



Shropshire Parent Carer Council Monthly Newsletter. February 2024

Welcome to PACC's monthly newsletter.

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



info@paccshropshire.org.uk



PACC Annual Report

PACC has been working hard to improve how it shares information with the Shropshire SEND Community, as part of this the PACC Annual Report for the period November 2022 to October 2023, has taken on a new look. Our Annual Report is now structured around our three new work area headings:

- Influence & Change
- Information Provision
- Community Support

Each work area is has a specific colour reflecting PACC's branding and to help identify in broad terms what the information is about.

Our hope is that this brings more clarity to our role and ensures that the Shropshire SEND Community's has a good understanding of what we do and how we work. We have also taken the opportunity to share some of the lovely photographs we have to celebrate the amazing children and young people who are at the heart of our community.

[READ MORE](#)



[ONLINE SURVEY](#)

SEND Transport Survey

SEND Transport is currently under review by Shropshire Council. PACC have shared several updates over the last 12 months about this and have made representations to Shropshire Council encouraging coproduction throughout the process. They have now announced engagement sessions are to be delivered where families can present their views on SEND Transport options and inform the process further.

We would encourage families to consider how **not** having SEND Transport would impact your lives, how the provision can be improved, and how the process of applying and accessing transport can be delivered so that families feel supported and cared for.

To help us understand how we can help shape the best SEND Transport offer that we can through this situation, we would like to hear more about your experiences.



[ONLINE SURVEY](#)



SEND IASS Recommissioning

What would a good
SEND IASS service look
like?

A service that delivers the highest quality care and support, focusing on supporting families through challenge.

&

For families to feel listened to, understood, and their feelings and concerns validated.



Contact us to share your
experience:
info@paccshropshire.org.uk



SEND IASS Recommissioning

What would a good
SEND IASS service look
like?

A good and effective SEND IASS service must be able to hold the services, systems, processes, and people to account without the risk of damaging their integrity and trust held within the SEND community. It is essential this service remains outside of the Council or Health Internal structures.



Contact us to share your
experience:
info@paccshropshire.org.uk



SEND IASS Recommissioning

What would a good
SEND IASS service look
like?

It is important that the SEND IASS service knows the Shropshire SEND community and local area well to enable them to support system navigation and signpost appropriately.



Contact us to share your
experience:
info@paccshropshire.org.uk



SEND IASS Recommissioning

What would a good
SEND IASS service look
like?

Greater visibility in the community by attending events and information sessions etc, greater connections with schools to provide wider awareness of their services etc.

&

Greater focus on upskilling and informing the SEND Community to promote self-service or community wide information (such as EHCP how to's, myth busters, workshops etc), including sharing frequently asked questions and top tips regularly.



Contact us to share your
experience:
info@paccshropshire.org.uk

SEND IASS - Influencing Change, PACCs input towards recommissioning process.

SEND Information Advice and Support Services are funded nationally to provide free impartial, confidential, and accurate information, advice and support about education, health and social care for children, young people and their parents on matters relating to special educational needs and disability 0-25years. The provision of information, advice and support should help to promote independence and self-advocacy for children, young people, and parents. Chapter 2 of the SEND Code of Practice sets out the role and activities of an IASS and should be read alongside the national standards for the service. SEND IASS is funded by a national grant that is awarded to all Local Authorities to distribute as they see fit. The Citizens Advice Bureau are currently contracted by Shropshire Council to deliver SEND IASS locally. Shropshire Council are in the process of recommissioning the service as they have a duty to retender the contract after a certain amount of time. PACC has been involved in the initial discussions about this process and what is working or not working about the current service. Based on feedback from families PACC has produced a short documents outlining what families would like the Shropshire IASS Service to look like.

[READ MORE](#)



Beam Service Update

Support sessions
hosted by the
Childrens Society are
changing.

MPFT plans to improve the Beam Drop In Service

Beam Drop In Sessions that support children & young people with Mental Health and Neurodivergent Needs are being redesigned. This is so they can become more accessible across the county and be of greater help to families in need.

PACC will continue to champion the need for greater accessibility and better support at the earliest opportunities.



Want to share your experience
with PACC?

Please email us on

info@paccshropshire.org.uk

It has been reported by BBC Radio Shropshire this week that Beam, the mental health and neurodivergent support drop in service is being closed. PACC have followed this up with the Integrated Care Board who commission Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, who sub contract this element of support to The Childrens Society.

We have been reassured the service of an early intervention offer to support mental health and neurodivergent needs has not been de-commissioned, but it is under review and will be redesigned to provide a more accessible and more effective offer.

MPFT are exploring how this can be delivered differently to address the issues the SEND Community, and others, have raised with the limited locations and challenging timings of drop in sessions offered under the current provider. This provides us with a great opportunity to inform and influence positive change. Over the last few years, feedback from the SEND Community has been clear that currently the offer is not meeting their needs. PACC have asked for a meeting with commissioners and service managers to discuss how the redesign can be coproduced using your experiences to improve the quality and impact of this service.

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Children and Young People's Mental Health Services - BeeU Contract Update

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin children's emotional wellbeing and mental health services are provided by BeeU, for children and young people up to the age of 25. The service is delivered by Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) and also provides neurodevelopmental assessments for children – autism (ages 5 to 18) and ADHD (ages 6 to 18).

Since 2017, MPFT has worked in partnership to deliver the BeeU service, including The Children's Society's Beam service (which provides emotional wellbeing support through face-to-face drop-ins in Shrewsbury and Wellington); Kooth (a website open to 11-19-year-olds offering 24/7 emotional support on an anonymous basis); and Healios (which provides online psychological therapies).

MPFT's contract to provide the BeeU service has been extended until 31 March 2025. As part of this extended contract, MPFT will continue to deliver BeeU in partnership with Healios and Kooth. The sub-contract with The Children's Society Beam service will come to an end. This decision was informed by engagement where the views of children and families were sought and from service user feedback.

In replacement of this sub-contracted service, MPFT will continue to support children and families via an alternative service provision. This will prioritise a reduction in both the numbers of children and young people awaiting access to appropriate assessment and support, and the length of time they are waiting. There will be a greater focus on providing accessible services to children, young people and families; this is likely to include a growth in the prevention offer within schools.

To ensure the BeeU service continues to serve the needs of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin residents and is fit for the future we remain committed to working collaboratively with all our partners, stakeholders, service users and the public. Our goal is to shape future services collectively, making sure that children, young people, and their families are central to the design and have a key role in decision-making.

If you would like to get involved or provide any feedback on the BeeU service, please contact: stw.getinvolved@nhs.net

For more information on the BeeU service and how to access emotional wellbeing and mental services, contact the BeeU Access Team on 0300 124 0093 or visit the [BeeU website](#).

Issued by NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Communications Team.
Email: stw.communications@nhs.net

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 and Carer Council (PACC)

The theme for the Spring is Neurodiversity and Waiting Well. Professionals with experience in these areas will also be available to offer help and support.

**The Community Drop-in at Highley Library,
Severn Centre Bridgnorth Road, WV16 6JG**
Friday 22nd March 9.30am - 11.30am

The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry, SY11 1LW
Monday 25 March 2024
9.30am - 12.30pm, and 2pm - 5pm.

**Sunflower House, Kendal Road,
Shrewsbury, SY1 4ES**
Monday 15 April 2024
9.30am - 12.30pm, and 2pm - 5pm.

**St Peter's Primary school, Shrubbery
Gardens, Wem, SY4 5BX**
Monday 22 April 2024, 11.30am - 2.30pm

Arty
Party
presents...

THE BLUE CAT CABARET



We welcome you to an evening of incredible live entertainment, theatre, dance and music performed by members of Arty Party and special guests.

WHEN? Friday 8th March
Doors open 6.30pm, show starts 7.00pm

WHERE? The Anstice, 1 Anstice Square, Madeley,
Telford, TF7 5BD



Tickets £10
via Eventbrite

SEN

Apply Now

HOLIDAY CLUB

MONDAY IN HALF TERM
5YRS-11YRS



TO APPLY EMAIL:
MANAGEMENT@UKLITTLERASCALS.COM



4 All
FOUNDATION



Marches Academy Trust



Easter

HAF 2024

THE HOLIDAY PROVISION IS FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 11 WHO RECEIVE BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

FUNDED SPACES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR NON FREE SCHOOL MEAL CHILDREN.

SPORTS ART MUSIC GAMES MUCH MORE!

**FREE
EVENT**

LOCATION

Longlands Primary School
Market Drayton

Grange Primary School
Shrewsbury

Zone Community Hub
Market Drayton

Tilstock CE Primary School
Tilstock

Sir John Talbots School
Whitchurch

DATE

25th 26th 27th 28th March

25th 26th 27th 28th March

2nd 3rd 4th 5th April

2nd 3rd 4th 5th April

25th 26th 27th March, 2nd 3rd 4th April

TIMES

9:00am – 1:00pm

9:00am – 1:00pm

9:00am – 1:00pm

9:00am – 1:00pm

9:00am – 1:00pm

BOOK NOW!

EMAIL
INFO@4ALL.FOUNDATION

Taking Part Presents Escape Club Nights



18+

**The Hive, 5 Belmont,
Shrewsbury, SY1 1TE
Wednesdays**

2024

January 17th

February 7th & 21st

March 6th & 20th

April 3rd & 17th

May 1st & 15th

June 5th & 19th

July 3rd & 17th

September 4th & 18th



www.takingpart.co.uk

01743 363399



@TakingPart



Each month, we will be shining a spotlight on a child or young person in our SEND community.

This month meet Kaidence.

Kaidy is 15 years old and attends a mainstream secondary school. She has cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus along with a huge personality.



I love musical theatre and have performed in Legally Blonde, We Will Rock You, The Addams Family, and am currently in rehearsals for The Moonlight Circus.

My family are really important to me. I spend Thursdays with my cousins and love a big family get together. We enjoy holidays, finding new places, and spend many summer days travelling to new National Trust sites exploring as much as we can.

My friends mean the world to me, they allow me to be who I am without question and challenge me to not let my disabilities hold me back.

I have a big voice and am determined to make sure other disabled children can have a great life too!

I want to do digital design at college and move into creative design when I'm ready for employment.

If your child or young person would like to share their story with us and appear in "Being me", please email abi@paccshropshire.org.uk



Congratulations Callum!



Callum who is a Foundation Studies learner from Walford studying Level 1 Skills for Living and Work has been nominated for the High Sheriff of Shropshire's Outstanding Young Citizen award!

Callum will be attending the awards evening on the 6th of March and has been nominated in recognition of his volunteering work with three local charity shops, which started as a successful work placement last year. He also has a paid job and supports others within his community along with his father.

Callum is an active member of the PACC Buddies group and all his friends from the group are very proud of his achievement.

A Voice for Hidden Disabilities - Lucy Small and Special Guest Anna Redding



Anna was starved of oxygen at birth, and in this episode she chats with clinical negligence solicitor, Lucy Small about the challenges she faced during school. Anna draws portraits using a lightbox, street dances and has ambitions of becoming an actor in a soap.

She highlights hidden disabilities and how many people struggle with special needs. Anna would like to see people have more patience and be less judgemental.

[READ MORE](#)



Easter Holidays at Nerdy



Kids eat for £1 with an Adult Main

Kids Play for Free
(0-15 years old)

Easter Specials:

The Egg Hunt & Malteaster

Junior D&D

Easter Sunday Eggstravaganza

Face Painting

Egg Painting

and More



Are your
Milkshakes
Pupper
approved?

STRAWBERRY
BANANA IRISH CREAM
CARAMEL MINT
VANILLA CHERRY
CHOCOLATE

Ours most
definitely
are



Nerdy is a gaming cafe in Shrewsbury where everyone is welcome. It has a huge range of board games on offer, a digital gaming wall and great coffee, milkshakes and food. It is a relaxed and understanding environment, that is ideal for school holiday, weekend or afterschool outing and they have a special carers offer too!

Cycling 4 All Shropshire

Cycling 4 All Shropshire offer opportunities for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions to take part in cycling in a safe and fun way. It is a small, volunteer group that provides general advice, support and information on all aspects of inclusive cycling. The group has access to adapted bikes, trikes and tandems and will work with individuals to build the confidence to get on a bike and enjoy cycling.

You can find them at on the 3rd Saturday of the month for Peddle in the Park, held at the William Clement Memorial near Greyfriars Bridge, where you can try out their bikes and get some advice on cycling. They also run regular Peddle Outs which offer the chance to enjoy a social ride with others.

If you want to know more, you click below or Facebook page @Shropshire4All. You can also meet members of the group at the Cycling Café every Wednesday 12pm – 1pm at Shrewsbury Sports Village, which is followed by a ‘Peddle for Heath’ session on the cycling track.



Cycling 4 All

Cycle-Café

continues through 2024!!

Wednesdays, 12pm – 1pm

at Shrewsbury Sports Village,
(Sundorne Road, Shrewsbury,
SY1 4RQ).



Where is the Cycle Café?

We meet in the middle of the café area.
Look out for the Cycling4All Hi-Vis.

Staying up to date:

To find out about our other activities please visit our social media pages, website (cycling4allshropshire.co.uk) or send us an email (c4allshropshire@gmail.com).

What can I do after?

Use the fitness suite and/or the range of range of bikes, tandems and adaptive cycles available at the Sports Village and access the 1km cycle track available during the Pedal for Health sessions starting at 1pm.

Please drop by and meet up - we would be pleased to see you!

Welcome

READ MORE



Cycling 4 All

SHROPSHIRE

Coffee and Chat – Shrewsbury Venue – Shropshire Council Residents

11th March at 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Join us for a free in-person session to meet members of Shropshire Families Autism West Midlands Team and other Parents for a relaxed chat.

Please book a space. No diagnosis required.

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

If you have any questions, please email

shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk

autism
west midlands



Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) Navigators

Our early life experiences help us to prepare for life as an adult. For children and young people with SEND this should be recognised in the support they receive from the earliest point. For those with an EHCP, there is a particular focus on Preparation for Adulthood from year 9.

Conversations about a young person's future should involve themselves, their parent carers, their teachers and anyone else who works with them.

We know how difficult it is to navigate the SEND system and how challenging it can be to find relevant information for your child or young person.

Abi and Denise work with Parent Carers of 14-25 year olds with SEND providing signposting and information to support and services in Shropshire to help navigate your child/ young persons journey.

For more information, or to schedule a call, please contact our PFA Navigators:
Abi@paccshropshire.org.uk
Denise@paccshropshire.org.uk

What can I talk to PFA Navigators 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





Funded by:



Taking Part Group Digital Skills Sessions

Are you an adult with a learning disability?



Would you like to feel more comfortable using your phone, tablet, Kindle or laptop?



Would you like to develop your skills in a friendly setting?



Join our block of group sessions!

Location

Themes



Mondays at 11am - 12pm*.
19th, 26th February,
4th, 11th, 18th March - 2024

**Shrewsbury Library,
Castle Gates,
Shrewsbury, SY1 2AS**

Scam awareness,
social media, emails,
photos and more.

* Please note we will promptly start at 11am. If possible we will try to meet you before the first session.



Volunteers working alongside Taking Part staff to support you.

Please bring your device with you.



If you have not got a device we might be able to help you to get one.

We are also delivering one-to-one support please let us know if this would interest you.



Please contact us on 01743 363399 or



email takingpart@takingpart.co.uk to book your place or to find out more.



Future dates will be added to our Facebook page and website.
www.takingpart.co.uk

**February is National
Children's Dental
Health Month**

healthwatch
Shropshire

**Which aims to raise awareness
of the importance of good
dental hygiene in children.**

NHS
Shropshire Community Health
NHS Trust

Do you have an urgent
dental problem or need help
finding an NHS dentist?



Contact
Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin
Dental Advice Line
01743 322199

healthwatch
Shropshire

**Here are some tips to help children with their dental
hygiene:**

- Make toothbrushing fun with **colourful toothbrushes and flavoured toothpastes.**
- Engage with **story books and toys** about oral hygiene.
- Encourage to **brush at least twice a day**, using a fluoride toothpaste containing at least 1,000ppm fluoride, advising to spit and not rinse.
- Use a **child friendly electric toothbrush.**
- Take them along to your regular dental appointments to **motivate them to pay more attention** to their oral health.
- Brush twice a day together. Make it fun by **listening to your favourite song for two minutes** while brushing.

dentistry.co.uk

