



Shropshire Parent Carer Council Monthly Newsletter. March 2025

Welcome to PACC's monthly newsletter.

If you have any questions or require any further information,
please email:



info@paccshropshire.org.uk



PACC AGM



The PACC AGM looked back on the period Oct 2023 – Nov 2024. It was held at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust Buildings in Shrewsbury on 21st March 2025.

A summary of the Annual Report was shared with those who attended. The full Annual Report for the period will be published soon and the audited accounts will be available on the Charity Commission website. You can read the summary of the Annual Report [here](#)

It has been a very busy and, in many ways, a positive year, with achievements in all three of PACC's core works areas; Influence & Change, Information Provision and Community Support. There are challenges however in embedding coproduction throughout the Shropshire SEND System and ensuring that parent carer voices are truly at the heart of decision making. PACC will continue to work to address this.





£740 MILLION

FOR 10,000 NEW PLACES FOR PUPILS WITH SEND

In both mainstream and special schools

[READ MORE](#)

Department of Education Funding



The Department For Education has announced new funding totalling £750million to create an additional 10,000 new school places for children with SEND. The funding will be used to deliver adaptations, expand specialist units in mainstream, as well as create new places in special schools.

Guidance has been issued today for Local Authorities on how this additional funding can be used. Suggested types of works are;

- The creation of SEN units and resource provision: These are specialist provisions within mainstream schools to support inclusion.
- Mainstream adaptations and improvements: Accessible toilets, improved acoustic and lighting and creating spaces for re-regulation for example.
- Assistive Technology: Such as scanning pens or dictation software.
- Special school expansions: includes Post 16 specialist provision

ELSEC Update



[READ MORE](#)

Early Language Support for Every Child is an initiative from the Department for Education to help promote improved early interventions for children who demonstrate language and communication difficulties. PACC sit on the steering group for this work as we recognise that many children with SEND may benefit from this support offer. We also recognise there will be proportion of children where there needs will surpass this support offer and they will need more targeted, and specialist support made available to them. This work falls into the Change Programme activity Shropshire has been part of.





What are Your Top Three Concerns about SEND in Shropshire?



As part of the PACC AGM and yearly review we are asking Shropshire SEND Families to tell us what are their top three concerns about SEND in Shropshire?

We would also like to hear what you would like to see happen to address these concerns.



Staying Safe Online



If your child has any worries about online safety or in general they can get free 1:1 online support at Kooth

[READ MORE](#)

The NSPCC also have some great resources for parents and children around online safety, including resources for families who have children with special educational needs and disabilities

[READ MORE](#)

Understanding the Impact of the Government's Welfare Reform Green Paper on Families with SEND



"The cuts to disability benefits announced by the government today are worse than we feared. The safety net for families with disabled young adults was already seriously strained and now feels like it has been ripped away."

Anna Bird, Chief Executive of Contact

contact in Shropshire

The Government has introduced a Welfare Reform Green Paper that could bring significant changes to benefits and support systems. These proposals may have a direct impact on Parent Carers of children or young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It is important to understand these changes and how they may affect your family's financial and social wellbeing.

[READ MORE](#)

SEND and Alternative Provision Survey

A graphic for a survey. It features a red megaphone on a blue background. A white speech bubble contains the text: "Have your say! We want to hear the views of people who use SEND services for children and young people." Below the megaphone, a red box says "Survey closes Friday 18 April 2025". At the bottom, there are logos for Shropshire Council, NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Integrated Care System Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

Have your say!
We want to hear the views of people who use SEND services for children and young people.

Survey closes
Friday 18 April 2025

Shropshire Council | NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin | Integrated Care System Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

This survey aims to provide the system with information and intelligence about the impact they are having on the areas of concern raised in the Ofsted CQC inspection of 2020 and the reinspection that followed shortly after.

These areas were quality and timeliness of EHCPs, assessment and diagnostic timescales for Autism and ADHD pathways, and the assessment timescales for Speech Language and Communication services.

To date, PACC have participated in workstreams and contributed to many discussions supporting improvements across these areas. The Neurodiversity Practitioners were developed and employed as a role to improve the experience of families awaiting diagnostic assessment of Autism and ADHD. They provide crucial support and guidance to schools and young people to help ensure their needs are suitably met. The Speech and Language helpline, Talkboost communications resource and intervention package, and the ongoing improvement to information about communication skills has been influenced by PACC reps participation in discussions seeking ways to provide triage and support options across Shropshire.

[READ MORE](#)

Phase transfer deadline: 31 March

For children and young people with EHC plans transferring from **secondary school** to a **post-16 institution**

 WWW.IPSEA.ORG.UK

[@IPSEAcharity](#) | [@](#) | [X](#) | [f](#)



Phase Transfer to post-16 education



If your child has an EHC plan and they are transferring from secondary school to a post-16 institution this year, the deadline for your local authority to review and amend your child's EHC plan is Monday 31st March.

This deadline is statutory, not optional.

If you have still not received an amended plan, IPSEA have useful information including templates on their website.

[READ MORE](#)

National Consultation Opportunity – click on image for more information



School Accountability Reform consultation

**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

Share your views in our School
Accountability Reform consultation to
help shape a service that's right for you.

Shropshire Universal Support Service Update



Kids Disabled children say we can

Our services ▾

Support us ▾

SEND Advice ▾

About us ▾



Donate

Shropshire Universal Autism Support Service

Shropshire Universal Autism Support project offers a unique approach to supporting the emotional well-being of autistic children and young people. The service is aimed at families of autistic young people aged 0-19 and provides early intervention & prevention of person centred, needs led support, contributing to improving the understanding of autism, provision of support strategies & information to improve quality of life, no diagnosis is necessary to access this support.



Shropshire Council have announced that the national charity Kids, have been awarded the contract to deliver the Shropshire Universal Autism Support Service from 1st April 2025. This is the service previously delivered by Autism West Midlands.

Kids will continue to offer support to families without the need for a formal diagnosis and positively the age range for the service has been increased by 1 year to 0-19 years. The services will also provide training for Shropshire practitioners to increase the understanding of autism and how to effectively support autistic children and young people and their families.

[READ MORE](#)

Spring Holiday Fun and Food in Shropshire

Book Now!

Spaces are available on the Spring HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme.

Over the Easter holidays, eligible children and young people aged 4 (reception class age) to 16, are invited to attend free holiday clubs across the county.

To find out more please go to:
www.shropshire.gov.uk/haf



Shropshire Council



The Easter holidays are coming! Shropshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is now open for bookings.

Your child aged 4 (reception class age) to 16 can get a FREE place:

- 👤 If you get benefits-related free school meals, or
- 👤 Have been referred by a professional

A number of holiday clubs are able to offer places to children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

Some holiday clubs also offer additional paid places, that are available to those not eligible for HAF, so it's worth taking a look if you need childcare or activities to keep your children busy during the holidays.

[READ MORE](#)

SM&AG

MON 14 APR 11AM-12PM

SHHH!

It's the quiet hour

Event



 Shropshire
Council

Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery Quiet Hour



Join us at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery for The Quiet Hour on Monday 14th April 11AM-12PM. Visitors can expect a quieter time as the museum is closed to the general public. Audio elements around the galleries will be turned off/down low. Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery offers visitors the opportunity to journey through the history and heritage of this medieval town and Shropshire. It contains four galleries: Roman Gallery, Medieval Gallery, Tudor and Stuart Gallery and the Shropshire Gallery.

[READ MORE](#)



Shrewsbury in-person Outreach



A safe space to talk in person

9:30am - 10:30am

Friday, 4th April

[READ MORE](#)

PEGS is a social enterprise set up to support parents, carers and guardians who are experiencing Child to Parent Abuse (including those with adult offspring). We don't directly work with the child displaying the behaviours but have a network of partners whose expertise lies in this area.



What SEND topic do you need help with most?

EHCPs

Mental health support

Transitions

School Communication

● Loading...

www.shropshiresendiass.com

SEND Newsletter for Parents, Carers & Families

Issue 33
March 2025



Fun and games - and LEGO - at The Darwin shopping centre in Shrewsbury this Easter.

🐰 Easter Fun Day - Sat 12 April, 11am to 3pm, outside Poundland. There'll be classic fairground games, skill challenges, and prizes for all ages.

🧱 LEGO brick-building - Sat 12 to Sun 27 April (10am to 4pm) at Darwin's Den – with a chance to win £100 worth of LEGO® sets.

[READ MORE](#)



The Dyslexia Coach

Free pop-up neurodiversity advice & support session

(For adults and children with Autism, ADHD and
Dyslexia)



Sabine founded The Dyslexia Coach because she is passionate about helping people who are neurodiverse. Sabine is neurodivergent herself and has 10 years experience coaching and training specifically as an NLP coach, art therapist and outdoor trainer.

She is the only coach in the UK practicing the Danks Davis method.

Friday 4th April / 10am - 12pm



 Free
Webinar

Understanding Autism: Meltdowns & Emotions

 03.04.2025  10am

Understanding Autism: Meltdowns and Emotions



Join this free webinar from The Witherslack group on Understanding Autism: Meltdowns and Emotions

- How to identify and approach a meltdown
- Strategies to support your child's anxiety, helping them build confidence
- How to establish a calming self-help environment to promote emotional well-being

[READ MORE](#)

FREE AUTISM WORKSHOPS

Understanding
Autism, Sensory
Processing, and more.

For London &
Midlands based
parents and carers





NeuroFriends Oswestry's Neurodivergent peer to peer group.

Are you or someone you care about neurodivergent? We welcome all those who identify as neurodivergent in any form, such as Autistic, ADHD, OCD, etc.

Join us to meet, connect, and support others in the local community who are also neurodivergent, whether diagnosed or not.

Peer to Peer Support

Guidance

Group Topics

Resources

- Over 18s only unless supervised by parent/guardian or carer.
- Free parking available.
- Accessible venue.
- Tea & Coffee provided (*small donation welcome*)



WHERE WE MEET
Oswestry Senior Citizen
Club
Lorne Street
Oswestry
SY11 1ND

**THE THIRD
SUNDAY**
of every month

11am - 12:00pm

neurofriends.net



Shropshire
Supporting
Families
through Early Help



COFFEE & CHAT

Gobowen

3rd Tuesday of each month
2pm until 4pm

Gobowen Library, St. Martins Rd,
Oswestry SY11 3NP

All families within the local area welcome

Free information, support
& advice around:

Family Life

Housing & Finance

Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

Parenting Support

Training & Employment

Domestic Abuse Support

And much more...

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED
"PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SEALED
CUP/TRAVEL MUG"

Shropshire
Libraries
Learn imagine discover



shropshire.gov.uk/early-help



Shropshire
Council