

Friday May 31st 2024

VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER



'giving a voice to parents & carers of children with additional needs'



Time to Connect

Our next Autism Café will run on 15th June 2024

It will be held @ Vanilla Coffee shop, 6a School Road, Tettenhall WV68EJ as always,

There are games and complimentary crisps and squash for the children as well as the chance for refreshments and cake treats at subsidised prices for our families. Everyone Welcome

Check out our facebook page:

[Time to Connect - Autism Cafe | Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)

or visit our V4P website to learn more:

[Time to Connect - Autism Cafe | Voice4Parents Wolves \(voice4parents-wolves.co.uk\)](#)

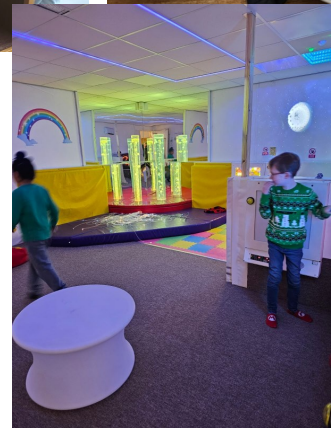
Please e-mail Emma@voice4parents.co.uk if you have any questions, concerns or queries.

Previous Sessions



All photos can be seen on our website:

[Photo's from Time to Connect](#)



Follow our QR code to our website or visit www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk



Voice4parents



Coffee Morning

Join us for a relaxed parent carer coffee morning on **Tuesday June 4th** From 10am - 12 Noon At

Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub
Fourth Avenue
Wolverhampton
WV10 9LZ

We will be joined by Carer Support who are attending in response to your feedback after January's Coffee morning

IASS will be available for anyone needing to speak confidentially with them for 1:1 support

<https://www.facebook.com/Voice4P>



Follow us on Social Media

To become a member follow this QR code



Coffee Morning

We have been delighted to welcome our existing and new members to our coffee morning this month. The turnout has been brilliant and it was great to see so many of you. Thank You!

Everyone is welcome—so please come along, have a cuppa and meet people that just get it!

Dates for your diary: 4th June, 9th July, 10th September, 8th October, 5th November and 3rd December 2024.

June 4th, we will be joined by carers support. They will be sharing feedback which follows on from their attendance in January. They will discuss ongoing work with us also! IASS will also be attending.

Look out for more dates to be added soon!

Our Coffee Mornings will run @ Low Hill Strengthening Families Hub, Fourth Ave, WV10 9LZ

Fundraising—Can you help us raise some Funds? Do you shop online a lot?

Just letting you know that voice4Parents - wolverhampton pcf are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them - at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/voice4parents-wolverhampton-pcf/>

V4P—Wellbeing Sessions

Thank you to everyone that has been too our well being sessions so far. As always feedback is always welcome so please use the link provided:

<https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wq>

We look forward to our further sessions and hope you enjoy them.

Check ourt our posters below, please book via events@voice4parents.co.uk



Voice4parents bring you our Free Parent Carer Wellbeing sessions
On 10th June from 10.30am -1.30pm
At
Brickkiln Community Centre
10 Cherry Street. WV3 0QW

For this session Hive of Craftivity will be creating coasters and bookmarks all achieved via scrap crafting using recycled materials.



Meet likeminded Parent Carers to take the time to chat, catch up and soothe body, mind and soul whilst exploring new fun skills.
Limited Places – allocated first come first serve
If allocated a place and don't attend then no further sessions will be given
No cost – covered by V4P with take home handcrafted item at end of session
Light Refreshments will be provided

TO BOOK EMAIL: EVENTS@VOICE4PARENTS.CO.UK Include session want to book onto, name, and V4P MEMBERSHIP NUMBER
All emails will be responded to





Voice4parents bring you our Free Parent Carer Wellbeing sessions
On 17th June from 10.30am -1.30pm
At
Brickkiln community centre.
10 Cherry Street ,WV3 0QW

For this session Hive of Craftivity will be providing Mindful slow stitching , learning about the Japanese art of boro stitching All achieved via scrap crafting with recycled materials.



Meet likeminded Parent Carers to take the time to chat, catch up and soothe body, mind and soul whilst exploring new fun skills.
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You can also view our posters at our website:

WWW.VOICE4PARENTS-WOLVES.CO.UK

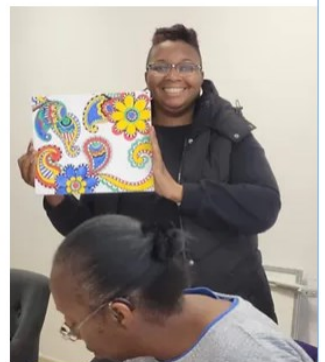
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Session 1

Thank You all for attending Session 1 and
Thank You to Wednesfield Holistic Therapy Centre.



All Photos are also on our Website:

[Wellbeing Sessions May / June 2024 | Voice4Parents Wolves](https://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk)
[\(voice4parents-wolves.co.uk\)](https://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk)

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Mental health for Early Years Children

Help for Early Years Providers has added [new information and guidance on supporting babies and young children with their mental health](#).

The guidance:

- explains how practitioners can support positive mental health in early years children
- includes emotional and behavioural support strategies to use in early years settings
 - links to further reading and resources

For more guidance on supporting children in the early years, visit the [Help for Early Years Providers website](#).

Lead person to contact in LA:

Stacey Henderson
Early Years Senior Advisor

Email: Stacey.Henderson@wolverhampton.gov.uk

EARLY YEARS WORKSHOPS

Contact - For families with disabled children is delighted to announce that the Contact Business Development team have some dates for online workshops for parents/carers of children aged 0 to 5 with SEND in ENGLAND.

All of their workshops are interactive, so parents will be able to ask our very experienced and knowledgeable trainers all their most challenging questions! Or you can just sit and observe if you don't like to speak up.

Subjects covered include Toilet Training, Sleep, Speech and Language, Social Communication, Money Matters, Education, Anxiety, Behaviour.

To book click below:

[Early years workshops by Contact - for families with disabled children | Eventbrite](#)

Cost of Living Survey—WCC

Helping our residents through the cost of living crisis has been a top priority for the City of Wolverhampton Council over the last few years.

Working with a wide range of valued partners, we've aimed to support people's needs whether it's been food, fuel, energy or with other day to day living costs. We're now looking at the best way forward with the Household Support Fund being extended for six months. So we really need to know what you think.

We really need to hear your views. What has worked well, what hasn't and how could it be improved? Please help us spread the word and share this survey far and wide, so we can gather as many views as possible from a varied and diverse audience.

Everyone's view is important and can play a key role in shaping how the Household Support Fund helps our residents in the coming months and beyond, building financial resilience to help our city continue to thrive

Closing Date—June 5th 2024

<https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cwc/ead38b82>



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Help and Support in our City

- ◆ Food Banks—<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/benefits/social-security-benefits/food-banks-and-soup-kitchens>
- ◆ Community Shops—<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/community-shops>
- ◆ The Good Shepherd—<https://www.gsmwolverhampton.org.uk/>
- ◆ The Well—<https://www.thewellwolverhampton.co.uk/>
- ◆ The Good Night Project— <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/the-good-night-project>
- ◆ IASS - <https://wolvesiass.org/>
- ◆ Include Me Too—<https://includemetoo.org.uk/contact-us/>
- ◆ Sunshine Support—[Resources - Sunshine Support \(sunshine-support.org\)](https://www.sunshinesupport.org/)
- ◆ Please also remember to check out our V4P Website —

WWW.VOICE4PARENTS-WOLVES.CO.UK and look under our 'support in the city tab' for further details.

Useful Information Document

Please check out our new and upgraded Useful Information Document on this link:

[Support In Our City | Voice4Parents Wolves \(voice4parents-wolves.co.uk\)](https://www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk/support-in-our-city)

If you have any suggestions to improve this or any feedback please feedback

<https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wq>,



Sunshine Support

See FREE helpful resources at:

[Sunshine Support](https://www.sunshinesupport.org/)

Our Website

Come and check out our website, give feedback and find out more about us, the work we do and sign up to become a member @ www.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk or scan the QR code below.

On the page you will find all our strategic work, our updates, our gallery, a questions page as well as information on all our steering group members. There are places to feedback also.

We hope you enjoy it as we are updating it all the time with new information. If you have any queries, comments, suggestions or feedback on the website or if you would like to see something important added, please feel welcome to email:

emma@voice4parents.co.uk





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How to become a member?

In order to go straight to our membership form, please use this QR code or use the link below:

Please be ready to show proof of address and SEND need if asked. Also note memberships and membership number and queries are processed every Monday evenings only. Outside of these hours, we cannot guarantee a swift response.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5EdURQ0qS5>

Our membership is free to all. You will need a valid membership number to access some of our offer. Please keep your numbers in a safe place once issued as we cannot always guarantee a response to membership number reminders. Thank You



New School Nurse Bulletins

The 0-19 School Nursing Service has launched a new digital bulletin called 'Building a healthy future', sharing latest news from their service, alongside important healthcare messages. Check them out below:

For Secondary Students: [click here](#)

For Primary Parents: [click here](#)

For SEND Parents: [click here](#)

West Midlands Regional Meeting

Voice 4 Parents attend a regional meeting with other Parent Carer Forums in the West Midlands. This gives us chance to share good practice and to also see if there are similarities with feedback throughout the region. Where themes and issues are identified, this is then fed back to the National Network of Parent Carer Forums who in turn will report it to Central Government to influence change at the highest level - leading to policy changes throughout the UK.

At the April Meeting, we were presented with information on the Local Reforms to change SEND provision by standardising EHCPs throughout the country, so no matter where a family live (or move to) the offer and provision in an EHCP will remain the same - trying to put a stop to "postcode lottery".

This is in Pilot stage and is currently being tested by Telford & Wrekin; Worcestershire; Shropshire and Herefordshire. Testing is still in the early stages but the 4 areas are already developing recommendations to be fed back nationally. If you want to know more please:

To find out more please click the below link:

[SEND - Local offer \(telfordsend.org.uk\)](http://telfordsend.org.uk)

Wolverhampton SEND and Inclusion Strategy - finalised document

For your information - Following Cabinet approval of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy, it is now published alongside the easy read version on Wolverhampton Local Offer:

[Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND | Wolverhampton Information Network.](#)

The document was written by the SEND & Inclusion Partnership. The SEND & Inclusion Partnership is a group of people who make decisions about local services for children, young people and young adults aged 0 to 25 with special educational needs, disabilities and in alternative provision. V4P work with the partnership board. The Strategy explains how Wolverhampton plan to make support and services better for Families, Children and Young People with SEND.

Voice4Parents are hopeful that now the strategy has been published that work around what families have told is needed in Wolverhampton will go ahead and make a real impact to lives.



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Short Breaks

Following on from feedback received, Voice4Parents have stressed the importance of Short Breaks and how invaluable these are to Parent Carers and can let you know that work has started around Short Breaks.

Work is in early stages to change the pathway into the service which is currently via MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) as families have reported how distressing and unnecessary this is as well as many families reporting that this stops them from even applying for Short Breaks and/or respite help.

Funding sources are being identified to help with a "Universal Offer" for SEND Families" particularly over the 6 weeks holiday period as they are hoping to improve the HAF offer for SEND Families.

Plans for the longer term offer should start in September.

EHCP Meetings

A regular meeting has been set up as a keep in touch between Voice 4 Parents and Lucy Newman - SEND Advanced Practitioner within the City of Wolverhampton Council. The aim being to feedback on issues parent carers are currently experiencing in the world of SEND and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's).

Voice 4 Parents raised Parent Carer concerns around:

Not enough places at special schools and there appears to be an increasing need for 'academically able' children with other needs such as sensory or SEMH that can't be met within the mainstream classroom.

Gaps in the ability of some schools to be able to provide mental health support - there was recognition of the pressure schools are under however this is leading to a 'them and us' feeling where true coproduction is not happening in terms of support needed/provided. Parent Carers report that it feels like schools don't always listen and are trying to fit children and young people to the provision available rather than what is appropriate for the Child/Young Persons needs.

- Frustration from parents around lack of accessible leisure facilities in the city - no bespoke offer, no wheelchair swings or adapted areas/ suitable provision. Lots of talk and no apparent action - Voice4Parents stressed the importance of this for true inclusion and to give our Children and Young People a sense of belonging in the city.

Support for parent carers is a massive need - mental health support is needed for general wellbeing but also support with challenging schools/services etc when necessary and knowing what is available to them for the whole family. Voice4Parents have been told that this is being worked on by Carers Conversation Team as part of their offer.

ADHD

Voice4parents continue to represent families at the ADHD Task and Finish group, raising concerns shared with us regarding pathway, inconsistent information given to professionals - such as the grounds for expedited diagnosis. We have raised worries for those who have chosen to seek a private diagnosis only to be unacknowledged by GPs and schools. Medication clinics are now in place to support the child/young person and family to ensure they are well informed and carefully monitored. The medication clinics should take place 6 to 8 weeks after medication begins with an ADHD nurse and then again 6 to 8 weeks later before medication oversight returns to paediatrician or to a shared care agreement with the GP. Current pathway waiting time is approximately 52 weeks unless qualifying for an expedited assessment. For those in need of an expedited assessment this is only available for young people in year 11 whose ability to access their GCSE exams will be affected or children/young people at risk of exclusion as a result of suspected ADHD based behaviours.

We hope to have ADHD nurse Emma Heath join us again later this year.

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PINS - Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools Project

The purpose of the project is to improve the experience of mainstream school for children who may have an additional educational need. Several Schools in Wolverhampton have been identified to help trial this pilot project.

It works to the principle that meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in mainstream schools is the cornerstone to improving outcomes (across attainment, attendance and wellbeing), parental confidence and delivering the financially sustainable SEND system, as envisaged in the SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan.

Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) will bring health and education specialists and expert parent carers into mainstream primary settings to:

- Help shape whole school SEND provision
- provide early interventions at a school level
- upskill school staff

support strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent carers

The schools currently taking part are:

Dovecotes Primary

Graiseley Primary

Holy Rosary Catholic Primary

Northwood Park Primary

St Michaels Primary

St Thomas Primary

West Park Primary

Woden Primary

If your Child attends any of these schools, please complete the Parent Carer Survey that details your experiences within the school. <https://forms.office.com/r/vRwjKwEr1p>

The information from the survey will be used to understand the current strengths and potential areas of improvement in a school.

The survey is for all parents and carers of children attending schools participating in the project. If you have more than one child attend the school, then you may complete the survey for the number of children you have attending the school.

All information provided will be stored, used and accessed confidentially in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

The individual information provided will only be accessible to Wolverhampton's Parent Carer Forum (Voice 4 Parents). Your individual survey response will NOT be shared. The only time in-



Website

WWW.voice4parents-wolves.co.uk

There are a number of ways to feed back to us; using the link <https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFx8wg>, on our website under the feedback tab or on our facebook pages.

Follow us on Facebook:

[Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Voice4Parents-Wolverhampton)



Contact us at:

Admin@voice4parents.co.uk