



July 2026

CWaC TRANSPORT UPDATE : SUMMER HOLIDAY PADLET : PCF NEWS

Welcome to our July edition of the PCF CWaC newsletter.

A monthly round-up for parent carers in Cheshire West & Chester including the PCF at the SEND Partnership Board. There's lots to share and update you on this month.

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in one of our forums or responded to our posts - it's so important that we get to share your voices to drive change. Collectively, we have achieved so much and we are immensely proud of the changes made.

With the end of another academic term, we also have some changes here in the PCF team to share - including the appointment of our new chair Lucy Kennerley - previously vice chair for the group.

We had a good turnout to our AGM which was held online on Thursday 9th July.

Our outgoing chair Julie Duff gave an update on the growth of the group, actions taken and 2026/2027 plans. A recording is available to watch online - click below::

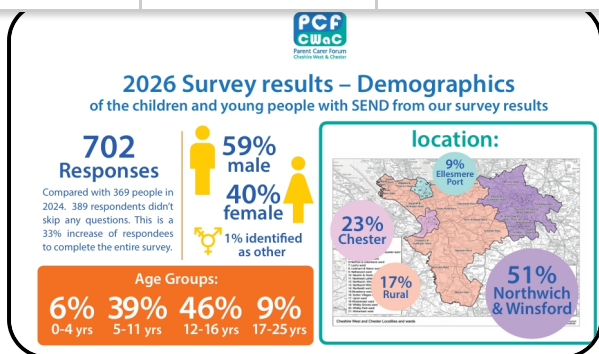


A note from our new Chair

We're delighted to welcome **Lucy Kennerley** as our new Chair, who is proud to build on the strong foundations Julie Duff has laid down and to continue championing families' voices with the same passion and dedication.

"I am absolutely delighted to have been elected to continue leading the Parent Carer Forum. Julie has left us an incredible legacy, and I look forward to building on her hard work as we champion our families' voices in the year ahead."





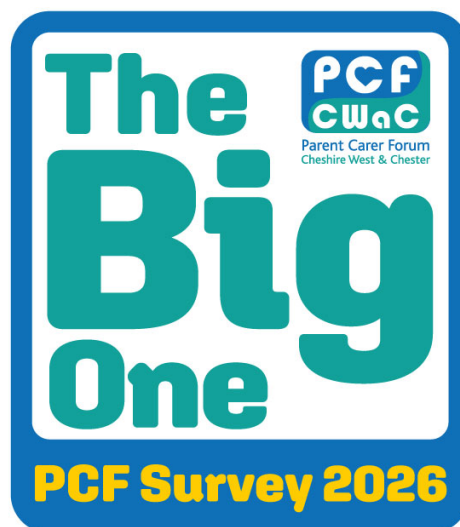
View The Big One -
Our PCF CwC
Survey 2026

PCF in numbers!

Wow - we had a whopping **702** responses to our 2026 survey.

We now have **1,200** signed up to receive our newsletter.

But, we also know that there are around **4,500 children with EHCPs** with the current overall estimate for SEND children in the CWaC region at about **10,500** - so there's more families still to engage. Please help us reach them by sharing our news, information and [Facebook](#) posts. Everyone's voice needs to be heard to create change.



CWaC SEND Transport Update

Transport Policy Manager and Lynee McGonigle from the Transport Commissioning Team gave an update on SEND Home to School Travel Assistance at the AGM.

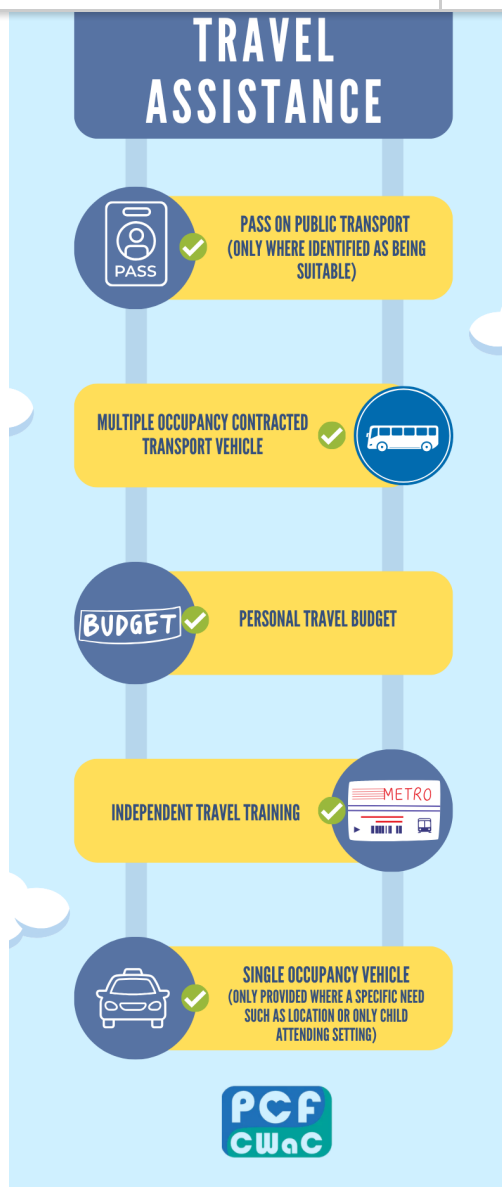
They confirmed that there is a comprehensive annual review process to ensure that transport provision is efficient and that individual pupils' needs are met effectively.

Thank you to everyone who submitted their questions in advance or during the session. You can find the answers to your question in this blog update:

[PCF Annual General Meeting \(AGM\) - July 9th](#)

Importantly if you have not received details for your child's school transport arrangements by the 3rd of August - please contact

SENtransport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Free Programmes

Fit for All is a free 12 week programme offering gym sessions and boxing classes for autistic young people aged 12–17, in Northwich and Ellesmere Port. Designed for those not attending school or struggling with education or training, this inclusive initiative helps improve physical health, boost emotional wellbeing, and build confidence in a safe, supportive environment.



parent six week training programmes for residents in Northwich, Winsford, Chester, Rural Cheshire and Ellesmere Port, on behalf of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). The parent training sessions are created by parents, for parents, offering practical strategies, guidance, and a space where you feel understood and supported every step of the way.



Family Empowerment Course

Free 6-week, 2 day and 1 day autism awareness training for families in Northwich, Winsford, Chester, Rural Cheshire & Ellesmere Port on behalf of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Upcoming Dates:

- **Online (6 Week):** From 22nd June, 6.30-8.30pm
- **Chester (2 Day):** 28th & 30th June, 9.30am-3.0pm, Hoole Community Centre
- **Winsford (2 Day):** 1st & 2nd July, 9.30am-3.0pm, The Wharton Park Stonehouse
- **Northwich (1 Day):** 18th July, 9.30am-3pm, A.P.S.

Our training is open and accessible to all families with a Cheshire West or Chester GP. Participation does not require an assessment or diagnosis.

Scan Here to Book On

Outside the area? We can still offer the course at a low cost. Get in touch for more information.

0344 850 8607 | info@autismpracticalsupport.org.uk

Our Aims



VOICE Be the voice of as many parents/carers as possible

Co-produce improvements to Services so that all children and young people in the Borough with SEND are given the chance to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Work in **partnership** with providers of Education, Health Care and Social Care services to influence decisions about gaps in services

Provide **advice and information links** to Professionals and Voluntary Organisations

Summer Holiday Padlet



[Click here to view all Summer Holiday provision on PADLET](#)

The HAF Programme

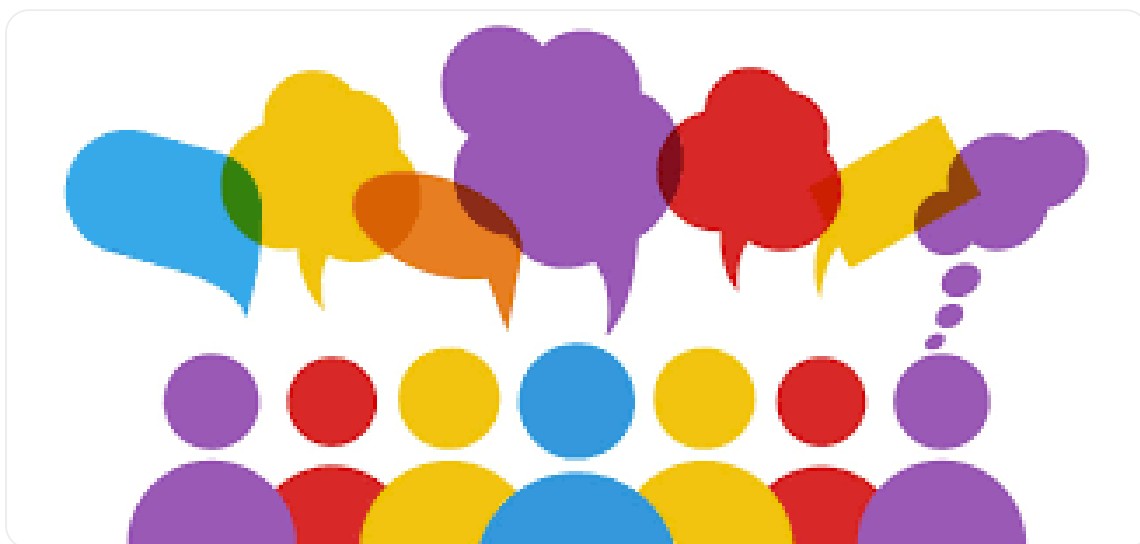
Free holiday provision for school age children up to year 11. Meet new friends, enjoy fun activities and healthy food in a safe environment.

Castaway Play SEN Sessions

Foam parties in a calm, welcoming environment for children who may feel overwhelmed by loud noise or busy crowds. On the 12th and 30th August.

Edsential SEN

activities, delicious nutritious meals and a chance for young people to meet new friends in a safe & fun environment, during school holidays across West Cheshire.

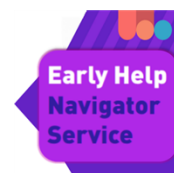


Six sources for carers

Our parent carer community has found that the six support services below have been a useful source of information, advice and support along their parenting journey.

01

Early Help Navigator Service



Available to families with children from pre-birth – 18 years (25 if there is identified Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). ENS can Help Families Navigate what support is available.

02

Listening Ear

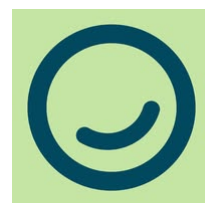


LISTENING EAR
someone to talk to

Need someone to talk to? We offer 1:1 telephone appointments for emotional support—because sometimes being heard makes all the difference

03

Contact: the charity for families with disabled children



Contact information and advice can help you with the best possible guidance for your child. From benefits to early years education, social care and legal advice - all in one place.
Reach out, connect, and access the support you deserve.

04

Live!



Inclusive, accessible, high-quality learning, personal development and social activities for children, young people and adults with disabilities.

05



Health Support for Young People

or mental health support services for children and young people.

These include telephone, text and online services, as well as face to face services to make these support services as accessible as possible.

06

Disability Positive



Disability Positive provide services, opportunities and a voice to people with lived experience of disability and long-term health conditions, and their families.

They are commissioned by the Council to support families in accessing funding for short breaks and activities for children and young people.

Have your say!

There are some incredibly important consultations and sessions that might affect you as a parent carer. It's vital that you have your say.

The Department for Education is consulting on Education Otherwise Than at School (EOTAS) — and parent carers' voices are crucial.

EOTAS covers education for children and young people who can't attend mainstream or specialist schools for reasons such as medical needs, mental health, social, behavioural or safeguarding concerns.

The DofE are running online sessions on the EOTAS (Education Otherwise Than At School) consultation, part of the wider SEND Reform proposals.

All sessions cover the same content and questions, so you only need to book onto one.

identified, planned, funded and quality assured across the country.

The consultation asks for views on how EOTAS should be:

1. **Identified** — for example, clear criteria for who needs EOTAS and timely referral processes;
2. **Managed** — including responsibility for planning, coordination between local services, and how personalised learning is delivered;
3. **Quality Assured** — so arrangements are monitored, outcomes tracked, and standards upheld.

These are all important opportunities to ensure that the lived experiences of children, young people and families help shape future policy.



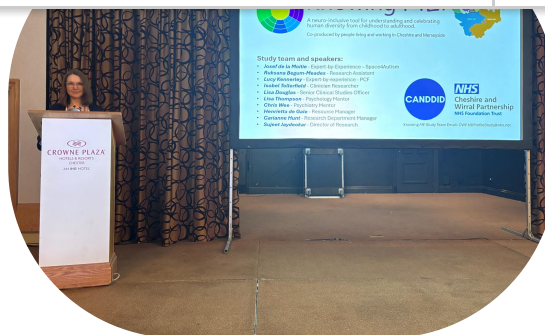
The Department for Education has published a series of fact sheets to accompany the **Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS)** and **Upfront funding for mainstream schools consultations**.

These resources explain the proposals in more detail and are intended to help parents, carers and professionals understand the consultation before sharing their views.

Click on the link below to read more...

Have your say! [Read our blog...](#)

New events for the year ahead 2026/2027



Virtual

Children & Young People's Mental Health
Tech & Digital Resources
ADHD Training Session

In Person

Social Care, Family Support & Short Breaks
Education, Health & Wellbeing
Preparation for Adulthood
Support for me as a carer
Carer Wellbeing Training Programme
Volunteer Training

Dates to follow here...



CYMPHS is inviting parents, carers and young people aged 16-17 to take part in a Participation and Engagement project to help shape how SilverCloud, a digital mental health programme, is introduced and used locally.

The work will focus on two programmes: one for parents and carers supporting an anxious teenager, and one for young people who may experience anxiety.

Taking part may involve online or face-to-face sessions, small group discussions, trying out parts of the programme and sharing feedback with NHS staff.

Would you like to help improve digital mental health support for

Interested? For more information or to express an interest, please contact: Claire Evans – Participation & Engagement Lead
Claire.evans71@nhs.net 07435 645359

SilverCloud is evidence-based and cannot be changed, but your views can help shape how the programme is offered and supported.

Out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

Our friends at Petty Pool College wanted to remind our families about their Alumni group. Whether you are a former student, or a family, stay connected with all that is happening around Petty Pool, including fundraising events, alumni socials and other exciting news. You can find out more by visiting: [Alumni - Petty Pool](#)



And finally... a big thank you to Julie Duff 🙏

Parent & Outgoing Chair

Under Julie's leadership, the Forum has grown beyond recognition from a small group of parent voices into a strong, trusted and influential presence across Cheshire West and Chester.

Her compassion, integrity and unwavering commitment to families have shaped not just what the Forum does, but who we are. Julie has carried the hopes, struggles and voices of hundreds of families into rooms where real decisions are made, and she has done so with warmth, skill and total dedication every step of the way. Her legacy will be felt in this Forum for years to come.

“Leading the forum has been one of the greatest privileges of my life... It has been an honour to carry your voices into

The good news is this isn't goodbye, Julie will be staying on with the Forum in a volunteer capacity, continuing to support specific pieces of work as well as helping out with Forums and events. We are so grateful that her wisdom and experience will remain part of our community.

[SEND US YOUR NEWS!](#)[GET INVOLVED!](#)

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