletter, with the key difference being made in the following areas; knowing that other parent carers are feeling the same, knowing what support is available to parent carers and keeping up to date with SEND news. The most popular articles were those on; education, Short Breaks, local service developments and social care support.
- The School Engagement Project has extended the Forums reach into mainstream school, improving the distribution of information to the SEND community in the schools that are participating. The project is supporting schools to understand and embed co-production in the way they engage with SEND families.
- Shropshire SEND families are well informed about the progress of the development and implementation of the WSOA through the creation and regular updates of specific pages on the PACC website and the new closed Facebook PACC SEND Inspection Group.
- PACC has a wider offer of in terms of information sharing, providing regular 'Check in and Chat' sessions on Facebook, increasing the accessibility of the information shared.
- The creation of the Actio Consortium and securing the contract to commission and manage the All In offer extends PACC's reach into the SEND community, enabling information to be shared with more parent carers.
- The purchase of communication management tools has enabled PACC to plan a regular programme of comms increasing our social media audience.

# What has PACC Achieved?

#### **Infrastructure Outcomes**







PACC met its legal requirements as a charity – publishing its accounts and Trustee report as required.

The PACC website is kept up to date and current in terms of the information shared.

PACC had sufficient and appropriate insurance to enable it to secure additional funding.





PACC has received additional funding to recognise its effectiveness and value in local strategic work All the above increases PACC's sustainability as an organisation

Greatest Achievement in 2020 - 21 The strength of parent carer voice in the development of the WSOA is something that we are particularly proud of. This has resulted in a focus on co-production with parent carers and the recognition of the importance of quality and co-ordinated communication.

Our approach to partnership working has also been very successful and the message that PACC has promoted about the importance of joint working has had a positive influence on the implementation of the WSOA, the delivery of the vaccination programme locally and the work done by the Learning Disability and Autism Programme, in which SEND is now a key priority.

# Greatest Challenge in 2020 - 21



One of our key priorities for 20/21 has been developing PACC's relationship with local health decision makers and ensuring that the SEND community has a system wide voice. The Shropshire health sector is in escalation due to longstanding significant issues, which in part are financial, this and the move to a single CCG across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin in April 21 and next year's planned move to an Integrated Care System has made a system wide voice difficult to achieve.

PACC continues to be concerned that the Shropshire Integrated Care System seems to be developing in isolation from other local systems such as SEND. This means that there is a lack of clear governance pathways and access to senior decision makers is difficult to achieve. Children and Young people and in particular those with SEND have not been seen as a priority in the work of the ICS. PACC will continue to promote the importance of a system wide approach to supporting the SEND community and for delivering co-production.

# Chair's Report

"Whilst 2020 has been a historic and unforgettable year for us all for all the wrong reasons, for PACC it has been one of our busiest and possibly strongest years we have ever had. The written statement of action work (WSOA), following the Shropshire Local Area Inspection, has been a huge catalyst for many of the priority areas we had already identified. It has enabled us to be more visible and have more opportunities to inform and influence the local SEND systems because of the focus from the WSOA.

Covid-19, whilst utterly awful, has also provided some unexpected positive outcomes for us this year. As an organisation we have been able to connect with far more members of our community than ever before. Our communications have significantly increased in the number of times we share information with parent carers, and the way we connect with you has also changed. Our Facebook lives have seen some sessions attract nearly 300 views each, and we have held more direct engagement opportunities on topic specific work, such as: Severndales Families Transport Concerns, Returning to School, Speech and Language Therapy Services, and the Multi-Disciplinary Assessment of ASD and ADHD in under 6's. We have also increased the number of engagement sessions hosted with specific school communities alongside The Marches Academy Trust with some of our first school community sessions taking place at the end of this financial year.

We have also seen an increase in our coproduction with other parts of the system that have historically been a challenge for us to engage with. Our main report has already mentioned these, but I feel it important to recognise the positive new connections we have made as a direct result of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

It is important that I acknowledge the hard work of the PACC team over the last 12 months. We have all had some challenging times to face, but all the team have remained committed to PACCs vision for a better future in Shropshire for our families. Without the amazing parent carers who make up the PACC Steering Group, Representative Team, and support network, we would never achieve half of what we do.

I have always been extremely proud to be able to 'stand' here year on year and say I am proud to be a part of PACC, and to share with you some of our successes. But the true measure of our success lies within our SEND community.

There is a fine balance we Parent Carer Forums must strike between the success and progress we are part of and can see within the SEND sector locally, and what you are seeing and feeling in your everyday lives. In all honesty, sometimes these two things do not always marry up.

As strategic partners, sitting within the governance structure, using your experiences to shape the system from the table along side directors, managers, leads, and practitioners, we have the benefit of seeing some of the culture change and the hard work that is often happening, and can sometimes be lacking, within the Shropshire SEND system. But often what we see and what you feel are not the same, as this hard work can take time to infiltrate into the services on the ground and for you to sense the changes in your everyday lives. That is the hardest part of our role. We sincerely hope the improvements to communication we have made, the increase in participation and coproduction activity across the SEND system, and the plans to continue this into 2021/2022 will help to address this. We cannot promise there will not always be a bit of a delay in the system, but we hope you will be able to see the potential positives that you are a part of shaping through our increased activity within the sector and the community.

Whilst I am proud to be part of PACC, that pride is nothing compared to the pride I feel in being a part of the Shropshire Parent Carer community. You are the reason we are here. You are the reason we continue to do this day in and day out. And you are the ones making the real difference. Without your feedback, experiences, and critical eyes, we would have very little to share with the LA and CCG on your behalf. You are the heart and soul of PACC. "

Zara Bowden

# Financial Report

- The audited accounts for 2019/20 are available on the Charity Commission website <a href="https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5026729">https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5026729</a>
- The accounts for 2020/21 have been completed and our grant monitoring submitted to all funders as required. The audited accounts for this period will be completed in time for the Charity commission submission deadline of 31st January 2022.
- PACC's income for 2021 was £46,894 and is broken down as follows;

**Dept for Education** Core Participation Grant – £16124 This was fully spent on core activity, including staffing costs (50% max) and infrastructure costs.

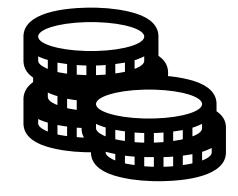
Actio - £7320 To provide admin and participation services

**Pears Foundation Grant** - £13500 Purchase of Actio promotional gift bags and welcome packs

Shropshire Council & CCG - £4950 6 months funding for work related to WSoA

**Learning Disability England** - £5000 Creation of video's of All In providers, introducing families to activity offer

Currently PACC has £3322 funds in reserve.



# Meet the Team



- **Zara Bowden** Chair / Comms and Engagement Lead (8 hrs per wk. paid role)
- Sarah Thomas Participation Lead (5 hours per wk. paid role)
- Abi Taylor Admin Support (10 hours per wk. paid role)
- Cathy Williams Admin Support (10 hours per wk. paid role)
- Helen Lake Parent Carer Rep
- Denise Glover Parent Carer Rep
- Annie Taylor Parent Carer Rep

## Plans For the Future

- Continuing focus on increasing reach and strengthening communications with the Shropshire SEND Community.
- Review PACC structure and move away from membership models, strengthening message about providing representation for whole of SEND Community.
- Explore alternative charity structures that would more effectively support PACC's sustainability.
- Increasing SEND/parent carer community influence across the Integrated Care System
- Maintaining healthy relationships with other community stakeholders
- Empowering the parent carer community through challenging the SEND system to be honest, transparent, and clear
- ▶ Remaining well connected to regional and national activities to inform our work
- Continuing to champion your voice

