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PCF Monthly Roundup!

This month we hosted our first in-person forum all about neurodiversity. It was lovely to meet many new parents and carers!

There was a Local Area Ofsted Inspection which we shared parent carer experiences to Ofsted Inspectors. You can find out more about the process in our latest blog here: [SEND Area Inspection – What’s Been Happening and How the Parent Carer Forum Has Represented Families](#)

We’ve attended our normal working groups such as the Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) Quality Assurance, Partnerships for Inclusion Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS), and School Coffee Events – making sure we are feeding back what you tell us.

Next up: the relaunch of the PCF Survey 2026 – The Big One!



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](#)



Virtual Forum

Early Years, Sleep & Toileting Support Services in Cheshire West and Chester

Starting Well & Children's Centres – learn what's on offer with your Health Visitor and local Children's Centres.

Early Years SEN Team – hear how they support families and early years educational settings.

Sleep Service – an introduction to sleep issues for children with SEND and the support available.

Continence Team – advice on toileting in the early years, tips for families, and how to access help.

You'll also receive useful resources and contact information so you know exactly where to turn for the right help, at the right time.

[Book your place here!](#)



Thank you to everyone who attended our neurodiversity forum!

Parents, carers and professionals gathered at Hartford Golf Club to share ideas and support for neurodivergent children and families across Cheshire West and Chester. View our blog below for the highlights of the day, plus resources and presentations.

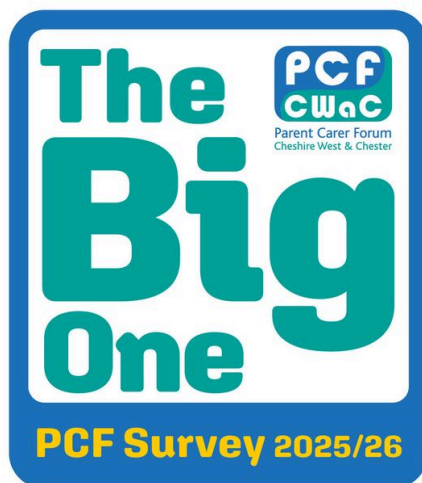
[Neurodiversity Forum Highlights](#)

Empowerment & Communication

Virtual Parent Training Communication & Empowerment Workshop

The session was beautifully led by Gillian Driscoll, a lived-experience parent carer who brought empathy, humour and practical insight to every part of the discussion.

Find out more about the session and view the training materials below.



PCF Survey 2025/26 - “The Big One”!

Thank you to everyone who has fed back on the questions for the next survey. We have made amendments based on your feedback, including new questions on inclusion and children’s voice. We’ve also added Down Syndrome, Elective Home Education and Alternative Provision to ensure wider representation. The core questions will remain the same so we can compare responses with previous years and understand what’s changed, what’s improved, and what still needs to be done. This survey will be used to measure progress from the 2024 PCF Survey, which is embedded in the SEND Strategy 2025/26, and will help shape the SEND priorities for 2026/27.

You can get a snapshot of how we have used the Survey results from 2024 here:

[Parents’ Voices Shaping the SEND Strategy ...Now & Next!](#)

We will be doing a soft launch on the survey over the Christmas period before fully launching it in January.

You can view the last survey results in the link below.

[PCF Survey Results 2024](#)

no judgement safety opportunity
Space Positive engagement Safe
accessible Fairness Fairness Accessible
access education acceptance

What Does Inclusion mean to you and your family?

We are asking three questions, so that we can share your views with services, on what inclusion means for families that live in Cheshire West & Chester. Please help us by sharing your views in the link below.

Understanding Inclusion



Understanding Sensory Seeking Seeking and Avoiding, Children learning Self Regulation and the Pathological Demand Avoidance Profile

Take a look at the Partnership Inclusion & Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) video, showcasing work our parent reps and schools have been involved in across Cheshire West & Chester.

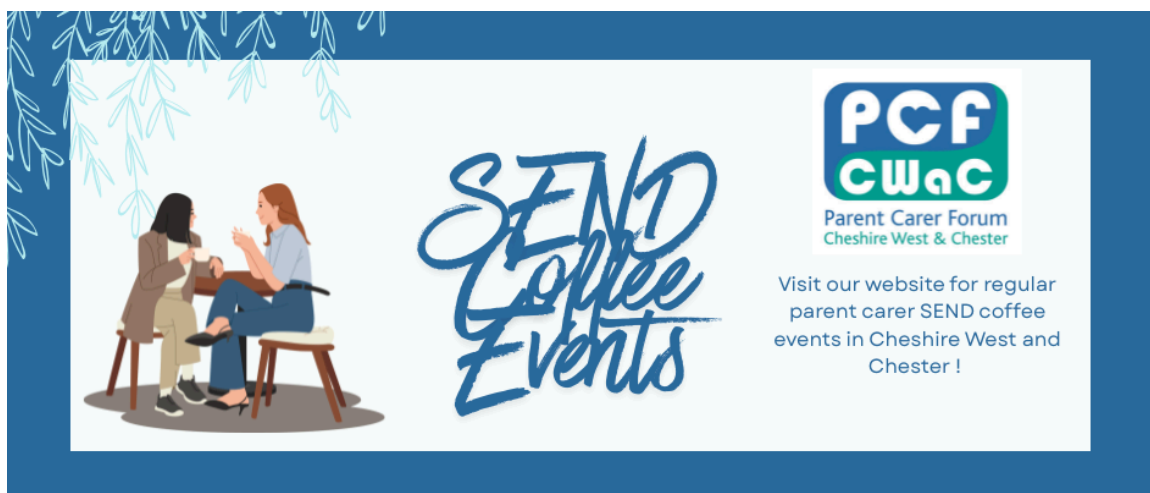
Watch the video above to learn more!

Find out more about the PINS project here: [PINS Project - Phase 1](#)



Read all about reasonable adjustments digital flags and why it matters in the link below.

[Reasonable Adjustments Digital Flags](#)

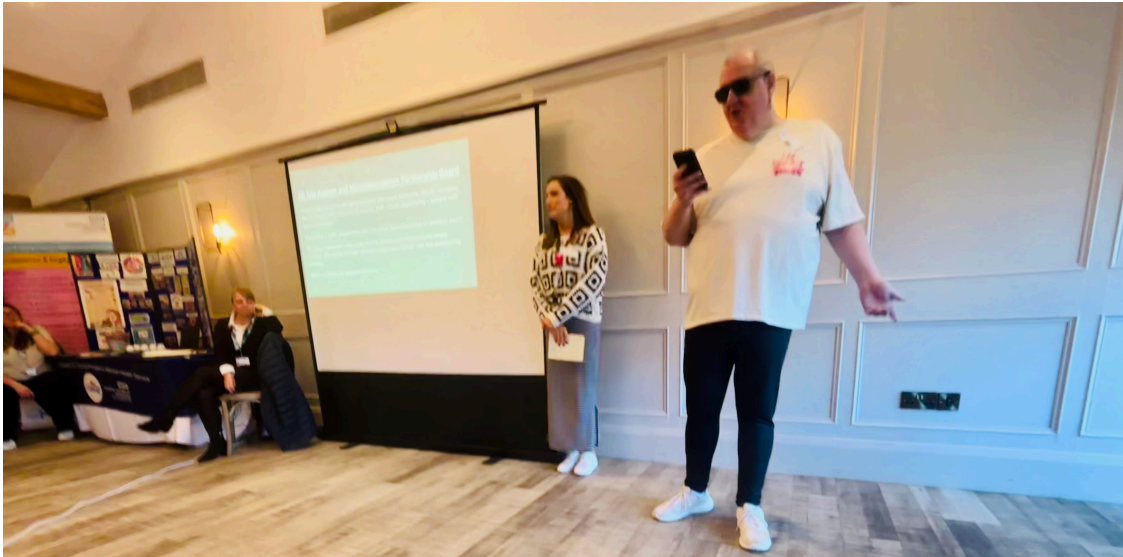


Parent/Carer Coffee Events

There are a number of parent carer coffee events happening in Cheshire West and Chester, where our volunteers attend regularly including at the children centres, SPACE charity and Koala.

[Parent Carer Coffee Events](#)

Tap to get involved!



All Age Autism Neurodivergent Partnership Board

Tony the Co-Chair of the All-Age Autism Neurodivergent Partnership Board spoke passionately about his journey into adulthood, and his dedication to improve services for all children and young people. The message is a clear "call to action" to get people with lived experience to join the Board and help make a difference.

Tap the image below code or email Katy get involved and help Tony make a difference. Katy.Ellison@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

All Age Autism and Neurodivergence Partnership Board



Join our Subgroups

Here's what is on offer...

Lived experience subgroup

The Lived Experience Subgroup, facilitated by Katy Ellison, is a welcoming, action-focused community of autistic and neurodiverse individuals and their carers, working together to tackle real-life challenges and drive positive change across the council.

Service mapping subgroup

The Service Mapping Subgroup has been formed to create an inclusive, digital directory that makes it easier for people across the borough to find and access autism and neurodiversity support services, with input welcomed from all community members.

Strategy subgroup

The Strategy Subgroup aims to create an inclusive Cheshire West and Chester where Autistic and Neurodivergent people of all ages are understood, supported, and empowered to thrive, and invites input to help shape its draft strategy.

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sign up



Have Your Say

Live Well
Cheshire West

Tell us about
Gaps in Services!



Did you know?

One of the key aims of the Local Offer is to give you the chance to feedback directly to service commissioners.

Have your say by tapping the image above!

Have your say on changes
to **services for families**

Public consultation on the Healthy Child Programme



Cheshire West & Chester Council wants to hear from families, young people and professionals about the Healthy Child Programme — the service that supports children and young people from birth to 19 (or 25 with SEND).

This is your chance to share what's working and what could be better.

👉 Take part here: <https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/heal...>

📅 Consultation closes 8th February 2026.



Tap the images and links below to find out more!

Activities and Short Breaks

in Cheshire West and Chester.

[Activities & Short Breaks](#)




SEN GROTTOS

to see Santa and his Elves!

at Hayrack Church Farm



SEN grotto's will be held on Saturday 6th December 9.30am - 12.30pm & Sunday 14th December 1.30pm - 4.30pm!

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- Each child will meet Santa and receive early Christmas presents. Gift bags also include a *free farm park return pass worth £7!
 - Tables are allocated to your family for the whole 3 hour session. Also included are lovely Christmas themed craft activities, reindeer food making and letter writing to post into Santa's post box!
 - Visit the animals and play areas on our farm park! (included in your ticket price)
 - Buckets of 5 feed bags for the animals and stickers to decorate can be purchased at the time of booking!

TICKET PRICES: Children: £24.95 Adults: £10

Under 1's are free to visit Santa, but we do have some lovely baby presents priced at £6, so please let us know if you require one at the time of booking (*free pass not included with baby presents)

HOW TO BOOK



Please call our booking line on 01244 301473 10am-3pm
Tuesday-Sunday.
Full payment is required at the time of booking.

All tickets are non-refundable. If the event is cancelled, full refunds will be given.



Hayrack Church Farm, Thornton Le Moors, CH2 4HU
Email: hayrackchurchfarm@gmail.com
www.hayrackchurchfarm.co.uk



Learning Outside The Classroom



“Where Every Child Can Thrive”



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DID YOU KNOW?

We run bespoke sessions and workshops for home-educated students of all ages and capabilities!

These can be taken individually or in a group setting.

If you would like to know more about this unique opportunity, please get in touch by emailing:

hayrackdevelopmentcic@gmail.com.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!



A farm-based day services centre for special young people



Follow Us



There is always hope

We are the UK's largest mental health support directory. Whether you want to find a service to help you feel better or you want to support someone who is struggling, we can help.



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 experience navigating the SEND system. There is someone in our team that understands and can help guide you in the right direction.

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.



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

Tel [0300 22 5899](tel:0300225899)

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/Pages/Category/service-overview>

CONTACT Advice Line

Tel [0808 808 3555](tel:08088083555)

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



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