



Shropshire Parent Carer Council

Monthly Newsletter.

October 2024

Welcome to PACC's monthly newsletter.

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

info@paccshropshire.org.uk



Seeing You, Seeing Me



We are here, see what we can do, hear us and don't forget us!

The 'Seeing You Seeing Me' Exhibition and Trail was formally opened on the 25th October 2024 by the Shrewsbury Mayor. The photographs in the exhibition and trail capture the experience of SEND families who participated in this year's Health Lives Summer Programme and shares their voices about what why the opportunities offered were so important.

For the past 3 years PACC has hosted our Healthy Lives Programme, aiming to provide opportunities for young people with SEND and their families, to come together during school holidays, reducing isolation and building friendships while being both creative and active. Each year the Healthy Lives Programme has grown, with increasing numbers of local community providers joining us. In 2024 we have so far worked with 30 providers and delivered 144,818 hours of activity, supporting 189 young people.



[READ MORE](#)



SEND Santa Experience

Saturday 7th December in Shrewsbury

**1 hour sessions will be allocated
depending on age group**

**Complete the linked for to register your
interest now!**



We are very excited that our SEND Santa Experience is returning this year!



This year, children and young people will be allocated a one hour slot (timings dependent on age and number of requests). During this hour, you will get to participate in crafts in Santa's craft room, and be given a 10 minute slot with Santa, where you will receive a bespoke gift from Santa.

This year we are offering a session later in the day for "non-believers" where children and young people will still receive a gift and be able to do Christmas crafts.

If you would like any further information, please email Abi@paccshropshire.org.uk

READ MORE

Please note, you do not need to contact us after completing the form. Families will be contacted by 17th November with confirmation if a space has been allocated.

What education options are there?

What is Preparation for Adulthood

What happens at a Year 9 Annual Review?

How can we access social opportunities?

Does anything change in Health Services?



Contact A PACC Preparation for Adulthood Navigator Today!



What can I speak to a Navigator about?

- Further education
- Education, Health and Care Plans
- Annual Reviews
- Activity Plans
- Finances and Benefits
- Employment and Volunteering
- Annual Health Checks
- Staying Healthy
- Mental Health Support
- Being Part of the local community
- Housing Options
- Support for Parent Carers

For more information, or to arrange a Teams call, email:

Abi@paccshropshire.org.uk

Invite your MP to the Disabled Children's Partnership SEND Toolkit Parliamentary Event



The Disabled Children's Partnership (DCP) is a coalition of more than 120 charities campaigning for better support for disabled children, young people and their families.

In September, they wrote to all MPs across England to share their SEND Toolkit. This is an on-line document created with young people, parents and experts from the sector to support MPs with their SEND Casework.

They are now calling for MPs from every party to join then at a parliamentary drop-in event on World Children's Day (20 November) to represent SEND children and families in their constituencies. The event will give MPs the opportunity to hear directly from parents, young people and representatives from the DCP.

When DCP surveyed MPs last year they highlighted SEND as being a recurring topic in their casework, with many MPs reporting the complexity of the cases they were contacted about. The Toolkit aims to support said casework. It has been developed by working across the DCP, with parent carers and with young people to ensure that a broad range of subjects are covered.

[READ MORE](#)

Shropshire Draft SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy & Outcomes Framework



Shropshire Council have developed their DRAFT SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy and accompanying Outcomes Framework. This has been informed by work that PACC reps contributed to historically and working groups that focused on this, however the presentation of this was not co-designed and as such some of the content has been challenged by PACC.

We would encourage families to respond to the consultation taking into consideration how you feel this would improve your families lives if implemented as expectations across the SEND System, and how can this be presented so that it is clear what is expected from the services and organisations to support families to improve outcomes and experiences.

We will be hosting an in person engagement event to explore feedback from the community on 14th November 2024 in more detail.

We are also running our own survey to understand how accessible families feel the consultation is. Please complete this here: <https://forms.office.com/e/DE9HJd6Y37>

[READ MORE](#)

Department for Education- Call for Evidence

Curriculum and Assessment Review



There is much to be done to ensure that all children and young people gain the foundational and advanced learning that sets them up to achieve, thrive, and foster a lifelong love of learning. Through this review The Department of Education will focus on the most significant areas for improvement, with particular concern for supporting children and young people who are from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, those with a special educational need or disability (SEND) and those who are otherwise vulnerable.

In addition to the urgent need for a sufficient supply of high-quality teachers that make the most difference to young people's successful educational outcomes, there is a need to review and refresh our curriculum and assessment frameworks. This Review will address existing problems and ensure that these frameworks are fit for the future.

[READ MORE](#)

Law Commission- Disabled Children's Social Care



The Law Commission is reviewing the legal framework governing social care for disabled children in England to ensure that the law is fair, modern and accessible, allowing children with disabilities to access the support they need.

They have published a consultation paper asking people to tell them about their experiences of the current system and setting out their provisional proposals on how it could be improved.

The Law Commission invite views on these proposals. The consultation is open until 20 January 2025.

They invite responses from anyone with experience of, or interest in, social care for disabled children. Particularly responses from children and young people and Parent Carers.

For more information and to access the consultation, please click below.

[READ MORE](#)

PACC News



You may have seen on Social Media or on BBC Midlands today, that one of our Buddies and PACC Volunteers Ellie Taylor was nominated for the BBC Make a Difference Awards for her Voluntary work- Ellie has worked in a number of voluntary roles over the last 7 years including working at The Exotic Zoo.

We are very pleased to share Ellie won the award in her category! Well done Ellie we are all very proud of you!

[READ MORE](#)

A week in the life of PACC Reps



Information & Support | Influence & Change

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF PACC REPS

We often get asked by Parent Carers what PACC Reps do. We share a lot of information around community support and activities we have for children and young people with SEND on social media, but don't share the extent of how busy the team are each week and what happens behind the scenes!

Our core team comprises of 3 strategic leads, 3 part-time staff members and 2 volunteers. This is what our team got up to last week:

Community Engagement

- Visit to 3 schools as part of the PINS projects (Positive Inclusion for Neurodivergence in Schools)
- Presentation at SSAFA event - armed services families support day
- Preparation For Adulthood Navigator calls - 14 Teams/ Phone calls

Activity Promotion

- Interview on Radio Shropshire about Healthy Lives and Seeing You Seeing Me exhibition
- Visit locations for Photo Trail with leaflets and copy of photo to be displayed
- PACC & Actio Social Media & Website Updates
- PACC & Actio Communications Developments - resources

Meetings

- Actio Monthly Meeting
- CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing Meeting – SEND workstream
- Intro meeting with Shropshire Council's new Education Quality Advisers
- Contact webinar – Portsmouth ND profiling tool
- PFA EHCP Quality Assurance meeting
- ADHD Training resource development meeting
- Voluntary Community Sector Assembly Accord development meeting
- Voice of the Child and Participation development group for Early Help Services
- Team Catch Ups – sporadic but important

Project Work

- Complete risk assessment for Healthy Lives Celebration event
- Preparation For Adulthood guide drafting
- SEND Santa experience planning
- Finalising activities for Healthy Lives October Half-Term
- Social Media & Website updates
- Amendments to Shropshire Voluntary Community Sector Assembly Accord as per subgroup
- Administration tasks associated with Actio
- Actio Quarterly Dataset Management
- Actio Quarterly Qualitative Report Drafted
- Actio Database Updates
- Creation of Facebook Groups – and management of existing ones

Access support with a member of Autism West Midlands

Join our coffee mornings



autism
west midlands

Autism West Midlands "Coffee and Chat" Sessions



Autism West Midlands have a range of coffee mornings lined up, starting on Friday 1st November.

Follow the link to register, to meet other families and speak to the AWM team!

[READ MORE](#)

Oswestry Coffee & Chat



Friday 1st November
10:30am - 12:30pm

The Oswestry Memorial Hall
Smithfield Street, SY11 2EG

Come and join us for an informal coffee & chat at Oswestry memorial hall. A perfect opportunity to connect with other parents and carers from the local community, we can't wait to see you there!

Shrewsbury Coffee & Chat



Monday 25th November
10:00am - 11:30am

Sunflower House
Kendal Road, SY1 4ES

Hosted by our Autism Specialists, the session is open to parents and carers of children 0-18 in the Shropshire Council area only

Shifnal Coffee & Chat



Monday 18th November
10:30am - 12:00pm

St Andrew's Church
Church Street, TF11 9AB

Come join us for a relaxed and friendly gathering at St Andrew's Church in Shifnal. Connect with fellow parents, share experiences, and find support in an understanding environment.

Bridgnorth Coffee & Chat



Monday 4th November
3:30pm - 5:00pm

Bridgnorth Library
67 Listley Street, WV16 4AW

Join us at Bridgnorth Library to enjoy support from other families from the local community. It's the perfect opportunity to meet new people, and have a chat about everything and anything related to autism.

Surveys



PACC regularly share surveys to collect feedback from the SEND community. Below are links to active surveys created by PACC or surveys that influence the wider SEND system

PACC Survey: Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Survey

PACC are currently collecting feedback of EHCP experiences in Shropshire. Your feedback will help us to ensure that we are accurately championing the voice of the SEND community on this topic.

[READ MORE](#)

PACC Survey: EHCP- Named school placement

PACC are currently collecting feedback around the number of children and Young people in Shropshire who do not have a named education provision on their EHCP for September. We will use this information to inform the discussion we are having with Shropshire Council about the importance of completing Section K of an EHCP.

[READ MORE](#)

PACC Survey: Mad, Sad, Glad Survey

We need Shropshire Parent Carers to tell us what makes you Mad, Sad and Glad about your lives caring for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs. Your snap-shots of family life and family issues are valuable as they give an appraisal of what may have been disappointing, frustrating or positive about services and service delivery

[READ MORE](#)

Shropshire Council SEND and AP Strategy & Outcomes

PACC are keen to support Shropshire Council in developing effective and meaningful consultations on matters that impact the SEND community across Shropshire. We are seeking feedback from Parent Carers who have engaged with the consultation to help us understand how accessible this was and if Parent Carers feel the experience was valuable to help improve the services they experience and the care their families receive.

[READ MORE](#)

Are you on the PACC mailing list?

As well as sending a monthly newsletter, we send out useful information of all things SEND in Shropshire!

[READ MORE](#)

Click 'read more' to join!



Activities for children with SEND



Have fun
Make friends
Be active



Find out more, visit
www.actio.org.uk

*Must be an All In
Member*



info@actio.org.uk
www.actio.org.uk
[@ActioConsortiumShrops](https://twitter.com/ActioConsortiumShrops)





Meet n Chat SEND

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help

A chance for families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to get support with general SEND enquires. You can chat with people from Early Help, Education, Health and the Parent Carer Council (PACC)

**Bridgnorth Youth Centre,
Bridgnorth Family Hub,
45 Innage Lane, WV16 4HS**
Tuesday 15 October, 1.30pm-4pm

**Meole Brace Primary School
Family Drop-in,
Church Road, SY3 9HG**
Thursday 7 November 2024,
9.30am-12 noon

“We dress up indoors and have a Halloween movie day with themed foods and glow-in-the-dark toys.”



“We don’t do trick or treating and place a polite sign on our front door requesting no trick or treaters knock.”



Making Halloween **less spooky** and **more accessible** for disabled children

contact



- Offer **non-food item alternatives** like small party-favour like toys or stickers
- Ensure your front pathway/garden is **well-lit and safe** for a child with mobility issues to access it
- Be patient, it might take some children **more time** to take their sweets for a number of reasons, give them time.
- Don’t assume every child is verbal/able to speak, some disabled children **may communicate in other ways** or have someone with them to help.
- Avoid having **strobe lighting or loud sound effects**, to keep children with epilepsy and sensory issues safe.



contact.org.uk



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Christmas Fayre

Join us for a festive shopping experience!

Saturday 30 November 10am – 6pm

An audience with Santa



This year, Santa and Mrs Christmas will be joining us in The Orangery Restaurant! There will be festive tales and presents for all, so don't forget to book your place!

To book your place, please visit www.derwen.ac.uk

Order a fresh cut Christmas Tree!



Free delivery within 5 mile radius! To order yours:

- Visit Derwen College Garden Centre
- Call 01691 661234 ext. 221
- Email will.lyon@derwen.ac.uk



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