



Minutes of PACC's AGM & The Importance of Inclusion Workshop – 21st March 2025, Shropshire Wildlife Trust

INTRODUCTION

The meeting started with an introduction from the PACC team and then followed with an update on each of the key work areas.

Information and Change

Sarah Thomas explained the importance of making sure that parent voices are heard and ensuring that coproduction happens. For PACC this involves attending a number of strategic meetings in Shropshire, including the SEND Alternative provision board which has numerous workstreams and helps to pull together SEND conversations in Shropshire, The Early help partnership board which champions the importance of early help in Shropshire and the Autism strategy group (a report will be out in the summer.) PACC also sits on various other subgroups and meetings. Health doesn't currently have a structure where we can engage, but it is acknowledged that it is important to have a voice.

Some of the pieces of work PACC have been involved in -

-**Transport Consultation** – this was a piece of work to ensure that families are getting the right service, particularly looking at 16-19 age group, which is part of the LA's discretionary offer of transport . As a result of the survey, there has been extra training for staff and better working processes. It will be important to show the impact of this for future reporting.

- 5th **mad sad glad survey** was launched, which gave parent carers the opportunity to tell us what makes them mad, sad and glad about being the parent/carer of a child with a disability or additional need.

-**Short Breaks** – PACC were involved in the short breaks recommissioning process for Shropshire

-Co-produced the **Shropshire SEND** survey

Hosted a **Joint conference** with Autism West Midlands on living positively with neurodiversity.

PINS (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) project – PACC staff have visited PINS schools at least 3 times to work with parent carers and staff in the PINS schools.

Seeing you seeing me exhibition – this was a photography exhibition that developed off the back of the Healthy Lives Summer Programme last year to celebrate the Shropshire SEND community. The Exhibition was launched at St Marys Church in Shrewsbury in October 2024 and has been to Wem Town Hall and is currently on display at Theatre Severn.

Community support

Abi Taylor spoke about the importance for PACC in connecting families, in order to combat loneliness and isolation for our children and young people and our parent carers. This is an incredibly valuable part of PACC's offering. Some of the ways in which we do this are through the following offerings -

- Actio partnership– All In Programme
- Buddies Social Network
- Healthy Lives Programme
- Preparation For Adulthood

Information provision

Zara Bowden spoke about the importance for PACC of information provision and looking at how services can be better delivered. PACC aims to provide good information to parents, and this is done through our monthly newsletters, PACC's website, direct mailouts, and communication on social media.

Communications are very important for PACC as they then lead to further conversation with parent carers. Facebook groups are a very important tool for PACC, we currently run 37 different groups, and also are part of a further 57 groups as part of the wider SEND community. The influence of our communications is also evident through our articles are being referenced by other organisations.

Chair's Report

As PACC Chair, Zara explained that it has been a difficult journey for PACC over the past 12 months and in the work that they do. The Healthy Lives Programme has grown massively in the past 12 months. The full Chairs report was shared and will be made available on the PACC website.

Finances Apr 23-Mar 24

Sarah Thomas explained that the accounts are currently being finalised, and they will be uploaded to the Charity Commission website once complete. She explained that most of PACC's income is grant funded, so we usually have to spend it all and on certain things. Funding sources for 23/24 included-

- DFE Participation Fund – this is core funding with a focus on delivering co-production.
- Healthy Lives Programme – a number of funds contributed to this and this is about engagement with the community, and getting people out and about.
- Actio – Energise have the contract with Shropshire Council to run All In, but pay PACC to run certain aspects of it.
- Shropshire Autism in schools – this was a pre runner to the PINS project.
- North Midlands Autism in Schools
- Preparation For Adulthood Navigator

These figures were accepted unanimously as true and accurate figures.

Electing Trustees

No new Trustees had come forward. All existing Trustees were happy to stand for re election (ZB/ST/LM/HN)

All existing Trustees were re-elected unanimously

Thinking about the future

Sarah explained that as an organisation, PACC has grown quickly, and as such, the structure and constitution may no longer fit. This was also discussed at the 20/21 AGM. PACC are currently exploring the next steps with Community matters Yorkshire (through Contact who offer support to parent carer forums nationally) and getting advice. As an unincorporated association currently, this may lead to issues in the future around reissuing contracts and the delivery of contracts. This is a key consideration for the future. See Slides for further information

Further questions/Comments

- It was suggested that we need to see more information and statistics from the PINs projects reflected in the AGM feedback.
- The question of how schools were chosen for PINS was raised – Simone Goward explained that it all happened very quickly initially, so an expression of interest went out to all schools, and they also looked at what other schemes were

running in schools and on that basis schools were selected. It was emphasised that it does rely on individual schools being proactive in order to support the project in schools.

- It was confirmed that there are no plans currently for PINS to run in secondary schools.
- In terms of how the PINS project works, schools don't get funding as such with PINS, they get a training offer and they will identify areas of needs – this leads to input from OTs, SALTS, EPS. PACC will deliver training too. As part of their role, PACC hold meetings in schools with parent carers without senior management present, but also a further mtg with senior management to let parents know what they have done – this then gets reported in the school newsletter. It was acknowledged that it takes a while to build trust with schools and parent carers .
- Some schools outside of PINs have asked for PACC PINS input as a result.
- PINS schools that are in a trust - does it cascade to other trust schools – this hasn't happened yet, but over time this might happen.

End of Meeting.