

**For families who have a child with a disability or additional need  
aged 0-25 years**

Spring 2018

# Participate

Find out what's going on, Have a say, Make a difference



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**SHROPSHIRE  
Parent  
And  
Carer  
Council**

# Welcome from PACC



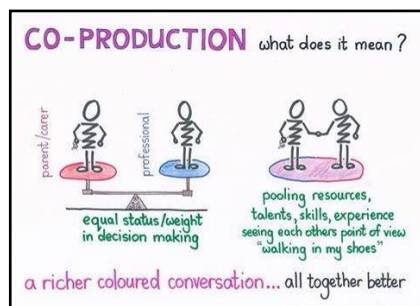
Our spring newsletter is a little later than usual this year. This is always a busy time of year, with grant monitoring having to be completed and having to apply to the Department For Education for the coming years participation grant, but this year we have also had to prepare for the change being introduced by the new General Data Protection regulations, which came into force on the 25th May 2018.

These new regulations require that all organisations that hold personal data, review their processes to ensure that data is held securely and that it is clear what the data will be used for. There is also a new requirement that means that specific consents must be held for all activity related to the data being held and what it will be used for. In response to this PACC has reviewed its membership form and created an information sheet about our approach to data collection, storage and use. You can find this information sheet on our website <http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/new-general-data-protection-regulations>

The GDPRs mean that we need all existing PACC members to re register to remain on our mailing list and database. You can do this by either visiting our website and completing the form on the 'Join PACC' page. Alternatively you can complete the paper form included in this newsletter and return it in the prepaid addressed envelop provided. If you are not a member of PACC you can also take this opportunity to join us. By becoming a member you strengthen the voice of parent carers in Shropshire, you also provide important information about the SEND community in Shropshire that PACC can use in its discussions with local decision makers. Please support us and help PACC to support your family.

The new financial year has brought a number of changes for PACC. Our funding from Shropshire Council came to an end as was agreed and so now our only funding is the annual participation grant from the Department For Education. We are grateful to Shropshire Council for their support for the last 12 months and the opportunity it gave us to put measures in place to ensure that PACC's work continues. We have used this time to develop ideas and proposals to enable us to apply for alternative funding and to develop activities with partners. Currently we are working with Ignition from the creative arts sector to deliver our spring/summer conference, when we will be exploring diagnosis and the impact of having and not having a diagnosis.

The changes in our funding does mean however that currently PACC only has one paid role supporting its work. This is a joint administrative and data controller post, for 8.5 hours per week. All other work done by PACC is carried out on a voluntary basis, including the role of Board member. PACC is very grateful to the parent carers who find time in their busy lives to support PACC by being trustees, reps and group leaders in a voluntary capacity.



At the beginning of May I was very pleased to be able to represent PACC at the Shropshire Partnership's Summit, where the question 'are we serious about co-production?' was asked. It was a very productive event, that was well attended by representatives from all the key strategic decision making boards, across adults and children's services. We heard about examples of co-production happening in Shropshire and discussed what needed to happen to ensure that this way of working happened at all levels and in all discussions. A number of things will come out of this event including better joining up across the decision making Boards ensuring improved integration of services and

the creation of a Shropshire Council policy to support the involvement of experts by experience in local decision making. This policy will provide guidance on the need to ensure that meetings are held at times that enable experts by experience to attend and the payment of expenses, amongst other things.

As always there are lots of things to share with you in this newsletter and I hope that you enjoy reading it .

**Sarah Thomas - Voluntary Participation Co-ordinator and PACC Board member**

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# PACC Conference

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**SAVE THE DATE  
10th July 2018**

**'Exploring Diagnosis and its Impact'**

**At  
Central Baptist Church Shrewsbury  
9.30 - 2.30pm  
Lunch included**



**We will be working with Ignition to explore the impact of having a child with a disability or additional need. How do you adjust from expecting to be a parent to becoming a parent carer and all that involves. We will also look at what is it like to live without a diagnosis.**

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## National SEND Calls for Evidence

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### **The Education Committee launches inquiry into support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).**

The SEND system underwent a total redesign in 2014 and the Education Committee now wants to hear how successful you think this transformation has been.

The Committee is inviting written evidence on the following by 14 June 2018:

- Assessment of and support for children and young people with SEND
- The transition from statements of special educational needs and Learning Disability Assessments to Education, Health and Care Plans
- The level and distribution of funding for SEND provision
- The roles of and co-operation between education, health and social care sectors
- Provision for 19-25-year olds including support for independent living; transition to adult services; and access to education, apprenticeships and work

Closing date for written submissions: **Thursday 14 June 2018.**

**You can contribute to the enquiry on the link below;**

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/special-educational-needs-and-disability-inquiry-17-19/commons-written-submission-form/>

### **Children in need of help and protection: call for evidence;**

This call for evidence is looking at how the educational outcomes for those defined as Children in Need can be improved. This includes Looked after Children and disabled children. The closing date for this call for evidence has been extended to 1st July 2018

You can contribute to this consultation on the link below;

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-protection-safeguarding-and-family-law/children-in-need-of-help-and-protection-call-for-e/>

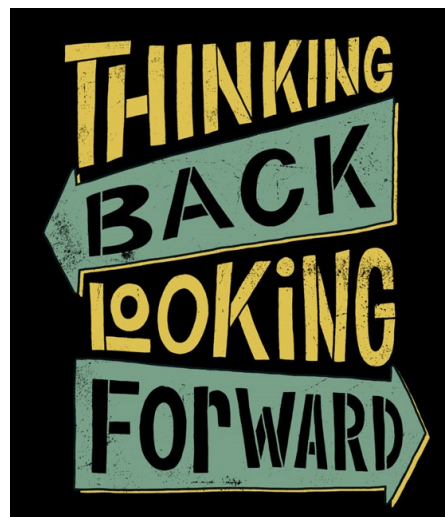


# PACC Activity Update

PACC has been busy since our last newsletter, with this term always being busy as we approach the end of year and the requirement to ensure that we have committed all of our budget for the 2017/18 period. Below is a summary of some of our key recent activity.

## Shropshire Emotional Health & Wellbeing Service - BEE U

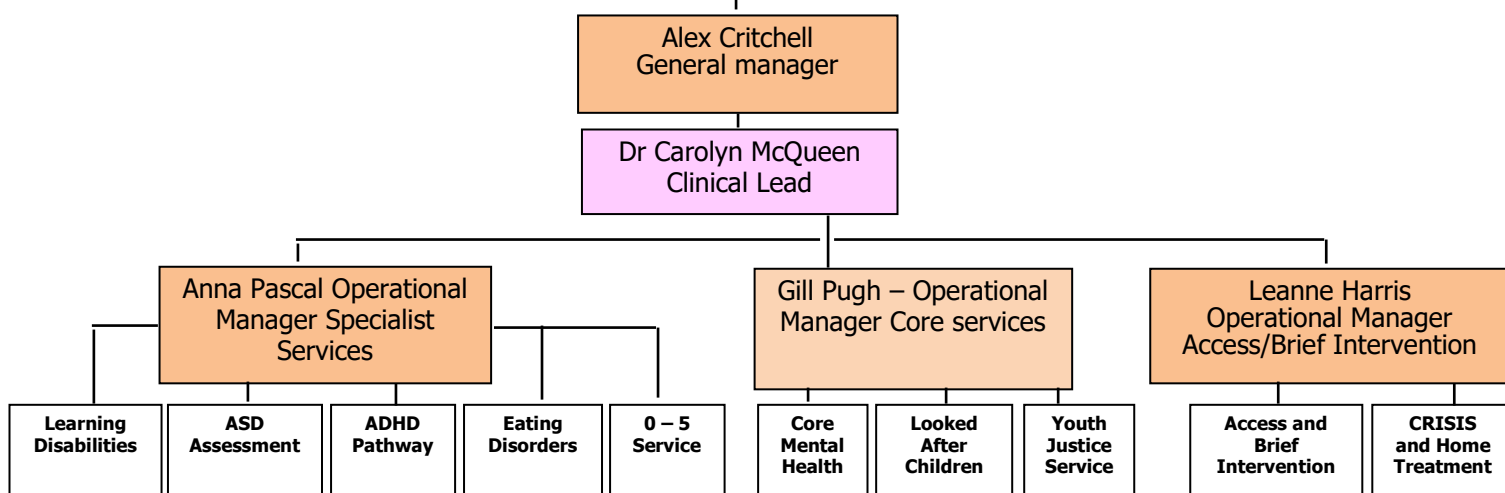
We have spent a lot of time continuing to raise the concerns of parent carers about how the new Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service, known as BEE U, will work for SEND families. There has been a significant investment in this new service and we have seen some new developments including the new 'single point of access', meaning that you can now ring the service direct rather than having to go through Compass, and the new drop in service called 'Beam' to provide early support, without people having to wait. However PACC has continued to be concerned about the lack of progress in developing the neurodevelopmental pathway, for those with Autism and ADHD and the Learning Disability pathway. In these areas families are still reporting a lack of clarity about how these pathways work and they should offer, as well as significant waiting times.



After raising these concerns with the service Commissioners it was agreed that PACC would host two workshops, where parent carers and SEND practitioners could come together to share their thoughts on the Service. These workshops would also be held in Telford and Wrekin by PODs, the local Parent Carer Forum for that area.

We had a very good attendance at the Neurodevelopmental workshop and a smaller attendance at the Learning Disability event. Both events were productive and there was a lot of constructive discussions about in what way the service needs to improve, so that effective support is delivered for SEND families. The discussions have been captured in a PACC Participation Report on the event, which has been shared with the commissioners and the service and PACC will be meeting with the commissioners in the near future to consider next steps. You can read the full report on the PACC website <http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/developing-neuro-developmental-and-learning-disability-pathways-in-the-shropshire-emotional-health-amp-wellbeing-service>

## Families and Young People Specialist Mental Health Service - Part of BEE U Service



The organisation structure above was recently shared at the stakeholder Forum for BEE U, attended by PACC. It outlines the specialist mental health service part of the wider BEE U service, provided by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust (SSSFT).

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# Information & Support, Influence & Change

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## Parents Supporting Parents Groups

While PACC's main role is to deliver parent carer participation we are very aware of the wider benefits of bringing parent carers together and the importance of ensuring that we have contact with the parent carers that we represent. To support the wider aims of PACC and to provide us with opportunities to meet directly with parent carers to hear their experiences we are working to establish a network of community based support groups. Currently we have two such groups operating under the 'Parents Supporting Parents' banner; one in Bayston Hill run by Jeannette Griffiths and a newly established group in Ryton xi Towns, led by Joanne Lewis. Below Jo introduces herself and the group and tells us why she wanted to set up a 'Parents Supporting Parents' group in her community.



### Parents Supporting Parents– Around the Cliffe and Beyond!

Hi my name is Jo, I'm a parent of two boys aged 12 & 9. I'm mostly winging it, often frazzled and certainly NO expert on parenting and the world of SEN! But I do know as a parent we want to get the very best outcomes for our children now and for their futures.

I never imagined I'd be a parent navigating the complex and often confusing world of SEN. Dealing with SENCO'S, EHCP'S, Ed Psych reports, CHAMS or should I say the Emotional health and wellbeing service as its now known! Worrying how or which school will best support my child. I'd been a mummy for 4 years and the path I thought I'd take changed direction rapidly after my eldest son was diagnosed with Autism. I found we were holding each others hand down a path I hadn't foreseen, it was scary and unknown territory! 8 years on I've navigated our way through the

world of primary SEN and have entered the realms of secondary school and impending adolescence!

Along this journey I've found that the support I've gained from other parents who are in a similar situation to ourselves has been invaluable. Whether its sharing experiences, gaining information and advice or just being able to chat to another parent or carer who gets it, has been a big help.

I'm hoping that this local group will provide a friendly supportive environment for parents and carers of children with SEN to meet, have a cuppa, chat and with the support of outside agencies specialising in the field of SEN, provide you with information and advice that will help you and your children along your own journey's.

The group will aim to meet on the 1st Thursday of each month, at 'Cafe 11' In Ryton xi Towns.

You can contact me by email [lewis\\_j24@sky.com](mailto:lewis_j24@sky.com)

*The picture above is of Jo and Lindsay from Shropshire IASS who spoke at the first meeting in Ryton*

PACC is keen to establish more Parents Supporting Parents in local communities, if you would be interested in leading a group please do get in touch. PACC will provide insurance for any meetings and help with promotion and arranging speakers. We can also put you in touch with Jo and Jeannette so you can benefit from their experience. It would be great to have a network of 'Parents Supporting Parents' throughout Shropshire.

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# SEND Communication & Participation

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PACC co-chairs the SEND Communication and Participation Workstream, as part of implementing the Shropshire SEND Strategy. From feedback PACC know that getting communication right is a priority for the Shropshire SEND Community, parent carers consistently report a lack of transparency about how to access services and how service should work, as well as difficulties in finding the information that they need. We also now know that without good communication it is difficult for individuals to participate effectively in decision making, at either an individual or strategic level.

The SEND Communication and Participation Workstream is working to produce a Communication and Participation Strategy that all Shropshire partners will sign up to. This will encourage a consistent approach across education, health and social care services and will enable key SEND information to be shared more widely amongst practitioners and families.

The first step in developing the strategy is to hear from children and young people with SEND and their families. The workstream has developed a briefing and a survey for organisations who work with SEND families, to support this to happen. Shropshire organisations, such as IASS, PACC and Shropshire Youth Association, will be asking for your feedback about what is important to you in terms of communication and participation between now and the start of the school holidays. We look forward to hearing from you!

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## Short Breaks Update

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**This update on the Shropshire Short Break Statement has been provided by Marion Versluijs, Commissioning Development Officer, Shropshire Council.**

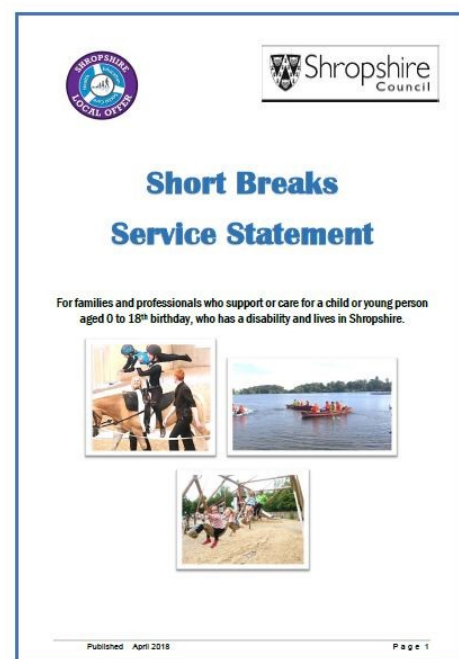
Shropshire Council has recently updated its Short Break Statement. The statement gives Shropshire families an overview of the kinds of Short Breaks that are available and how to access them. The update includes improvements resulting from feedback gathered in a brief survey in November and December last year, suggested by parents, carers and professionals supporting children with disabilities. The updated statement can be found on our Local Offer website [www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/parentcarers/social-care/short-breaks-activities/short-breaks-statement/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/parentcarers/social-care/short-breaks-activities/short-breaks-statement/)

If you would like to make suggestions for improvements to the statement, Please contact us via our Local Offer website. [www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/)

### About the survey:

We want to thank everyone who took the time and effort To take part in the survey. We had 20 responses, including 13 from parents. Overall, the feedback was positive. 15 people said that they found the statement helped them to understand the types of Short Breaks and how to access them. 16 people said that they found the statement useful. Naturally, there is always room for improvement. We had useful suggestions from 4 parents who found the statement insufficient and not helpful and we were able to use these suggestions to improve the text.

Some parents used the survey to refer to other issues, which are important to them and they were not happy with. We passed this feedback to service managers for their consideration.



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# Designated Clinical Officer for Shropshire CCG

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## Introducing Emma Nicholas-Pugh

I am Emma Nicholas-Pugh and I am the newly appointed DCO for Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

### What is the role for?

This role was created under the Children and Families Act 2014 to support local health services to implement and monitor the changes of the act. In essence, there are 3 key areas of responsibility;

- Ensuring an oversight of health needs and provision.
- A coordination role in terms of service providers and partner organisation
- A strategic role within joint commissioning of services and the local area participation and engagement strategy.

In practice this is likely to mean that the DCO (Designated Clinical Officer) has an overview of the way in which health services identify the needs of children and young people, and also the way in which the assessment is provided as part of the Education, Health and Care needs assessment. The DCO also has a responsibility to understand the ways in which services are working to meet the needs of children, young people, and their families. This means working with partner organisations to consider the local profile of needs, quality of services and gaps in provision. The coordination element of the role is centred on liaison between partners involved, to include not only health providers but the local authority, parent carer groups, young advocate groups etc, to ensure effective communication. This includes work on the Local Offer and ensuring clear process around mediation where necessary. The strategic element of the role includes working with the Local Commissioning Group to support their understanding of the needs of children and young people in the local area and influencing joint commissioning.

I am involved in a variety of meetings and work streams which vary in different areas, but are likely to include the Health and Wellbeing Board, SEND operational processes, SEND improvement boards, Transforming Care Partnerships and Preparation for Adulthood. I also work with service providers to support their understanding of the SEND reforms and the Code of Practice, this may involve delivering training around writing advice for EHC needs assessment and developing person-centred outcomes. The DCO can also work with schools to support them in making provision for children with medical conditions and will attend panels to provide a health perspective on provisions being discussed for individual children.

### The DCO's typical activities

Each day is very variable but may include any of the following;

**Working with Children, Young People and Families:** Responding to queries from case officers, service providers and in some situations children and their families directly.

**Working with Parent Carer Forum and other parent groups:** ensuring the voice of child and family is at the centre of planning and principles for service delivery.

**Local Authority liaison:** participation in multiagency meetings and may include specific work around the way in which health and local authority develop processes to ensure timeliness and quality of advice. This also includes liaison around health elements of Education, health and care plans, and specific projects relevant to the needs of local areas.

**Working with Service providers;** may include preparation for Local Area Inspection, supporting the development of practice through training around the Children and Families act and specific areas such as outcome writing. Identifying gaps in services and working with the services to try and resolve this.

**Representing the Clinical Commissioning Group:** ensuring CCGs are compliant with the health elements of the Code of Practice and working with Commissioners around joint strategic needs assessments and ensuring that any areas of need identified through local area inspection are addressed.

Since starting in this role in March 2018 I have spent my time liaising and building partnerships with a huge range of people who provide services to children and young adults in Shropshire. I hope to get the opportunity to meet many of you as I attend events in the future.



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# Shropshire Council Adult Services

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Through PACC's discussions with families we know that many parent carers find it difficult to imagine what the future might be like for their children as they become adults with additional needs. We have raised this in our discussions with Adult Services and asked for more information about the type of services available locally for young adults with disabilities. Below is a summary of the Day Services currently provided by Shropshire Council on a variety of sites throughout Shropshire. All of these services are for young people with disabilities aged 18 and above and are available on referral from the Adult Social Care Team. A referral follows the completion of an adult social care assessment as per the Care Act ( <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets/care-act-factsheets#factsheet-3-assessing-needs-and-determining-eligibility> )

You can request an Adult Social Care assessment by ringing the First Point of Contact Team (FPOC) at Shropshire Council on 0345 678 9044.

## Shropshire Day Services

### **Avalon Day Opportunities. Victoria Road, Oswestry, SY11 2JE**

Avalon offers a wide range of activities, both within the community and on base. Community based sessions include bowling and Zumba at the Venue Park Hall, walking for health, horse-riding and regular canal trips. Cinema trips and a disco are offered on a monthly basis.

We are currently developing sensory opportunities with a sensory/relaxation room and a sensory garden being planned. We are hoping to purchase a mobile 'Magic Carpet' which will offer fantastic sensory experiences to individuals. We also offer art therapy sessions, gardening, relaxation, health & beauty sessions and sewing/craft groups.

The service accesses 'Aquamira' in Shrewsbury for hydrotherapy sessions, this also gives individuals an opportunity to visit old friends from school.

### **Albert Road Day Opportunities. Albert Road, Sundorne, Shrewsbury, SY1 4HY**

Albert Road is Day Centre for adults with learning disabilities. The building is also used in the evening by MENCAP for their evening clubs. The aim of our service is to provide quality and meaningful time for group and individuals so that each individual feels valued. Within the immediate area we have access to a range of facilities, from a quick walk to using cafés, pubs, going bowling and the golf course and pedal for health at the Sports Village. People can also use public transport in order to access Shrewsbury town centre.

Activities in the community also include Horse riding, Sports Village in Sundorne, Hydrotherapy and Laughter Yoga at Aquamira, Pub visits in the local area and a Men's group. On site, there are opportunities for members to maintain and develop independent living skills through the Shop and Cook group. Also on offer are craft sessions, which can range widely according to individual choices and in groups relating to seasonal projects such as Easter and Halloween. We have recently organised a party for the Royal Wedding celebration. Also on offer are beauty sessions, relaxation/ mindfulness, jewellery making and a gentle exercise group incorporating Tai Ji. We also have a weekly Makachat group to help and raise awareness of people who use non-verbal communication. We have an IT area and produce a quarterly newsletter.

We are also awaiting funding to develop the garden area which will incorporate a sensory area. This project will be designed and implemented by staff and service users at Albert Road. We have a monthly service users meeting giving people an opportunity to have their say in the service we provide. We are open Monday to Friday 9am-330 pm and welcome new referrals.



# Day Service Opportunities



## **Greenacres Farm Day Opportunities Fenemere Lane, Shrewsbury SY4 2JA**

Greenacres is a 16 acre farm site just outside Baschurch in the beautiful Shropshire countryside. We have sheep, pigs, hens and small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs. Get into the great outdoors, meet new people and learn new skills such as animal care, horticulture, woodwork, jam and chutney making, gardening, catering, concrete making and much more. You will also get the opportunity to attend regular walking groups, go out to social and training events, day trips and help to sell our produce on our weekly stalls.



## **Helena Lane Day Opportunities. 20 Hamlet Road, Ludlow, SY8 2NP**

We Provide Daytime opportunities for people with profound & multiple disabilities of all ages. The majority of our current clients are over 50; we also run older people day service in the same building. We do however offer activities like horse riding and cooking skills that are more appealing to younger users. We have a pool table and are flexible with space/rooms for people who like to dip into things that are going on or do their own thing. We have an IT suite with internet that is popular with the younger people. We also have regular activities like ten pin bowling, art and Crafts, community visits and music sessions that are for any age. We work with 'Working Together' in Ludlow who focus more on younger people and host their diners club at Helena Lane.

## **Abbots Wood, Eskdale Road, Telford Estate, Shrewsbury, SY2 5UD**

Abbots Wood offers a creative service that is very person centred with communication being pivotal. Makaton is widely and enthusiastically used by both service users and staff. The Makachat Group which runs weekly offers social opportunity to both our users and those from private organisations to get together to improve their skills.

People at Abbots Wood are encouraged to be involved as much as possible in the day to day running of the service and many are actively involved (with staff support where appropriate) with daily local shopping, accompanying staff with banking, administrative tasks and reception work.

Healthy lifestyles and physical & mental wellbeing thread throughout Abbots Wood. We have forged very positive links with Energize Shropshire, Quest 88 (Specialist Inclusive Cycling). A small group of service users join Pegasus (Mental Health Self Support Group) twice a week, this has (& continues to be) a mutually beneficial relationship with some great opportunities being made available to service users. Dance Exercise Fusion & Laughter Yoga are also offered at Abbots Wood, both of which are open to other services and private organisations.

Abbots Wood has good links with Taking Part (Advocacy Service) and service users regularly participate in service user forums.

## **Aquamira Day Opportunities, Primrose Drive, Sutton Park, Shrewsbury, SY3 7TP**

At Aquamira we have a variety of resources which young people coming in to our services are able to utilise, we have access to the hydrotherapy pool on Tuesdays and Wednesdays where individuals can follow a Hydrotherapy program set by the physiotherapists or simply use to enjoy a leisurely swim, with support from staff.

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## Day Service Opportunities continued.....

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Aquamira has a fantastic Multi-sensory room and we have recently purchased a mobile Magic carpet sensory unit, which is a stunning, app-based interactive projection system. We have a Physiotherapy room, and a Living skills kitchen where individuals are supported to access a shop and cook group. Other activities include Boccia, New Age Curling and art and crafts. We encourage the use of Makaton, and other communication methods and support individuals to communicate in their preferred way.

Service users enjoy a wide range of community activities such as the local bowling alley, shops, cafes, fishing and activities at other bases.

### Wayfarers Day Opportunities

**Raven House, 129 Cheshire Street, Market Drayton, TF9 3AH**

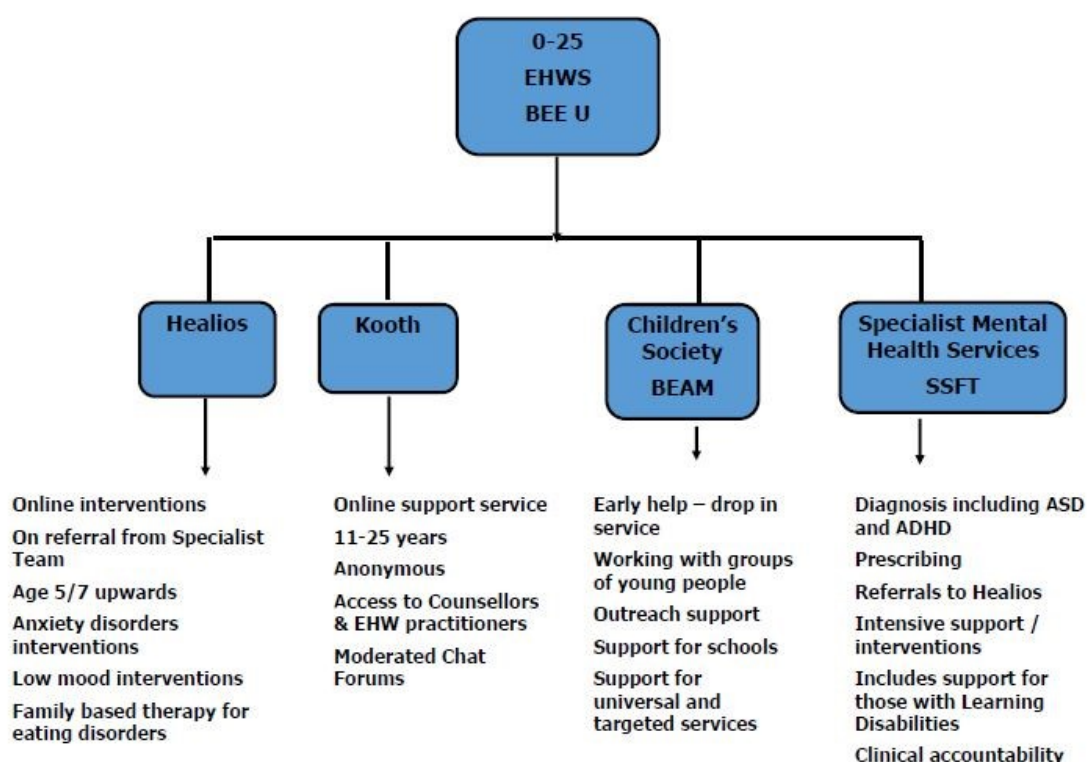
At present we provide a range of activities including shop and cook, life skills, Makaton groups, gym and swimming sessions. Wayfarers has the advantage of being able to run a coffee shop which is open to the public, this has been a great benefit to our service users who are able to develop skills in customer service, food hygiene, promoting independence and provides a great opportunity for our service users to gain work experience.

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## The BEE U Service - What does it look like?

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From the feedback PACC receives we know that there is a lot of confusion about what the new 0-25 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service, known as BEE U, actually looks like. The structure chart below is PACC's understanding of how the service is structured.



# More about the Beam Drop in Service

## Our Services

Our great team of Youth Workers, Therapists and trained Wellbeing Volunteers offer young people with guidance on mental health topics. We provide caring advice and guidance in particular areas including anxiety, mood management and self-esteem.

Located in comfortable surroundings, we have a variety of online resources that can be accessed, if young people just want to browse some information. We also run a wide range of therapeutic and wellbeing groups and workshops for young people and parents/carers to access.

If you think Beam may be useful for a young person you are caring for, we would encourage you to visit us, together or separately.

There is no need to book an appointment- you can simply drop in and converse with volunteers and staff on the below dates and venues:

### **Monday 2pm- 6pm-**

Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, 7 Downmead, Hollinswood, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 2EW

### **Thursday 2-6pm**

Palmers Coffee Shop (we are upstairs) Baptist Church, Claremont St, Shrewsbury SY1 1QG

***Please note that from 5.15 -6pm we provide resources and signposting only***

## Frequently asked questions about BEAM

### What is the 'drop in'?

This is the space where young people can visit to speak to a trusted adult about their emotional health and wellbeing.

### Who can visit the 'drop in'?

Those who are aged 5 – 18 (up to 25 for Care Leavers) Professionals, Parents and /carers can attend for advice and guidance with their children or children that they care for.

### What happens when I go to the 'drop in'?

You will be welcomed by staff who will show you around. You might play some games or do some mindful colouring and in your own time you will get to discuss your concerns. You won't be forced to speak until you are comfortable and ready. So this might mean you visit a few times just to build trust.

### Who will be at the drop in?

This is staffed by a group of mixed discipline professionals which may include therapists, youth workers, volunteers and counsellors.

### What if I can't get to the 'drop in'?

One of our partners is able to provide an online counselling service for you. This can be found at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) where you can register and share information confidentially with trained professionals.

### What won't be available at the drop in'?

Clinical Assessments, Structured therapy, Counselling sessions, Family therapy.

## Empowerment

Our team is very passionate about empowering young people. Simply listening to a young person's experience or using therapeutic strategies and providing information can make all the difference.

## How to contact our Services

Clinicians who may have questions about our service are welcome to email us on:

[AskBeam@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:AskBeam@childrenssociety.org.uk)

Beam is a recently launched drop-in facility in Shrewsbury & Telford.

Our aim is to provide young people aged 0 – 25, parent s/ carers of young people & professionals with advice, signposting and support with any concerns relating to mental and emotional wellbeing.



The  
Children's  
Society



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# News From the Shropshire SEN Team

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*All children and young people will be happy, healthy, safe and reach their full potential, supported by their families, friends and the wider community*

## Welcome to Shropshire SEN News

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### Supported Internships

Supported internships are further educational study programmes that are based primarily at an employer and help young people with Education Health and Care plans to be supported, within the workplace, to gain skills and achieve positive routes to sustainable paid employment.



Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-internships-for-young-people-with-learning-difficulties>

In December 2017 the Government committed £9.7 million to establish local supported internship forums, which will create work placements for young people with SEND to provide them with the skills and confidence they need to move into paid work. The funding could also be used to train job coaches, who are vital to the success of supporting those with learning difficulties into paid work.

Within Shropshire there are many young people who have engaged with the supported internship programme. We have included a small number of case studies below from young people who would like to share their stories.

#### Georgina Shorthouse

Georgina attended Futures last year and started her supported internship with Shrewsbury College in September 2018. Georgie was unsure of what career path to take but told us she loved the theatre environment. Enable arranged a work trial at The Theatre Severn for Georgie to work alongside the stewards. Georgie enjoyed this and has been working on matinees and evening performances. She is also involved in some marketing.

Georgie is learning a lot about the world of work and what the role of a steward entails. Some aspects of the role are not as enjoyable as others for example cleaning up the auditorium but Georgie has learnt this is part of work and to accept that even though people should pick up their own rubbish, if they don't, it is the steward's job to do this.

Georgie's confidence has grown and she is learning new skills each day. Enable job coaches will support her to overcome issues with loud noises and confidence and work towards her being independent. We will build on her strengths and agree a career path for her. Georgie has a friendly personality and once she increases her confidence in herself she will achieve her goals.



#### Mathew Pembrington

Mathew did a motor mechanic level 2 course last year and started a supported internship in September 2017. Mathew had some ideas around his career path and was interested in working with machinery and suggested working at a lawn mower repair shop, working as a tractor driver or as a trainee mechanic.

Enable Employment Officer, Tracey followed up these leads and also contacted lots of local

# News From the Shropshire SEN Team

employers. She found a placement at TnC Body Repairs in Minsterley. Initially Mathew wasn't keen as he had worked at a Body Repair garage for his college work experience which had not been successful for him for various reasons. Tracey persuaded Mathew to meet with the employer and then left the decision with him. Mathew decided to take the placement and has been working there since October, he has been involved in working on lots of different vehicles and is really enjoying it. His manager, Tomek is very happy with Mathew, he is a hard worker and has a very good work ethic, always asking for more work when he has finished a job.

Enable will be supporting Mathew to find paid work after his internship and will be discussing this with Tomek to secure a paid position for him.

## Annual Review Paperwork

We have revised the annual review paperwork which consists of:

- Template Agenda (This is an additional document which wasn't available previously)
- Child/Young Person's views
- Parent/Carer views
- Annual Review Report
- Guidance Document
- Frequently Asked Questions

The Annual Review report has been amended considerably to bring it in-line with the current Education, Health and Care Plan template. We believe the revised annual review report is easier to understand, quicker to complete and much more user/reader friendly. The paperwork is now live on the Local Offer.

The image shows a sample of the 'Annual Review Report of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)' form. It is a structured document with various sections for recording information about the child, their needs, and the review process. The form includes fields for the child's name, date of birth, address, and contact details for the child, parents, and the local authority. It also has sections for recording the review date, the review panel members, and the outcomes of the review. The form is designed to be completed by the local authority and the child's parents.

## Autism Education Trust in Shropshire

The Autism Education Trust (AET) is dedicated to coordinating, supporting and promoting effective education practice for all children and young people on the autism spectrum. The modular training programme aims to raise the knowledge and understanding of all staff in schools to enable them to better meet the needs of children with autism. Having purchased the licence to deliver the Autism Education Trust programme to Shropshire schools we started delivering to schools from September 2017. The training statistics for the first 5 months of this training, up-to the end of January 2018, are detailed below:



Programme	Title	Delegates	Schools
Tier 1	Making Sense of Autism (Whole school training)	1072	58
Tier 2 (Core)	Good Autism Practice	31	
Tier 2 (Extended)		4	
Tier 3	Leading Good Autism Practice	9	

The feedback from those attending the training has been very positive and will hopefully be having a positive impact within schools for those children who are on the autism spectrum. The Tier 2 and 3 training courses are being offered on a termly basis and can be booked through the CPD team. Due to the success of the schools programme, the local authority are in discussion with the Autism Education Trust regional hub to purchase the Early Years licence which we are hoping to roll out shortly. There are many free resources available for parents and practitioners on the AET website: [www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk](http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk)

# News from the SEN Team Continued.....

## EHCP Assessment Process - How well are we doing?

In order to inform our processes and enable us to further improve the service that we offer, we ask parent/carers to complete a simple questionnaire at the end of the education, health and care needs assessment process. The questionnaire is distributed along with the draft EHC plan and provides valuable feedback to enable us to develop our practice to best support the needs of children and young people with SEN and their families.

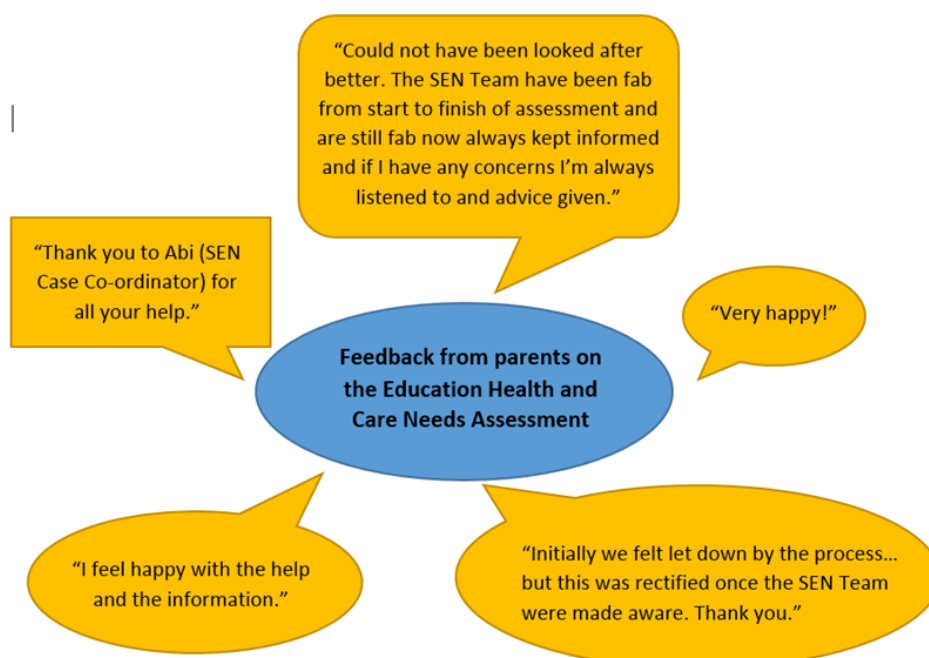
From September 2017 – present we have received 32 questionnaire returns and the results can be found below. We last published these statistics in our Summer 2017 newsletter and you can see from the table below that we have made improvements in every area.

The questions are scored on the following scale;

Strongly agree = 5 Agree = 4 Neither agree or disagree = 3 Disagree = 2 Strongly disagree = 1

Our findings, so far, are presented in the table below;

Questions	Average Score (Previous re- sults from Summer 2017)	Average Score (September 2017- present)
Staff from the SEN Team kept you sufficiently informed during the assessment process.	3.9	4.2
Is the paperwork clear and easy to complete?	4.1	4.4
The local authority strives to be person-centred. How well do you feel we achieved this?	3.7	4.3
If you used the Local Offer, did you find the information regarding the EHCP assessment process useful?	3.7	4.7
Overall, were you pleased with the service and support you received?	4.0	4.5
Do you think that your views and aspirations are appropriately reflected in the proposed plan?	4.1	4.6





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# News from the SEN Team Continued.....

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## Local Offer Update

We have been continuing to develop and improve the webpages and their content on the Shropshire Local Offer. This has included revising current pages and adding new content. We have also improved the search facility to ensure people are able to find the information they are looking for quickly and easily.

We have held two workshops to gather information/feedback and to network with colleagues and parents. The first one took place in November 2017 and included colleagues from Compass/FPOC (First Point of Contact). The second workshop took place in January 2018 and included IASS and parents. Both workshops were really valuable and gave us a focus on areas to improve.

We welcome any feedback you may have to help with the continued improvement of the Shropshire Local Offer. Feedback received to date has shaped the way the Local Offer has developed and has provided us with crucial information that has directly influenced the content and information available.

You can provide feedback about the Shropshire Local Offer by emailing [local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk) titling your email 'Feedback'.



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## High needs review

Last September Shropshire Council commissioned FWL & Associates to conduct an independent review of high needs provision. This was in response to grant funding that was allocated to all local authorities in England. The aim nationally is to increase education provision for children and young people with special educational needs, specifically those who require support through an EHCP. The strategic aims in Shropshire are :

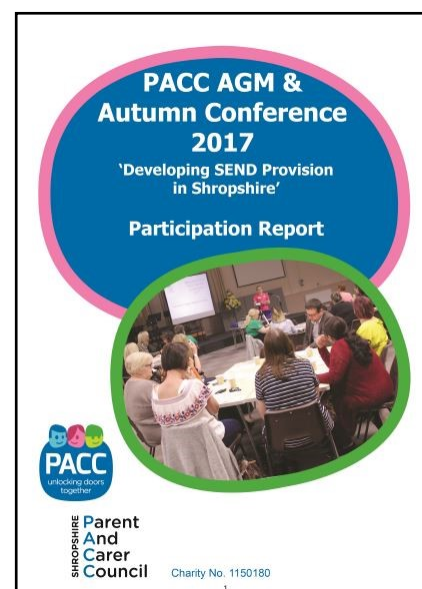
- To maximise the number of learners with SEN accessing mainstream educational settings
- That all Shropshire children and young people will access an appropriate curriculum
- That the majority of children will be able to access specialist provision within a 30 minute commute.

We received much positive feedback from the consultation and also following the PACC Autumn Conference, that took place in November. A number of schools have already contacted FWL and Shropshire Council to express their interest in developing specialist hub provision and we hopeful that we will be able to increase the numbers of specialist places across Shropshire over the next couple of years. It is likely that the majority of these places will be for primary and secondary aged children with special educational needs relating to social interaction and communication, in particular those that may have an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). The full report, including recommendations from FWL is now available on the Shropshire Local Offer:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/parentcarers/strategy-policy-and-guidance/>

The report from the PACC Autumn Conference when the theme was 'Developing SEND provision in Shropshire' is also available on the PACC website:

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/developing-send-provision-in-shropshire-pacc-participation-report>



# Dates for your Diary

## **PACC Board meetings & Open Participation meetings:**

Thursday 7th June - *venue to be confirmed*  
Friday 13th July - Baschurch Village Hall  
Friday 7th September - Bayston Hill Methodist Church



## **Parents Supporting Parents groups:**

Bayston Hill - Sensory Difficulties Workshop with Autism West Midlands - June 14th  
Ryton xi Towns - 7th June and 5th July

## **PACC Conference:**

10th July - Central Baptist Church Shrewsbury

## **Buddies Social Network for SEND Young People & Young Adults**

24th June - Bowling Session



If you would like any further information about any of the events above please email PACC on [enquiries@paccshropshire.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@paccshropshire.org.uk) or message PACC on [@ShropsPACC](https://www.instagram.com/ShropsPACC)

***"Never doubt that a small group of  
thoughtful committed citizens can  
change the world.  
Indeed it is the only thing that ever has"***

***Margaret Mead***