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NEWSLETTER

February 2026



SEND inspection report highlights inconsistencies in Cheshire West

We welcome the report, which highlights the **inconsistent experiences** that many families are currently facing. While the report itself does not explore these experiences in detail, almost **700 parent carers** took the time to complete our survey and share their lived experiences openly and honestly. This has provided us with rich, detailed evidence that we can use to help shape a clear way forward.

The feedback you shared will directly underpin our recommendations within the SEND Strategy Improvement Plan, with the aim of ensuring that **all children and young people with SEND have positive, consistent experiences**, regardless of where they live or which services they access.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and share our survey. We genuinely could not have done this without you.

We recognise that sharing experiences, particularly difficult or emotional ones, is not easy. Every response was shared with honesty and trust, and each one will be read, respected, and treated with care.

We are now working on a report that truly reflects what you have told us. Our aim is that when you read it, you will recognise your own voice and feel confident that it represents your experiences.

Thank you again for your time, honesty, and trust help us to keep your experiences at the heart of decisions.

Warmest regards,

PCF Team

SEND School White Paper: What it means now?

Since the announcement of the SEND Schools White Paper, we know many families are feeling worried or uncertain. We want to reassure you: nothing is changing right now.

A White Paper sets out proposals only, it is not law. The government's ideas are now open to a 12-week public consultation, which means families have the opportunity to share their views and help shape what happens next.

Even if proposals move forward, they would still need to pass through legislation. Any changes are not expected until 2029/30 at the earliest.

We continue to work with the Department for Education through the National Network of Parent Carer Forums to ensure parent carer voices are heard.

Over the coming weeks we will:

- ✓ Help families understand the proposals
- ✓ Share opportunities for discussion and feedback
- ✓ Gather your views to inform our consultation response
- ✓ Share clear and accurate updates

We will keep you informed every step of the way.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with any questions or concerns
Read below what the government proposes...

[SEND Reform: Putting Children First Plan](#)[SEND Reform Easy Read: Have your Say!](#)[SEND Reform: Schools White Paper Focus Group](#)

PCF News & Events



Volunteers Appreciation

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible volunteers who have been working tirelessly in recent weeks. From help with the survey, attending coffee events and connecting with families, to contributing thoughtfully within key working groups including Child Voice, Ordinary Available Inclusive Provision, and the SEN Team Panel letters. your time, commitment and expertise make a real difference. Your dedication has absolutely not gone unnoticed. We are so grateful for everything you continue to do to support children, young people and families.

For all our upcoming events, visit: [Parent Carer Forum](#) | [Whats On](#)

*To help keep you up to date with everything we're involved in, we've also created a **Blog & Noticeboard** area on our website, where you can find the latest news, updates, and insights from the PCF team.*

[PCF Blogs and Updates](#)



Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

Virtual Forum
Wed 11th March 2026
10am – 11.30am

SEND Benefits & Support

Virtual Forum: Benefits & Support for SEND Families

Join our online webinar to help you understand what financial support and help you may be entitled to as a parent or carer of a child or young person with SEND.

We're pleased to welcome **Citizens Advice**, covering:

- Benefits for parents and carers of young people with SEND
- DLA to PIP transitions
- Universal Credit (UC)
- Carer's benefits
- How they can support you

You'll also hear about **local SEND coffee mornings and peer support** from:

- Cheshire and Warrington Carers Trust
- SPACE
- Koala North West
- Petty Pool in the Community
- Parent Carer Andrea Catton

Come along to find out what support is available and connect with others who understand

[Benefits & Support Virtual Webinar: Book Here!](#)



Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

SEND Parent/Carer Webinar
Thurs 26th March 2026
7.00 – 8.30pm

Understanding Mental Capacity

A Webinar for Parents & Carers of Young People with SEND

Evening Webinar – Understanding Mental Capacity

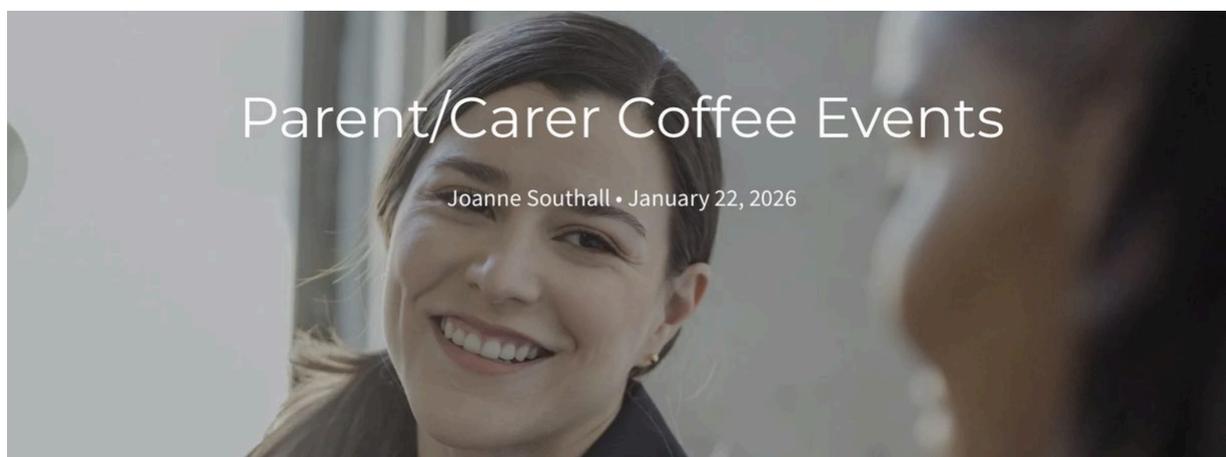
We know daytime sessions aren't always possible, so this is a convenient evening webinar for parents and carers who are busy during the day.

Join us for an online evening session focused on mental capacity and decision-making, especially relevant as children and young people with SEND move towards adulthood.

The session will be led by Kevin McManamon, an expert in SEND and disability law, and will give clear, practical information to help you feel more confident navigating future decisions.

- Ideal for parents/carers of children and young people with SEND
- Particularly helpful for those thinking about transition to adulthood
- A chance to learn, listen, and ask questions in a relaxed evening setting

[Understanding Capacity Webinar: Book Here!](#)



Parent/Carer Coffee Events

Joanne Southall • January 22, 2026

Parent/Carer Coffee Events

West and Chester, where our volunteers attend regularly including at the children centres, **SPACE** charity and **Koala**. Please keep an eye on our website where we will advertise them along with other SEND coffee events in the borough.

Parent Carer Coffee Events

Co-Production

**Have your say on the
Down Syndrome Act
guidance**



Saturday 28th February

10am - 3pm



**DOWN SYNDROME
CHESHIRE**

Have your say on the Down Syndrome Act Guidance!

open and your voice matters. This is your chance to share your experiences and help shape the future for people with Down syndrome.

Join us for a Down Syndrome Act Guidance Consultation Party:

 Saturday 28th February

 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

 DSC Hub, Northwich

It's a drop-in session, with food, refreshments, and the DSC staff will be on hand to guide you through the consultation. We would like families, healthcare staff, educators, social workers, anyone who has something to share, to come along and have their say.

Don't miss this chance to make a real difference!



Eating Difficulties and Autism' and 'Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder Partnership for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (Partnership for the The PINS Schools have been on lots of training, this Video covers 'Eating Difficulties and Autism' and 'Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder. Please take a look at the training materials and videos that the schools have been part of in the link below.

Signposting

Tap to get involved!

Family Empowerment Course

Autism Awareness Courses to Empower Parents



Our in-person and online training courses are designed by parents, for parents, offering practical tools and guidance to navigate the journey of raising a child with autism. We've been there, and we're here to help you.

Our community based learning opportunities improve understanding, develop skills & share experiences so that you can better support your child or young person.



Autism Practical Support



Fit For All



Inclusive physical activities for autistic children and teenagers struggling or disengaging with Education or training

Fit for All is a **free twelve-month programme** of physical and emotional wellbeing activities for autistic children and young people **aged 12-17 in Northwich and Ellesmere Port.**

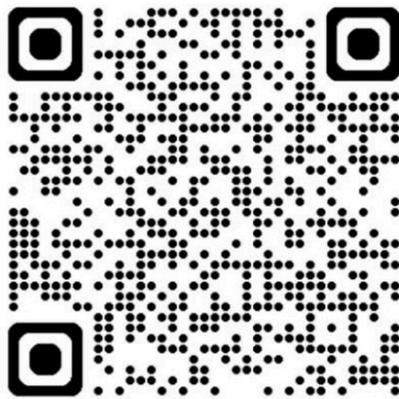
The project is for young people who are not attending school or who are struggling to access education or training, aiming to improve their physical health, emotional wellbeing, confidence, and social connections.



Early Help Navigator Service

We know life isn't always easy. Sometimes you don't know where to go for help. You may need a bit of advice or support, or simply a friendly face to chat to about something that's bothering you.

**Early Help Navigators
are here to help**



Scan this QR code for details of drop-in sessions in your area, or to request an appointment.

We can:

Provide help, support and advice with family life

Be a listening ear

Signpost you to local and national support

Help you fill out forms

Attend GP appointments with your family

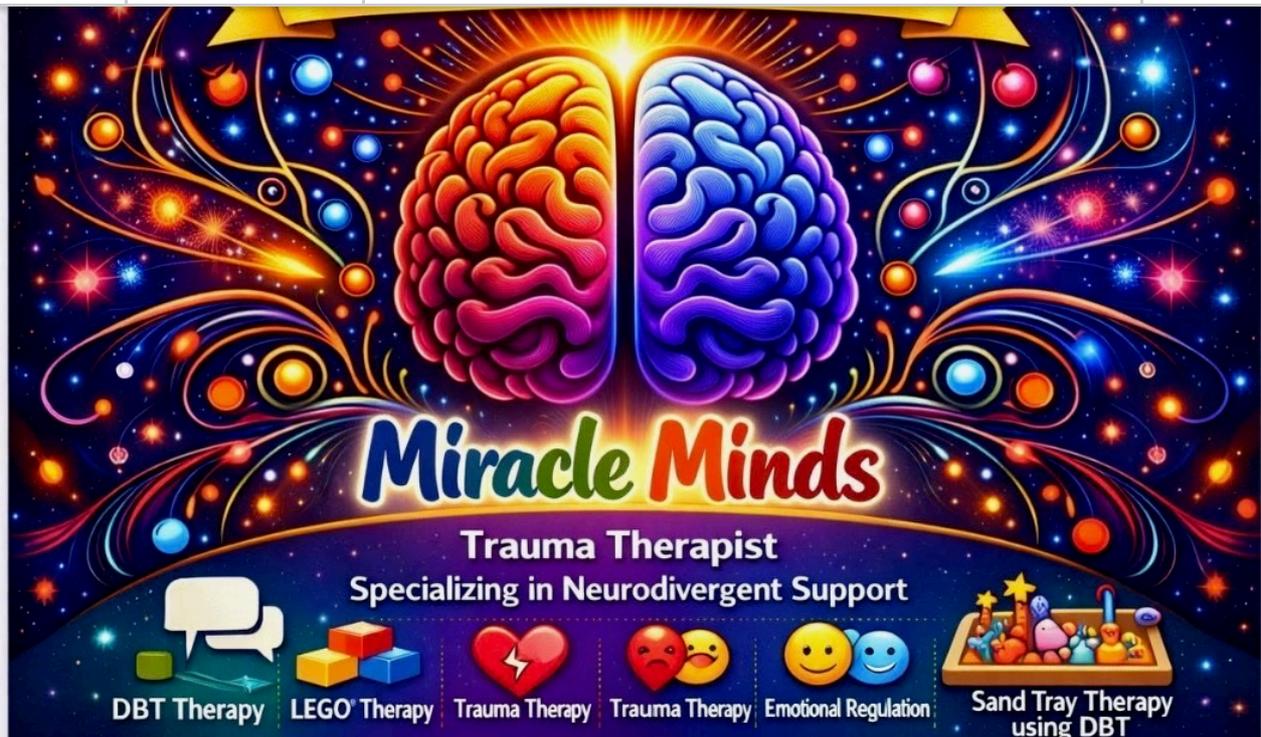
Provide food and baby bank referrals

Visit: www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/services/5751

or phone 0151 556 8378



**Cheshire West
and Chester**



Miracle Minds
Trauma Therapist
Specializing in Neurodivergent Support

DBT Therapy LEGO Therapy Trauma Therapy Trauma Therapy Emotional Regulation Sand Tray Therapy using DBT

The banner features a central illustration of a brain with the left hemisphere in warm colors (red, orange, yellow) and the right in cool colors (blue, purple). The brain is set against a dark blue background filled with colorful stars, galaxies, and abstract light trails. Below the brain, the text 'Miracle Minds' is written in a large, colorful, stylized font. Underneath, 'Trauma Therapist' and 'Specializing in Neurodivergent Support' are written in white. At the bottom, there are six icons representing different therapeutic approaches: two speech bubbles for DBT Therapy, three colored blocks for LEGO Therapy, a red heart with a lightning bolt for Trauma Therapy, two faces (one sad, one happy) for Trauma Therapy, two smiley faces for Emotional Regulation, and a sand tray with various objects for Sand Tray Therapy using DBT.

Have Your Say

Live Well Cheshire West

Cheshire West and Chester Council are looking at ways to improve the Local offer

<https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/>

Please complete a quick poll to tell them your preference to the links to the sites which you think our Local Offer should adopt

Option 2 - Cheshire East - Local Offer <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/.../what.../local-offer.aspx>

Option 3 - Home | Leicester City <https://mychoice.leicester.gov.uk/>

Option 4 – if other please reply and add the name of the Local Authority and or any other feedback in an e-mail to to Emma Walker emma.walker@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Get Involved



Join Our Growing Team at the Parent Carer Forum!

Are you a parent or carer of a child with additional needs or a disability in Cheshire West and Chester? We would love you to come and join our team, between us all we have a wealth of lived

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our team to help represent the perspectives of parents and carers in our community. Your feedback directly influences local services and SEND policies.

Call us on [07900840867](tel:07900840867) Visit our Facebook page, YouTube channel, website or email us to find out more.



SEND Local Offer

[Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Local Offer | Live Well Cheshire West](#)

Information Advice and Support Service (IASS)

Tel [0300 123 7001](tel:03001237001)

<https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Services/1279>

SEN Team

Tel [0151 337 6505](tel:01513376505)

senteam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

SEN Transport

Tel [01244973637](tel:01244973637)

Tel [01244 973564](tel:01244973564)

sentransport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Starting Well

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

Children's and Young Peoples Mental Health Services

<https://www.mymind.org.uk/services-and-contacts/cheshire-services/cheshire-cypmhs>

IPSEA- Call-in Helpline

CONTACT Advice Line

Tel [0808 808 3555](tel:08088083555)

<https://contact.org.uk/>



Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

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Info@pcfcheshirewest.org

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