



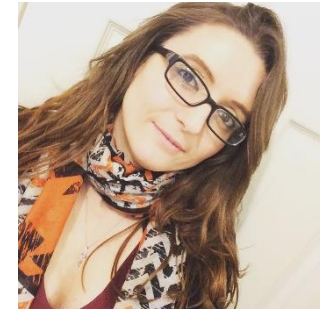
SHROPSHIRE
Parent
And
Carer
Council

PACC Annual Report 2019 / 20

Information & Support, Influence & Change

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Chair and Trustee Report 2019/20

Introduction:

2019/20 was a busy year for PACC, with a focus on developing new projects to support the sustainability of PACC and to ensure the growth of our organisation. It is becoming clear that while the work that PACC does is important and valued by SEND families, practitioners and decision makers, capacity within our community to support PACC's work will be an ongoing challenge. It is also clear that PACC needs to find ways of funding its increasing workload, recognizing that while voluntary work will always be an important part of our structure, paid roles are essential for organisational growth and sustainability.



Activity & Outcomes

1. SEND Transport

Our year began with a piece of core work, ensuring that the voice of the community we represent influenced proposed changes to SEND transport provision. This included collecting transport testimonials from families who had used the service, explaining what free transport provision had meant to them. This combined with direct discussions with Elected Members meant that we were able to secure the continuity of free transport provision for those attending nursery and a lower rate of contribution to Post 16 transport, for those families who were financially struggling.



2. Developing the Shropshire SEND Strategy

▶ In May 2019 PACC supported the development of the Shropshire SEND strategy, organising opportunities for parent carers to contribute to the discussion and participating in the PATH process that informed the strategy development. Once the draft strategy had been developed PACC played an important role in continuing to explore parent carers understanding of the vision it promoted and the outcomes it championed. This included workshops, looking at housing, employment and health that went ahead despite the Shrewsbury floods! A further workshop looking at communication and supporting children and young people with SEND to have a voice, was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid 19.



3. Neurodevelopmental Pathway



- ▶ Another core piece of work was the continuation of activity to improve the experience of families who require input from Shropshire CAMHS, especially those requesting Neurodevelopmental assessments. This included meetings with the Commissioner responsible for the service, highlighting our concerns with the service, meetings with the SEN Team, provider and Commissioner to explore the development of a new pathway and presenting to the Learning Disability & Autism Board about alternative approaches.

4. The Actio Consortium

- ▶ A significant amount of time during the year was committed to developing the Actio Consortium. Actio is a new partnership between PACC, Ignition (creatives arts) and Energize (local Sports partnership) which aims to reduce isolation for children and young people with SEND and their families, increasing self-esteem and confidence by developing social and friendship networks that will extend beyond the activity provided. Parent Carers will also benefit from the Consortiums work through opportunities to come together with other parent carers, to share experiences and to access information and support, and to have a voice in local and national decision making. Training and professional development will be made available to all activity providers, developing knowledge and skills around working with children and young people with SEND and their families. In discussions with Shropshire Council Actio explored how it could take on the commissioning and management role for Shropshire's non assessed Short Breaks service, 'All In'. Taking on this role will provide some financial sustainability for PACC, increase our capacity, through partnership working and extend our reach in the SEND community.



5. The Shropshire SEND Inspection



- ▶ Throughout the year we were aware that the Shropshire SEND Local Area Inspection was imminent and so we spent time co-ordinating feedback from families, articulating their experiences of Shropshire SEND services in preparation for this. This culminated in issuing our survey 'If the SEND Inspection was Tomorrow' when we asked parent carers to share with us their thoughts on the identification of SEND, assessment and support and the outcomes delivered for children and young people with SEND in Shropshire. This feedback informed the production of our report 'The State of SEND – Shropshire', which was shared with the lead inspector at the beginning of the inspection process.

- ▶ The SEND Inspection happened in Shropshire during the last week in January and PACC ensured that parent carer representation was provided for all strategic meetings, including PACC presenting as part of the introductory sessions when Shropshire self - assessment, was shared with the inspection team. We were particularly please that we were able to secure a chance for Shropshire parent carers to meet directly with the inspection team, hosting an open meeting which 30plus parent carers attended. The role of PACC in ensuring that Shropshire parent carers had a voice in strategic decision making, was recognised in the Inspection Outcome letter. This work by PACC to ensure that Shropshire parent carers were fully involved in the Shropshire inspection has also been recognised by Contact as good practice and written up as a case study to share with other Forums and the Department for Education, evidencing the important role played by Forums in the inspection process.



Information and Regional Network

PACC PARTICIPATION EVENT

Early Years - your experiences

An opportunity to share your experience of education, health, & social care within the Shropshire local authority area. For parent carers of SEND children aged 0-6 years.

PACC
unlocking doors together

11am-12.30pm October 9th 2019
Little Rascals Play Centre

- ▶ The activity outlined above are the highlights of our work during 2019/20. Alongside this we have continued to ensure that Shropshire SEND families have access to the information they need to make informed decisions and are able to benefit from peer support that is so essential to our community. We continue to grow our presence on social media and to develop our website as a key place for parent carers to find information. PACC also continues to play a key role in regional and national work, co-chairing the West Midlands Regional Parent Carer Forum Network.

Thank You!

- ▶ We do all of this in partnership with the Shropshire SEND community, and without their support we would not be able to do our work. We would like to thank all the families who have provided feedback to PACC, or raised questions or shared their stories. We also want to thank those parent carers who have given up their time to attend conferences and workshops, to give presentations about their experiences and to attend meetings on behalf of PACC, along with our Trustees who help to shape our work and development as an organisation. A particular thanks goes to Natalie Hughes who moved on from her Admin Offer post to take up a new role in October. She has provided invaluable support for the past few years and we wish her the very best. Finally we would like to thank SEND practitioners and decision makers with whom we work in partnership to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.



What Next?

- ▶ 2020/2021 could potentially be a challenging year, with family life and how we work having to adapt to the challenge of Covid 19. It will however, be more important than ever that PACC continues to ensure that the voice of parent carers is heard and informs the decision making that impacts their families. As always we are committed to ensuring that this continues to happen.



Finances

Income and expenditure

Data for financial year ending 31 March 2020

Total income: £23,096

Total expenditure: £24,543

Total income includes £20,959 from 2 government grant(s)

People



8 Trustee(s)

5 Volunteer(s)

Employees with total benefits over £60,000

No employees have total benefits over £60k for this charity

► Income

PACC's core funding continues to come from the Department For Education Participation Grant. This year in addition to this we secure funding from Shropshire Council to contribute to the development of the Actio Consortium and to support 'All In' consultation work. We also received a payment from the West Midlands Parent Carer Forums Regional Network, in payment for the provision of Admin Services.

► Expenditure

Our main expenditure remains related to organisational infrastructure such as insurance and accounting services and remuneration for Parent Carer representation.

PACC accounts were submitted by the required deadline to the Charity Commission and can be viewed on the following link <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5026729/charity-overview>

APPENDIX A.

2019 / 20 PACC Activity

- ▶ **Responding to proposed introduction of transport charges for nursery and post 16 transport**

Collecting transport testimonials – what free transport provision has meant to me – 11 parent carers responded

Submission of transport consultation response April 2-19

Met with lead councillors for children's and education services – May 2019 to discuss consultation response

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/sen-transport-consultation>

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/send-transport-consultation-update>

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/pacc-send-transport-consultation-response>

- ▶ **Worked with Shropshire Council to share information about temporary closure of residential Short Breaks Service**

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/overnight-short-breaks-update>

► **Development of new Shropshire send strategy – April / May 2019**

Collecting parent carer input for visioning day – PACC family event “Grow your Own Future” – report on website – 10 families attended – covering a range of ages and abilities

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/grow-your-own-future-event>

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/cd-content/uploads/files/Input%20to%20SEND%20Strategy%20day.pdf>

Attended visioning day and produced report & online survey for parent carers based on format of visioning day – May 19 - 24 responses

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/co-producing-the-shropshire-send-strateg>

Worked with SEN Team to draft strategy & Shared draft Strategy and gathered feedback from parent carers on proposed document – 7 responses

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/draft-shropshire-send-strategy-what-do-you-think>

Explore key themes at two workshops – health, employment and housing – 43 parent carers attend, 13 strategy surveys completed

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/a-sense-of-purpose-and-a-place-of-my-own-work-and-housing>

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

Third workshop planned on giving our children a voice but cancelled due to Co-vid19

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/lsquo-communication-and-influence-ndash-giving-our-children-a-voice-rsquo>



► **Continued to highlight issues with ASD pathway in Shropshire**

Meeting with Frances Sutherland May 2019 – raised concerns about continuing long waiting lists, feedback from parent carers about lack of support, poor communication, confusion in system etc. Requested a place on TCP Board again

Worked on developing ASD pathway in Shropshire – Nov 19 – Feb 20. Met with health commissioner, SEN Team, Education providers and mental health service provider to discuss development of local pathway.

Presented to LD and autism board in Feb 2020 – (previously TCP Board) on North East school project

► **Development of Actio**

Monthly meeting with consortium to develop organisational structure

Monthly meetings with Shropshire Council to discuss the hand over of the commissioning of All In non-assessed short break programme

All in survey and consultation carried out, developed data management agreement with Council enabling Consortium to have direct contact with All In members & developed Actio website and logo delivering a strong brand for promotion

Actio launch <http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/introducing-the-actio-consortium-positive-inclusion-for-everyone>

► SEND Inspection – January 2020

If SEND Inspection was tomorrow survey – prep for inspect October 2019

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/if-the-send-inspection-was-today>

State of SEND report produced and sent to inspectors

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/the-state-of-send-ndash-shropshire-report-2020>

Participation in joint inspection – promoting opportunities for parent carers input and organised meeting with Inspection Team for parent carers

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/preparation-for-the-send-inspection-process>

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/shropshire-send-inspection-monday-27th-january-friday-31st-january>

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/send-inspection-parent-carer-meeting>

Specifically, shared CAMHS feedback and highlighted key concerns re lack of co-production with CCG

► **Other activity;**

Contributed to carers services review

Part of Free School shortlist panel

► **Ongoing attendance at;**

SEND Strategic Board

Short Breaks Commissioning meeting

Task and finish groups feeding into SEND Strategy;

- Joint commissioning
- Measuring the impact of our work
- Transition and preparing for adulthood
- Inclusion and reducing school exclusions

Local Offer project group

Regional meetings attended regularly

► **Events Attended;**

Partnership Board Summit – presented on co-production

West Midland Regional TCP event



APPENDIX B.

2019/20 PACC Outcomes

- ▶ **Responding to proposed introduction of transport charges for nursery and post 16 transport**

Outcome – proposal changed so that free nursery transport continues and lower rate for low income families introduced in Post 16 charges

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/proposed-changes-to-send-nursery-and-post-16-transport-provision>

- ▶ **Worked with Shropshire Council to share information about temporary closure of residential Short Breaks Service**

Outcome – Families were kept well informed about progress on re opening of service



► **Development of new Shropshire send strategy – April / May 2019**

Parent carers voice and experience fully informed the development of the new strategy, this is evident in the responses to the Strategy questionnaire, where the majority of responses agreed with the identified key elements of a 'dream life' for SEND children and young people.

Shropshire has a clear vision for SEND Services, that recognises the need for a multi-agency approach and is based on what a good life look's like for Shropshire SEND families.

PACC has been able to plan events that reflect the key areas identified by Shropshire SEND families, ensuring that families have access to the information that they have identified as important.

The events based on the strategy have identified a range of questions that parent carers have about key areas – these have been answered by the relevant services and will inform the Local Offer development.

The focus on the strategy and the associated events has attracted new parent carers to PACC, including 3 new parent carer reps.



The report produced from the first event has been well received by managers from the LA and CCG and will provide a framework for further co-production

“Thanks to everyone and PACC and all the parents and young people who contributed, this is helpful and inspiring. I’ll talk to colleagues about next steps and think through what and how. We will have to think through timing in the current situation as well, but it will be exciting”

Feedback from - **Interim Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding**

“The PFA report is great and will support the work of the SEND Strategic Board”

Feedback from – **Manager Shropshire SEN Team**



► **Continued to highlight issues with ASD pathway in Shropshire**

Agreed new system to be implemented in Shropshire that reflects local need – Neurodevelopmental Assessment Panel Process to be implemented from Feb 2020 (delayed due to Covid19)

Secured ongoing representation for PACC at LD and ASD board – on a shared basis with Telford PCF

► **SEND Inspection – January 2020**

Inspection informed directly by parent carers experience

Forums praised by Inspectors for being strong advocates for the local SEND community

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/cd-content/uploads/files/shropshire-ofsted-send-local-area-inspection-report.pdf>



► Actio Consortium Development

The formation of the Actio Consortium will build resilience in community that in turn will build the foundation for participation – it will increase PACC's sustainability by working in partnership and improving our ability to apply for additional funding. Once up and running the Consortium will enable PACC to extend its reach into our local community.

Improving the All In service through parent carer and young person feedback – identified gaps and what families value

Secured commitment to All In service being funded at same rate for three years from 2020 – 2023

Secured match funding from Arts Council to improve and develop the role of the arts sector in delivering activities for the SEND community

Secured funding to carry out All In Consultation with users and providers

Developed data management agreement with Council enabling Consortium to have direct contact with All In members.