

Tuesday 24th December 2024



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



VOICE 4 PARENTS

NEWSLETTER

**V4P wish you all
a very Merry Christmas and a happy,
healthy and prosperous 2025**



Enjoying Christmas with your SEND child—tips and useful information

[10 Tips for Enjoyable Christmas with a Child with SEN | SENSational Tutors](#)



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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)

If you have any suggestions to improve this or any feedback please feedback <https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wg>,



Sunshine Support

See FREE helpful resources at:

[Sunshine Support](#)

Summer and October Half Term 2024 Leisure Programme 2024

To see our amazing presentation from Summer 2024, please click here:

[Gallery | Voice4Parents Wolves](#)

Thank You

It is so important that Funders understand how vital these sessions are for families and in order to continue to obtain funding please complete this feedback to let us know what went for you, what didn't and of course how these sessions have impacted your family

<https://forms.office.com/r/bq86NFX8wg>

Building a healthy future—School Nurses Bulletin

- For SEND parents - https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/repo/our-services/0-19-service/documents/Building_a_healthy_future_this_autumn_2024_for_SEND_parents.pdf
- For primary parents - https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/repo/our-services/0-19-service/documents/Building_a_healthy_future_this_autumn_2024_for_Primary_parents.pdf
- For secondary students - https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/repo/our-services/0-19-service/documents/Building_a_healthy_future_this_autumn_2024_for_Secondary_students.pdf

Help gather insights to improve support for young people becoming adults

Think Local Act Personal are inviting you, as a parent/carer, to take part in a co-produced survey to improve support for young people preparing for adulthood.

This short survey focuses on practical solutions, better information, and ideas that could improve this experience for young people and their families and friends.

If you can spare a few minutes, please share your insights.

December Wellbeing Sessions

Rag Wreaths



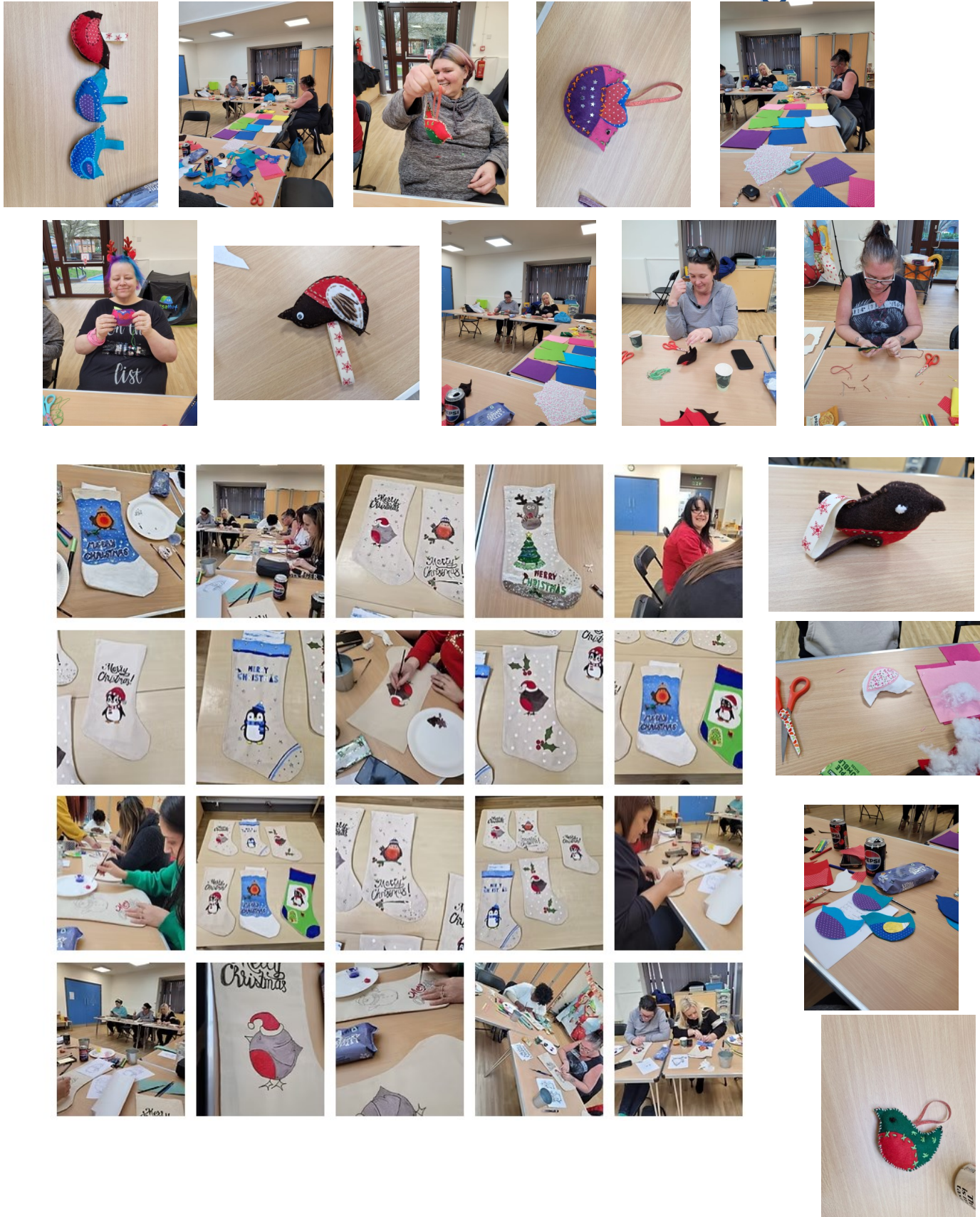
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Christmas Decs and Stockings



Christmas Cards



THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to you all that joined us—the creations were spectacular. Huge thank you to all the volunteers that made this happen also !

Please check out all our photo's, at our website:

[Wellbeing Sessions 2024](#)

Please check out our Christmas Panto video on our website @:

[Gallery | Voice4Parents Wolves](#)

Thank you to everyone that came and joined us at the panto. Your feedback has been incredible and we are really glad it was enjoyed.





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Voice4parents
bring you our Free
Parent Carer
Wellbeing sessions



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

Join us for our wellbeing Pamper Session on
20th January or 10th February
From 10.30am
At
Brickkiln Community Centre
WV3 0QW

Therapy 1	Therapy 2	Therapy 3
Hand Massage	Head Massage	Henna Design
Foot Reflexology	Foot Reflexology	
Indian	Indian	
Head Massage	Head Massage	Therapy 4
	Gel Nails	Mindful colouring
	Gel Toes	



Session Times:
10:30 – 11:30
11:30 – 12:30
12:30 – 1:30

A Session will last 15 minutes with each individual offered opportunity for each therapy session in a 1 hour period between 10:30 and 1:30

Please state which DATE and TIME you are applying for when you email. Thank you

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



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

Join us to create your own Needlefelt
On Monday 3rd February
From 12.30pm - 2.30pm
At
Brickkiln Community Centre
Cherry Street.WV3 0QWA



To see what mindful and holistic activity needle felting involves, please check out the link below

<https://goods-vod.kwcdn.com/goods-video/99ed854e075ceca88a2d2e368427da2f39af7df5.f30.mp4>



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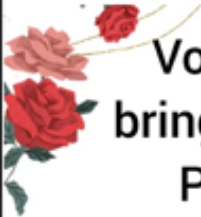
As soon as possible




VOICE 4 PARENTS NEWSLETTER



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Voice4parents bring you our Free Parent Carer



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

Wellbeing sessions

Join us to create your own
Mosaic Coaster On Monday 3rd February
From 10am -12pm
At Brickkiln Community Centre
Cherry Street . WV3 0QW

*If you're looking for a creative
outlet for mind, body, and soul. Or
if you're feeling stressed,
overloaded or frustrated working
on mosaic craft helps to engage
and calm the mind.
Resulting in beautiful and
personal creations.*



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
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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



As soon as possible



**Would you like to join us? Drop an e-mail with
your membership number on to
events@voice4parents.co.uk.**

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Scam Awareness

Check out these links regarding scam awareness from the public protection - scams team at Wolverhampton City Council.

There is some info from the child accident prevention trust and Christmas themed info from action fraud.

CHRISTMAS LEAFLET

https://mcusercontent.com/269602e3b2b2603292f9db621/files/4e788764-3fab-47ef-9c26-5c322b239b6b/12_Frauds_of_Christmas_Leaflet_0.pdf

PARENTS PACK

https://mcusercontent.com/269602e3b2b2603292f9db621/files/25695505-8f35-20d9-be80-5c1e676bbfe4/CAPT_CS2024_Parents_Pack.pdf

CYBER ADVICE LEAFLET

https://mcusercontent.com/269602e3b2b2603292f9db621/files/fa069daa-8113-2388-112c-3a7961bc22cb/little_leaflet_cyber_advice.pdf

TOY SAFETY ADVICE

https://mcusercontent.com/269602e3b2b2603292f9db621/files/e5287b9a-fd3f-a936-0f84-163ac9372b8f/NEW_TOYS.CAPT_ToySafety_factsheet.pdf

DON'T FALL FOR A SCAM

<https://mcusercontent.com/269602e3b2b2603292f9db621/files/bd231cf3-5925-2962-56ff-c80694947fdb/>

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Support for those with Tourette Syndrome

Message from Diane:

My name is Diane Rumble and I work at the charity Tourettes Action. Tourettes Action is the UK's only national charity dedicated to supporting individuals with Tourette syndrome and their families. We want a world where people with Tourette syndrome are: accepted, supported and embraced. This is a world which enables people with the condition to reach their full potential.

We provide a range of services for people with Tourette's and their families, which we are eager to spread the word about. Tourette's is still a hugely misunderstood and highly stigmatised condition, often meaning many people are misdiagnosed or unable to gain a diagnosis or support following a diagnosis.

We would very much value your help in sharing our services with your local community.

If you could take a look at the following leaflet it would be very much appreciated [TA What Makes Us Tic Brochure](#)

We also have the following services which your local community may find of use:

A dedicated helpdesk to provide support both pre and post Tourette's diagnosis [TA Helpdesk](#)

An education service who can liaise with school and college to ensure the right support is in place for those with Tourette syndrome [Support in school](#)

FREE eLearning modules for individuals and GPs which can be found here [Tourettes Action eLearning Module](#)

A grant system available for those with Tourette's [TA grants](#)

A face to face support group in your area called XXX ran by XXX more info here [Tourettes Action In Person Support Groups](#)

Online support groups [Tourettes Action Online Support Groups](#)

Plus much more that can be found on our website www.tourettes-action.org.uk

Coffee Morning 5.12.24

Thanks to all Parent Carers that attended the coffee morning on 05.12.24 to discuss Short Breaks with professionals.

It was great to see so many of you attend and have a say in the changes being made within the Social Care System to enable more families to be able to access a greater range of Short Breaks.

Discussion was held to clarify an exact definition of what a Short Break in Wolverhampton would look like for families, Parent CARERS AND Children and Young People. Families discussed the impact of getting this right and ensuring professionals understood what families want and need from a Short Break.

Requests for Short Breaks will no longer be run through a Safeguarding referral, Family Hubs Tea, / Family Hub Workers will be taking a more hands on approach to find out exactly what individuals require and a new provider hub is being set up to liaise with providers in Wolverhampton to make sure services are accessible and meet the need of SEND Children and Young People.

As discussed in the coffee morning, the link for the Law Commissioners consultation for proposal to the law for Disabled Childrens.

[Disabled Children's Social Care - Law Commission](#)





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WCC Consultation

The Following consultation is being run by Wolverhampton City Council.

Question 6 of this consultation is regarding the proposed Savings which V4P advised all members about in November, including implementing a charge for Transport for Post 16 Students.

Share your views on how the council should prioritise its services for the year ahead by filling in the [budget consultation survey](#). Paper copies are available from libraries, Family Hubs and at the Civic Centre. Your input will help shape the council's approach to setting the budget, ensuring the things that matter most to the community are prioritised.

Don't miss your chance - the survey closes on **Sunday 12 January**.

https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cwc/budget-2025-2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Letter sent from V4P team for reference below:

Email Sent to Councillors/ MP's

We are Voice 4 Parents, Wolverhampton Parent Carer Forum and Wolverhampton's Strategic Partner in all issues relating to SEND. We currently have over 1000 registered members and over 1600 social media followers. Over the past 3 to 4 years, we have received significant feedback from families regarding poverty that they are facing and difficulties managing daily living costs. Having had the opportunity to help the authority in allocating Household Support Fund over this time, we are in the unique position to clearly see how these financial struggles are impacting more and more SEND families. The support being requested ranges from food, energy & utility bills, clothing, bedding, continence products for their child or young person to basic furniture including beds, washing machines and cookers. Families have told us how they can't wash clothes at home, cook a meal and even have to share beds with their children due to rising costs of living, covid, furlough, redundancy/ lack of employment opportunities and this is without the additional cost of trying to raise children and young people with SEND. Many families only have 1 parent working due to the caring role that is required when having a child or young person with SEND.

We have seen the article that has gone out on Wolverhampton Today announcing the Budget Cuts, we would formally like to raise our concerns on the impact this will have on SEND families.

Our concerns are as outlined in table 1 Savings proposal

- Adult Social Care provision - will this impact 18 to 25 SEND cohort?
- Therapeutic Support Contract- Will this impact SEND?
- Reduction in the Financial Contributions to the youth zone in the city - will this impact the SEND provision and SEND sessions?
- Rationalisation of Leisure Centres - will this impact the SEND provision and SEND sessions?
- Closure of Shopmobility - the impact on disabled people? independent living? Families already report we are not a very disabled friendly city
- Closure of Public Conveniences - the impact on disabled people? independent living? Families already report we are not a very disabled friendly city
- Post 16 SEN Transport - Charging Policy - This will be the biggest concern for SEND families, cost of living has hit SEND families the hardest and now they will have this additional cost. The existing policy had never been clear or implemented in regards to charging post 16, we have consulted with CONTACT who have advised a new consultation would be required to implement this (with clear guidelines that includes criteria, process, costs etc). It has long been recognised that SEND law regarding transport wasn't updated inline with young people having to stay in education until 18 and immediately SEND families are at a disadvantage as often the most suitable school is not close to home or at times not even in the city (identified in many EHCP's as a requirement for education). We have also been advised that transport for post 19 should be provided free of charge (reverting to pre 16 rules). Can we ask if comprehensive risk assessment has been carried out as we are concerned that those that are charged can consider requesting a personal budget to cover cost which means the cost will still have to potentially be covered by the LA

We have attached several reports that collates SEND families feedback and also gives you more information about our role. It would be remiss of us not to highlight the current feedback we have received and urge you to consider this and the impact it would have on families who are already struggling on many levels as this may well lead to families having to make difficult choices between things like feeding their family and their young persons education.

We hope that you would consider the above questions / information before the cabinet meeting on Wednesday before any decisions are made and the impact this will have on SEND families. We are more than happy for you to contact us if you would like to discuss this further or would like further information from us.

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Update from Health regarding waiting lists in Wolverhampton

Please click the below link to view:

https://mcusercontent.com/269602e3b2b2603292f9db621/files/0481dcd1-630a-f05b-73e5-4da955e02005/Waiting_list_update_November_for_V4P_newsletter_003_.docx

GO KIDS GO
WHEELCHAIR SKILLS TRAINING

Free, fun and inclusive sessions for 2 -18 year olds. Extra wheelchairs provided so the whole family can join in!

Sunday 19th January
10am - 2pm

Greenwood Academy,
175 Farnborough Road,
Birmingham, B35 7NL
Please bring a packed lunch

To book a free place email
training@go-kids-go.org.uk

Manual or powered wheelchairs
Propulsion & manoeuvring
Slopes and rough ground,
Back wheel balancing,
Road safety
Emergency evacuation techniques
Wheelchair sports & Dance

Food banks and Soup Kitchens in Wolverhampton

https://mcusercontent.com/269602e3b2b2603292f9db621/files/0a3e6112-f2af-3d5e-df58-382c89f0e548/Food_Banks_in_Wolverhampton_18.12.24.pdf

For your Info:

Wheelchair skills training - Sunday 19th January 10am-2pm.

The workshop is open to all young wheelchair users throughout the region. Anyone wishing to attend should email training@gokidsgo.org.uk

On the workshop they teach skills such as coping with slopes and rough ground, back wheel balancing, road safety and emergency evacuation techniques. They also play games like wheelchair basketball and try out wheelchair dance. They bring extra chairs so mums, dads and siblings can get involved and join in the games. Whilst the objectives are serious the workshops are good fun!

Go Kids Go run free manual & powered wheelchair workshops and we also run practical wheelchair skills workshops for professionals and disability awareness workshops in mainstream schools. Go Kids Go work in partnership with a number of wheelchair services to deliver our training. Please get in touch if you would like any further details about our training.

Feedback from our members

We are very keen to obtain any feedback from our members on anything you feel important. What is working well? What are you finding a struggle? What do you think of our website or about anything in our Newsletter. Compliments are also received with gratitude.

There are a number of ways to feed back to us; using the link below, on our website under the feedback tab or on our facebook pages,

FEEDBACK TO US: families can feedback to us on any of the areas mentioned in this Newsletter by using the following link:

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