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# NEWSLETTER

## January 2025



Before Christmas, we met with Ofsted to provide an update on parents' experiences since our last inspection in 2022. The meeting was led by the same inspectors who conducted the 2022 inspection, so they were already familiar with the issues and challenges parents have been facing.

As a Parent Carer Forum (PCF), we share your frustration regarding delays in EHCP completion rates. During the meeting, we shared our recommendations on improving communication and processes to better support parents.

We remain committed to amplifying your voices and sharing your feedback to drive meaningful improvements for everyone.

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Cheshire West & Chester Council

# SEND Newsletter

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2024

Welcome to the first edition of the SEND Newsletter, we hope you find it useful. We propose to send it bi-monthly, so the next edition is due at the end of January.

Please use the link below to view Cheshire West and Chester's first SEND Newsletter...

[SEND Newsletter](#)





Parent Carer Forum  
Cheshire West & Chester

# Drop-In Session



**Sip & Learn**  
23rd Jan  
All Welcome  
10am - 12pm

**Topic: Short Breaks & Wraparound Care**

**Do you struggle with wraparound care or getting a break from your caring role?**

Guidance from the service providers about support for SEND families. Learn more about accessing support for after-school, weekends and school holidays.  
Your chance to give feedback and ask questions.  
Chance to catch up with other parents and carers in an informal setting.



**Venue:** DSC Hub, Denton Drive, Northwich CW9 7LU

[www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on](http://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on)

📌 Join Us for a Coffee & Chat Drop-In Session! ☕💬

💡 Topic: Short Breaks & Wraparound Care 💡

Do you struggle with wraparound care or need a break from your caring role?

This session is for YOU! ☀️

Come along to:

🕒 Learn about Wraparound Care: Support available outside school hours for SEND families, including after-school, weekends, and holidays.

🌸 Explore Short Breaks: Find out how to access services that give you a break while your child receives quality care.

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☕ Meet Other Parents & Carers: Enjoy a coffee and connect with others in a relaxed, informal setting.

We're here to help you navigate support options! 🌈

👥 Everyone is welcome! Let's chat, share, and support each other! 😊



Parent Carer Forum  
Cheshire West & Chester

**Hartford Golf Club**  
**Tues 11th Feb 2025**  
**10am – 2pm**

## Neurodevelopmental (ND) Forum

Are you struggling to navigate the SEND process with your ND child?

Want to know more about ND?

This forum can help. The Agenda on the day will include:  
Update on Partnership for Inclusion of Neuro-diversity in Schools (PINS)

Speaker - Dr Christine Wee, Consultant Child Psychiatrist

Marketplace: Sensory Processing Occupational Therapist, Bright Futures Training, plus many more...

ALL WELCOME - Includes Lunch & Refreshments.

**At: Hartford Golf Club, Burrows Hill, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AP**

Free Event - Free Parking - Wheelchair Accessible

Book online on our website

[www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on](http://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on)

Book Your Place Now...

## SAVE THE DATES.....



Parent Carer Forum  
Cheshire West & Chester

### PCF Event - Online

Thurs 13th March

10am - 11.30am

## Transitions & Pathways

Want to learn more about preparing for  
transitions and pathways available?

Join us online on Thurs 13th March at 10am

Free Zoom Event - All Parents/Carers Welcome

Book online on our website

[www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on](http://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on)

PCF Virtual Forums via ZOOM

[Thursday 13th March 2025 – Zoom](#)

Transitions and Pathways.

[Register Here...](#)



**THE PLEDGE**

**Your Futures Fair**

Funded by UK Government

Cheshire West and Chester

Cheshire & Warrington CAREERS HUB

CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

**Cheshire West 'Your Futures' Fair**

Your Futures Fair is a transition event for students in Cheshire West with EHCPs, in...

[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)



Your Futures Fair - Cheshire West



Are you or someone you know planning for life after school or college? The Your Futures Fair is specifically for young people with EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plans) and additional needs, offering tailored opportunities and support!



4th March 2025



Time: 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM



Location: Dee Banks School, Chester

This event is packed with opportunities to explore education, employment, and training options. Meet local providers, learn about support services, and discover the next steps to shape your future in a way that works for you!

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Free tickets available here: Your Futures Fair Tickets

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cheshire-west-your-futures-fair-tickets-1111758071319?utm\\_experiment=test\\_share\\_listing&aff=ebdsshios](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cheshire-west-your-futures-fair-tickets-1111758071319?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios)

Spread the word to ensure every young person with additional needs has the

chance to plan their future with confidence!



#CheshireWest #YourFuturesFair #EHCP #AdditionalNeeds #Education  
#Employment #Opportunities

[Book Your Tickets Here ...](#)

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### **Community Connections Service - Update from Steve Arnold, Strategic Commissioning Programme Manager, Children and Families**

It has been brought to the attention of Cheshire West and Chester Council that Parent Carers who are currently accessing the Community Connections Service are facing increased costs for individual services, memberships, and activities.

To clarify, should any Parent Carers be experiencing these difficulties we would like to take this opportunity to advise them to contact Disability Positive in the first instance, who can support and advise on how to maximise the use of the current agreed funding.

Where there is a clear increase in cost that is impacting access to a short break, Disability Positive will review/agree where suitable, an increase to the current package in line with the increased cost up to the maximum value of £1,000.

For any parent carers already in receipt of the maximum amount of Community Connections funding (£1,000) and experiencing ongoing difficulties in accessing a short break due to increased costs of previously agreed activities, we would encourage you, in the first instance to speak with Disability Positive who are happy to liaise with Children's Social Care and Children's Commissioners in order for them to explore where possible any viable alternatives.

Parent Carer community and strives to remain fair and equitable to all. We would encourage any Parent Carers who are eligible but have yet to access the community connections service come forward and make contact with Disability Positive.

Disability Positive contact details are as follows: Tel: 01606 331853 or email: [CommunityC@disabilitypositive.org](mailto:CommunityC@disabilitypositive.org)

Note: If you have any feedback relating to this communication and your experience of accessing the Community Connections funding please contact [secretary.pcf.cwac@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.pcf.cwac@gmail.com)

## PCF BLOGS.....

In order to keep you up to date on all of the workstreams we are attending to ensure that your experiences are heard we are creating a new BLOG area on our website.

**PCF CWaC**  
Parent Carer Forum  
Cheshire West & Chester

### Purpose of the Blogs Page

**Educate & Inform:** Key updates, resources, and insights

**Empower:** Practical advice, personal stories, and professional guidance

**Amplify Voices:** Showcase experiences of parents and carers

**Promote Collaboration:** Highlight partnerships and initiatives improving services

### 🌟 Purpose of Our Blogs Page 🌟

Our Blogs Page serves as a dynamic platform to connect, inform, and empower.

Here's how?

💡 Educate & Inform

We share key updates, resources, and insights to keep parents and carers in the know.



👉 Empower

From practical advice to personal stories, we offer guidance to help families navigate SEND challenges.

📝 Collaborative pieces like the IASS & PCF blog.

📣 Amplify Voices

We showcase the lived experiences of parents and carers to drive meaningful change.

📖 Stories like the PCF survey impact into the SEND scrutiny report, CWAC inclusive borough Motion, and the SEND summit.

🤝 Promote Collaboration

We highlight partnerships and initiatives that improve services for SEND families.

📝 Blogs like the Partnership Inclusive Neurodiversity Schools project

Our Blogs Page is where information meets inspiration, fostering a stronger, more connected community. ❤️

➡️ Explore our latest posts here <https://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/pfc-stories>

For more information Click Here 🖱️



PCFCHESHIREWEST.ORG

**Adult ADHD Self Support Courses**

Adult ADHD Self Support Courses that are being held across the b...

📣 Free Adult ADHD Course

Are you or someone you know navigating life with ADHD? 🌟🌟

Check out this FREE online course tailored for adults with ADHD or those supporting them. It's packed with practical tips, strategies, and resources to help manage

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and grow! 🌟 Share with anyone who might benefit. ❤️

👉 Find out more and explore here:



🌈 Join Our Growing Team at the Parent Carer Forum – Vacancies Available! 🌈

Are you a parent or carer of a child with additional needs or a disability in Cheshire West and Chester? 🌟 The Parent Carer Forum (PCF CWAC) is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join as school representatives for:

- 💡 Cloughwood Academy
- 💡 Hinderton School
- 💡 Hebden Green School
- 💡 Various mainstream schools & Resource Provisions
  - 💡 Nursery Settings
  - 💡 Post -16 Settings

### Why Join Us?

📣 **Amplify Your Voice:** Represent the perspectives of parents and carers in your school community. Your feedback will directly influence local services and SEND policies.

🤝 **Make a Difference:** Be part of a team that shapes positive changes for children and young people with SEND.

🕒 **Flexibility:** You can get involved at a pace that works for you—whether attending meetings, gathering parent feedback, or simply being a point of contact.

### What Does a School Rep Do?

representation.

- Contribute to creating better opportunities and outcomes for families in your area.

### How to Get Involved

 Contact Us to express interest or find out more:

 <https://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/contact>

 Learn More: Watch Our Video <https://youtu.be/vcfmJHiGoKw>

 Email the PCF

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**Don't forget that you can keep up to date with the latest PCF news and signposting information by checking our website and following us on Facebook.**

PCF Website





This year's focus:  
**Health Inequalities and Neurodevelopmental Conditions**

**Speakers include:**

- Prof Umesh Chauhan, *Professor of Primary Care*
- Prof Lucy Bray, *Professor of child health literacy*
- Prof Vicky Karkou, *Professor of Art and wellbeing*
- Dr Susie Roberts, *consultant in public health*
- Dr Christine Wee, *consultant child psychiatrist*
- Dr Monique Botha, *Professor in social and developmental psychology*
- Dr Ewelina Rydzewska-Fazekas, *Director of equality, diversity, and inclusion*

**Topics covered include:**

- Intersectionality and neurodiversity
- Barriers to healthcare for people with intellectual disability from ethnic backgrounds
  - Access to health and social care for children and young people with SEND
    - Menopause and women with intellectual disability
  - Access to urgent care for those with neurodevelopmental conditions
    - Improving access to therapeutic interventions and more

To learn more visit: [www.canddid.nhs.uk/conf25](http://www.canddid.nhs.uk/conf25) or scan the QR code below:



Visit Canddid....



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Does your child or young person experience disability and/or neurodivergence?

# THE SUNDAY TAKEOVER.

Sunday 26<sup>TH</sup> January 2025  
Sunday 9<sup>TH</sup> March 2025

2pm - 5pm

Come and visit Theatre Porto on a Sunday afternoon whilst we are closed to the public, but specifically open for families with those children who need a space to relax, play and engage with their creative and sensory sides.

To find out more and help organise your visit to us Get in touch with Natasha - our Access & Pastoral Lead via [natasha@TheatrePorto.org](mailto:natasha@TheatrePorto.org)



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



[t](#) [i](#) [f](#) @TheatrePorto  
[www.TheatrePorto.org](http://www.TheatrePorto.org)

More information can be found here: [➔](#)

## Technology Enabled Care Soft Marketing Engagement

Cheshire West and Chester Council is developing a new Technology Enabled Care (TEC) service. TEC is a way of offering a less restrictive means of support to those who need care or providing unpaid care and include equipment such as falls detectors, room sensors, epilepsy sensors on smart watches and specialist apps on smartphone.

The Council is gathering some initial thoughts and ideas from local people and is



population, to see what is important to them and how technology can be used to improve lives.

Responses will be used to inform and shape the future TEC service and its delivery.

Cllr Sheila Little, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care said: “We aim to commission a high-quality cutting-edge TEC service that will cater to the diverse needs of our residents, ensuring they have access to the right technology at the right time, in the right way, that continues to promote their independence and wellbeing. We urge people to share their views by completing a questionnaire.”

**For those with lived experience**, including those who currently access TEC, families, friends, and carers: <https://forms.office.com/e/N29Azkm8p7>

**For the general public:** <https://forms.office.com/e/VrT2CB7x21>

If you have any questions, please contact [ageingwellcommissioning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:ageingwellcommissioning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

For those with lived experience



CWVA.ORG.UK

Championing the Community Sector | Cheshire West  
Voluntary Action



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## Second Event! 🌟

After the success of the first engagement event, CWVA. Are excited to announce booking is now open for our next session:

📅 Date: Friday, February 7th

🕒 Time: 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

📍 Location: Cheshire FA, Hartford

👉 Book your place here (please note, you'll need to complete a quick one-time registration on our new booking system).

<https://book.plinth.org.uk/e/hphamAWfSF0kuybQA5BG>

This project is all about improving mental health outcomes for eight under-served communities:

- Asylum seekers / refugees
- Gypsy / Traveller / Roma
  - Polish community
  - LGBTQIA+
- People with autism
- People with ADHD
- People with significant sight loss
- People with significant hearing loss

Our second event will focus especially on the last four groups, with valuable input from specialist VCSE organisations. We'll also explore intersectionality and touch on the other communities involved.

💡 What to expect:

- Hear insights from lived and professional experiences
  - Share your thoughts, questions, and ideas
  - Access our online resources

Let's come together as staff and volunteers across public and VCSE sectors to create better mental health outcomes for everyone.

We can't wait to see you there!

Any questions please contact Andrew Herbert (he/him)

Strategic Development Lead - Mental Health & Community Hubs, Cheshire West

Voluntary Action

📞 07908 100067

Working hours: 26.5 hours flexibly, typically Mon-Wed

For more information, visit our new Cheshire West Voluntary Action website.

<http://www.cwva.org.uk/>

[#MentalHealthForAll](#) [#InclusiveCommunities](#) [#CheshireWest](#)

**Book Your Place...**



## FREE INTRO TO VIDEO STORYTELLING & DIGITAL MARKETING WORKSHOP

Website: [www.sharpenmyskills.org](http://www.sharpenmyskills.org)

**DATE OF WORKSHOP: MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025**

**FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM.**

**VENUE: UNIT 24, MERIDAN HOUSE,  
ROAD 1, WINSFORD IND ESTATE,  
WINSFORD, CW7 3QG.**

**THE WORKSHOP IS FREE AS FUNDED BY CHESHIRE WEST  
AND CHESTER ADULT EDUCATION**



**Adult Education**  
Cheshire West and Chester



### **UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY AT OUR FREE INTRO TO DIGITAL MARKETING & VIDEO STORYTELLING WORKSHOP**

The workshop is free for individuals over 19 years old who are unemployed, or on a low income (under £25,000).

The income is based on the individual's income and not per household income.

Attendees must also only have a Cheshire West and Chester Council Postcode. You can also work part-time and retired individuals are also welcome.

Each workshop accommodates 6 to 8 participants.  
All our workshops are fully insured for your peace of mind

We also have other dates available at other venues in the Cheshire West and Chester area.  
We can travel to you, we prefer to host our workshops in free venues where possible.  
For more information contact Lynda on Tel: 07828 571952.

Email: [lynda.hesketh@sky.com](mailto:lynda.hesketh@sky.com)

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**Learn how to create Henna designs**  
**HENNA ART BEGINNERS WORKSHOP**

**DATE OF WORKSHOP:**  
**WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2025**  
**TIME: 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM**  
**VENUE: PARADE ENTERPRISE CENTRE,**  
**14 THE PARADE, CHESTER, CH1 5HN**



★ **ALL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED, INCLUDING DESIGN TEMPLATES AND NON TOXIC HENNA PASTE.**

★ **WEBSITE: [WWW.SHARPENMYSKILLS.ORG](http://WWW.SHARPENMYSKILLS.ORG)**

- ★ The workshop is free for individuals over 19 years old who are unemployed, or on a low income (under £25,000). The income is based on the individual's income and not per household income. Attendees must also only have a Cheshire West and Chester Council Postcode.

Each workshop accommodates 6 to 8 participants. All our workshops are fully insured for your peace of mind. We also have other dates available at other venues in the Cheshire West and Chester area.

For more information contact Lynda on Tel: 07828 571952.  
 Email: [lynda.hesketh@sky.com](mailto:lynda.hesketh@sky.com)




**Learn how to create Henna designs**  
**HENNA ART BEGINNERS WORKSHOP**

**DATE OF WORKSHOP:**  
**FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2025**  
**TIME: 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM**  
**VENUE: UNIT 24, MERIDAN HOUSE,**  
**ROAD 1, WINSFORD IND ESTATE**



★ **ALL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED, INCLUDING DESIGN TEMPLATES AND NON TOXIC HENNA PASTE.**

★ **WEBSITE: [WWW.SHARPENMYSKILLS.ORG](http://WWW.SHARPENMYSKILLS.ORG)**

- ★ The workshop is free for individuals over 19 years old who are unemployed, or on a low income (under £25,000). The income is based on the individual's income and not per household income. Attendees must also only have a Cheshire West and Chester Council Postcode.

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For more information contact Lynda on Tel: 07828 571952.  
 Email: [lynda.hesketh@sky.com](mailto:lynda.hesketh@sky.com)




## USEFUL CONTACTS



Live Well Cheshire West - <https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk>

Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) - Tel 0300 123 7001 <https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Services/1279>

SEN Team - Tel 0151 337 6505  
[senteam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Starting Well - <http://www.startingwell.org.uk/>

West Cheshire 0-16 CAMHS Tel - 01244 393200  
<https://www.cwp.nhs.uk/services-and-locations/services/west-cheshire-0-16-camhs/>

IPSEA- Call-in Helpline Tel- 0300 22 5899  
<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/Pages/Category/service-overview>

CONTACT Advice Line -Tel-0808 808 3555  
<https://contact.org.uk/>

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## GET INVOLVED WITH THE PCF....

We are always looking for new parents and carers to join us. You can attend meetings, give feedback to influence the services your child or young person uses or help us to identify the gaps in services. Also, a chance to meet other parents and learn about what's on offer in Cheshire West & Chester.

To contact us.....visit our website [www.pcfcheshirewest.org](http://www.pcfcheshirewest.org)

**email** [contact.pfcwac@gmail.com](mailto:contact.pfcwac@gmail.com)

or join us for one of our meetings.

We hope to see you soon!



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**Our mailing address is:**

[contact.pfcwac@gmail.com](mailto:contact.pfcwac@gmail.com)

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