

Walsall SEND Service Communications



Walsall Council

SPRING 1 2026

WELCOME TO THE WALSALL SEND SERVICE SPRING TERM 1 COMMUNICATIONS

These communications are designed for parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Here, we share important updates, celebrate successes, and highlight opportunities for you to engage with and shape SEND services in Walsall. We are committed to working together to improve support, services, and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Your voice matters, and we welcome your feedback and involvement.

ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST?



Stay up to date with the latest SEND news, updates, and events in Walsall by joining our mailing list. If you are not already receiving our emails, please contact: localoffer@walsall.gov.uk

OFSTED & CQC LOCAL AREA SEND & AP INSPECTION

The joint Ofsted and CQC Local Area SEND and AP inspection concluded on 12th December, and we're proud of what we showcased. It was a great opportunity to demonstrate the hard work and commitment across Walsall to support children and young people with SEND.



Thank you to everyone who contributed, your input was invaluable and highlighted the strength of our community. We're excited to build on this momentum and keep improving services together. The official findings will be shared once the report is published.



EMPOWERING PARENTS: FREE SEND WORKSHOPS

UNDERSTANDING SEND SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS



Learn how schools support children with additional needs and what help should be in place for every child. This session will help you understand what Ordinarily Available Provision and SEN Support look like in practice, and give you the confidence to have informed conversations with your child's school.

What The Workshop Covers:

- Learn what Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) means and the support schools should offer all children every day.
- Understand how this support comes before a child is placed on SEN Support or starts the Graduated Approach.
- Feel more confident talking with your child's teacher or SENCO about the help your child may need.

 **22nd January 2026**  **10am - 11:30am**

 **Online Via MS Teams**

Use the link or scan the QR to book your place now:

[Understanding SEND Support](https://forms.office.com/e/KCjxYMRHKY)



Booking Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/KCjxYMRHKY>

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD: A PARENTS GUIDE



Preparing for adulthood works best when everyone works together. This session will explain what Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) means in practice and how schools, families and services work together to support children and young people to prepare for adulthood.

What The Workshop Covers:

- What Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) is and why it is important
- The 4 key areas of PfA
- How you as a parent can help at home with simple, practical steps
- What schools and settings are expected to do
- Tips, advice, and useful resources to make the journey easier

 **26th February 2026**  **10am - 11:30am**

 **Online Via MS Teams**

Use the link or scan the QR to book your place now:

[Preparing for Adulthood](https://forms.office.com/e/FTTHPCCnBz)



Booking Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/FTTHPCCnBz>

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS – CAN YOU HELP?

The Inclusive Recruitment Team are working with Walsall College to try and find placements for young people enrolled on the colleges Supported Internship Programme.

Supported internships are work-based learning programmes that gives young people with additional needs real job experience and tailored support to help them move into paid employment. Offering a work placement can provide valuable work experience and help interns develop skills for future employment.

Alongside this, Interns add real value to the council's workforce and the development of our staff for the future. Walsall Library are currently hosting Interns, as well as a number of Walsall maintained borough schools, but there are still a few interns looking for placements.

If your department can offer a placement or would like to learn more, please get in touch with recruitment@walsall.gov.uk.



HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND HAVE THEIR SAY – JOIN THE YOUTH SEND FORUM!



YOUTH SEND FORUM

We're looking for amazing young people in **Year 4 or above** who have **Special Educational Needs (SEND)** to join our **Youth SEND Forum**.

If you enjoy sharing ideas and want to help improve SEND services, we'd love for you to get involved!

When & Where?

- 🕒 5:30pm
- 💻 Online – via Microsoft Teams

What to Expect:

- **Share** your thoughts, ideas, and experiences.
- **Help Improve** SEND support and services in Walsall.
- **Make new friends** with other young people like you!

Get in touch if you'd like to join!

✉ localoffer@walsall.gov.uk

 **Walsall Council**

Next Forum

Date: Monday 16th February

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: **Walsall Civic Centre**



Do you know a child or young person in Year 4 or above with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who wants their voice heard?

The Youth SEND Forum is a fantastic opportunity for them to share experiences, influence decisions, and help shape SEND services in Walsall.

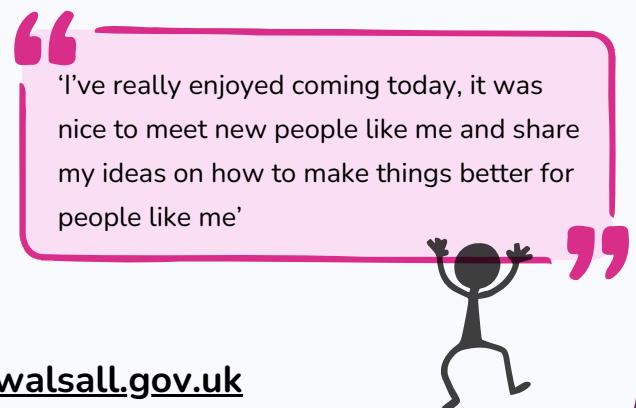
Why encourage them to join?

- It's a safe, supportive space to meet others and build confidence.
- They can make a real difference to local SEND services.
- Fun activities and refreshments included!



What have members achieved so far?

- Explored and reviewed the Local Offer to improve accessibility for young people.
- Shared honest feedback on what works well and what needs to change.
- Discussed Co-Production and created a Co-Production Charter with professionals.
- Talked about Preparing for Adulthood and the support needed for the future.
- Shared experiences of school support and its impact.
- Spoke directly to Ofsted inspectors about what matters most to young people with SEND in Walsall.



For more information contact Sam at: localoffer@walsall.gov.uk

YOUR VOICE MATTERS – JOIN OUR LIVED EXPERIENCE WORK

We know that the best way to shape services for children and young people with SEND is by listening to those who know them best – their families. That's why parent participation is at the heart of our work.

Parents who have shared their family's journey have been integral in shaping and improving our services. Your experiences help us understand what works well and where we can do better, ensuring that our partnership truly reflects the needs of the community.

We're really keen to hear about your experiences and how our partnership has supported you along the way. By getting involved, you'll be helping us make positive changes that benefit families across Walsall.

Get in touch with us at localoffer@walsall.gov.uk. Together, we can make a real difference.

JOIN OUR SEND PARENT PARTNERSHIP GROUP



SEND PARENT PARTNERSHIP GROUP

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with **Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)**? We want to hear from you!

Join our **SEND Parent Partnership Group** to share your experiences, provide valuable feedback, and help shape SEND services in Walsall

Why Join?

- **Have your say** - Share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences.
- **Make a difference** - Contribute to improving SEND support and services in Walsall.
- **Connect with others** - Meet with other parents and carers like you!

Together, we can create positive change!

If you're interested in joining, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Sam:
samantha.house@walsall.gov.uk

 Walsall Council

Are you passionate about making a difference for children and young people with SEND? We're looking for more parents and carers to join our Parent Partnership Group.

This group meets every **4 weeks**, either online via MS Teams or in person, to discuss a variety of topics and share ideas that help shape local services.

Your feedback is invaluable, and we'd love to hear your voice!

The partnership group has made me feel involved in making positive changes. I feel heard and that my opinions are valued. It is a great opportunity to meet with parents in the same boat which is great as we are able to share tips & help each other. Sam is fantastic makes us all feel welcome

Next Meeting:

When: **Tuesday, 20th January**

Time: **10:30am - 12:30pm**

Location: **In Person at Walsall Civic Centre**

For more details or to get involved, please contact us at

Localoffer@walsall.gov.uk.



WALSALL WINTER HAF (HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD) PROGRAMME 2025

The Winter Programme was a resounding success, delivering engaging activities and meaningful support that positively impacted families and communities. This year's programme featured a variety of family activities designed to capture the joy and spirit of the festive season, creating memorable experiences for all who attended.

Keep an eye out for the exciting Easter Programme, launching soon with fun-filled activities for families!



What is the HAF Programme?

HAF (Holiday Activities & Food Programme) is a free programme for children and young people aged **5-16yrs** who are eligible for free schools' meals, and other vulnerable groups.

Children will be guaranteed healthy food on each day, and all activities will include a hot healthy meal.

What activities are there?

The HAF Programme offers two types of activities:

- A **'Pick and Mix'** (choose up to 4 sessions from a range of activities on offer such as football, dance, code breaking & growing your own vegetables).
- A **Family Activity** (an event where parent/s attend with their child / children, e.g. a cinema trip).



There are over 75 providers offering children and young people, fun, locally based activities while providing the opportunity for learning and developing new skills and as part of the programme, children will also be given the opportunity to try out healthy and exciting recipes with their family and learn more about healthy eating.

For more info on the Walsall HAF go to the webpage: [WalsallHAF](https://www.walsall.gov.uk/walsallhaf) or use this QR code:



You can also contact the team on **01922 653899** or email **WR4C@walsall.gov.uk**

In addition, you can follow **Walsall Families in the KNOW** on Facebook and **@WRight4Children** on Twitter / X to keep updated with any HAF updates.

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT



YOU ARE NOT ALONE - FREE ONLINE PARENT DROP-INS

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our **no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers.**

Topics often included:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone

If you are interested, email sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send them the Zoom link for the December drop-ins.

TOGETHERNESS

Bringing the Solihull Approach to the world



Togetherness pathways - supporting emotional health and wellbeing

Find your journey for stronger relationships and enhanced emotional wellbeing and follow evidence-based educational content developed by clinical psychologists, health practitioners, and psychotherapists. Tried and tested by parents and young people.

Free online learning pathways for all parents, carers, grandparents and teens.

Nurturing emotional health and wellbeing from bump to 19+ years.

Walsall Council are proud sponsors of Togetherness, offering free access to expertly designed online learning pathways for parents, carers, grandparents and teens living in the region.

To access any of these courses for free please visit

Walsall | Togetherness. Enter code **HIPPO** for free access.



PARENT/CARER SUPPORT

WALSALL SENDIASS WORKSHOPS

For more info and book your space contact Walsall

SENDIASS here: [WalsallSENDIASS](#)

Date	Time	Session	Venue
Wednesday 14th January 2026	11am-12:30pm	Workshop 5 – How to make a request for a Parental lead EHCP	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Tuesday 10th February 2026	10am-11:30am	Workshop 6 – Appealing school placement (Section I)	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Thursday 12th March 2026	10am-11:30am	Workshop 7 – How to make a request for a parent lead EHCP	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Monday 20th April 2026	10am-11:30am	Workshop 8 – How to approach a school meeting and any ongoing problems	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Thursday 14th May 2026	11am -12:30pm	Workshop 9 – Refusal to Assess workshop	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Tuesday 9th June 2026	11am-12:30pm	Workshop 10 – Refusal to Issue Workshop	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Tuesday 14th July 2026	10:00-11:30am	Workshop 11 – Surviving the Summer holidays and Activities available	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)

HEALTH SUPPORT

SUPPORTED WAITING NETWORK DATES

The supported waiting partnership network meetings will be running every month where there will be guest speakers to advise on a variety of monthly topics and many services who support with access to additional support for you and your child.

Each monthly meeting will be held on the **Last Wednesday** of the month at **Manor Farm Community Association, Rushall, WS4 1EU**

Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday 28th January
- Wednesday 25th February
- Wednesday 25th March
- Wednesday 29th April

For more information or further advice please call: **01922 656463**
or email pals.officer@nhs.net



NHS BLACK COUNTRY 0-18 YEARS ONLINE RESOURCE TO HELP PARENTS AND CARERS



The NHS Black Country 0-18 years website is a powerful resource designed to help parents and carers manage common childhood illnesses – from coughs and colds to rashes and asthma – with confidence and clarity.

Using a simple traffic light system, the site guides families on:



- When it's safe to manage at home
- When to monitor and seek advice
- When to act quickly and get urgent help.

Healthier Futures
Black Country Integrated Care System



Explore the website here: <https://www.blackcountry0-18.nhs.uk/>

HCP 0-19 SEND SEND TEAM DROP INS

The HCP 0-19 SEND Team are offering weekly drop-in sessions covering a variety of topics. Toileting, sleep and emotions being just a few.

When: Every Thursday 9:30-11:30am

Where: Child Development Centre, Coalheath Lane, Walsall, WS4 1PL

For more information please contact the single point of access on:

01922 603074



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Define Fine is a national parent carer led peer support organisation.

Our team all have lived experience of children and young people with school attendance difficulties, sometimes referred to as EBSA: Emotionally Based School Avoidance.

Parent Carers are invited to join our national closed Facebook parent peer support group of over 7.5k members. We provide information, peer to peer support, regular Q&A sessions online bookable through Eventbrite.

For more info use this link: [**DefineFine**](https://www.definefine.org.uk)

YOUNGMINDS

The **YOUNGMINDS** website is full of advice and information to give young people the tools to look after their mental health.

YOUNGMINDS has a great bank of resources to support children and young people with SEND with their mental health.

For more info check out this link: [**YOUNGMINDS**](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)



Scan to
get started
or visit:
kooth.com



It can be hard to know what to do when you have something on your mind. That's why Kooth is here. We are totally free and anonymous — and we're here whenever you need us. Go to kooth.com whenever you're worried, feeling low — or just need someone to listen.



Feeling worried?

Text chat with our team. They're here to support you with whatever you're going through. We won't ask for your name or address and you don't need a referral from your doctor.



Feeling alone?

Use our forums and discussion boards to get advice, find people who feel the same — and to help others. You can also share your experiences anytime by submitting a poem or article.



Feeling unsure?

It may help you to write your feelings down, or to set a personal goal. At Kooth, you can set goals and use an online journal whenever you choose.



Feeling lost?

We have a tonne of helpful podcasts, videos and articles on all kinds of topics, from self harm, anxiety and depression to coming out, relationships and self care.



Free
to use



No doctor's
referral
needed



We're a
BACP* accredited
service

Live text chats with
our team from midday
to 10pm on weekdays
and from 6pm to 10pm
at weekends.

Start here
kooth.com: free access to support today.

bacp | Accredited
Service

*BACP stands for British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. We're an accredited service, and our practitioners are either BACP accredited or working towards it. You're in safe hands.

Free Emotional Wellbeing Support for Young People in Walsall



Private



Anonymous



Secure



Wysa's **AI wellbeing coach** provides a safe, non-judgmental space to talk about anything on your mind. Whether you're struggling with **sleep**, **exam stress**, or just need support, Wysa is here to listen.

Gain full access to **150+ self-help exercises**, from mindfulness and meditation to therapy tools for anxiety and depression.

**Get FREE student
wellbeing support today!**

Scan the QR code from your phone OR use the link:
<https://get.wysa.uk/rVzkVH2Lm8b>
If asked for a code, please enter: **BCWA2023**

Please note: Free resources for students can ONLY be accessed via the QR code or link above, not by downloading the Wysa Everyday Mental Health App from the Google Play or App Store. Only accessible via mobile device, not accessible from a desktop device.

Student download



CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES

SHORT BREAKS provide opportunities for children and young people with a disability to spend time away from their families, relax, develop new friendships, take part in new experiences, and have fun doing positive activities. They also give families a break from their caring responsibilities, a chance to rest or spend time with their other children.



The Universal offer can include activities like leisure and sports services, youth and play services, voluntary and community facilities and sports and games clubs

The Targeted offer - School Holiday activities, to access this, children and young people should:

- be aged from 8 to 17 years old (up to their 18th birthday)
 - live in Walsall
 - have a diagnosed disability and
 - be in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA)
 - An up-to-date short breaks passport (reviewed and updated within the last 12 months)
- is required to access the service, to ensure we have the right information for the planning of activities and support for our children and young people

The Short Break booklet and expression of interest online form for the activity schemes for every holiday (excluding Christmas) is available six weeks before each school holiday. For information on how to sign up please email: shortbreaks@walsall.gov.uk

YOUTH HUB - WALSALL CITY CENTRE

Named by young people, 'Our Place', offers a safe environment for people aged 11-19 to chill out, have fun, and connect with each others. Our Place is **free** to enter, offers snacks and refreshments, and young people will have to sign in on entry.

Located in the former Clive Marks school uniform shop in the Saddlers Shopping Centre, Our Place will be staffed by the council's skilled and experienced youth workers.

The Hub Opening Times:

Term Time:

Monday - Friday - 3pm - 6:30pm

School Holidays

Monday - Friday - 12pm - 3pm

Location: The Saddlers Shopping Centre, Walsall WS1 1YT



CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES




SCAN ME

15 - 25

The Positive Outcomes Project (POP) supports 15–25-year-olds in Walsall with challenges such as mental health, employment, finances, and isolation. The service offers mentoring and one-to-one support through referrals, connecting individuals with trained staff for tailored wellbeing support.








Wednesdays
3:30pm - 5:30pm

- Socialising
- Safe Space
- Confidence Building
- Hobbies and Activities

Fridays
11am - 1pm

- CV Writing
- Job Searching
- Interview Preparation
- College and Apprenticeship Support

Electric Palace, Palace Play, Shop, Eat, Blakenall Row, Walsall, WS3 1LW






popwalsall.co.uk




POP Ups

POP Up' Sessions
Coming to a Space Near You!

Our mobile, flexible sessions take place wherever young people are – from schools and colleges to youth centres, town centres, community events, and even the Youth Bus.

Tailored to local needs, sessions run weekly or as needed.

Key Focus Areas Include:

- Mental wellbeing
- Life skills & employability
- CV writing & mock interviews
- Loneliness & isolation

Follow us on social media to see where we'll pop up next!

POP Outs

POP Out Sessions
Coming to a Space Near You!

Fun and informal activities led by our POP team in community spaces. Designed to get young people active indoor and outdoors while building confidence in a supportive environment.

Activities might include:

- Community wellbeing walks
- Games like badminton at local leisure centres
- Social group meetups and outdoor gathering

If you'd like to host a session at your venue or have any questions, feel free to get in touch directly!

Mobile Hub


Keep an eye on our social media to find out dates/times and location of the youth bus. If you would like the youth bus at your venue please get in contact with us!






Kumarh@bloxwichcp.co.uk
Haddonb@bloxwichcp.co.uk

KINGS TRUST - CONFIDENCE, COURSES & CAREERS






Build your confidence Ages 16 to 30

Develop skills for life and work and gain a new perspective by joining one of our confidence-building courses.


Start building your confidence →



Get a job Ages 16 to 30

Work with top employers that are ready to hire fresh talent – such as the NHS, M&S and HSBC. And receive support to create a standout CV and develop interview techniques.

Build skills for work →



Start your business Ages 16 to 30

Develop the skills and knowledge you need to launch and run a successful business. Create your business plan with the support of a mentor, and apply for funding if you need it.

Kickstart your business journey →

Whatever challenges you're facing, if you're aged 16 to 30, The King's Trust (formerly known as The Prince's Trust) is here for you.

You've got what it takes to gain the confidence and skills to get a job. But sometimes it takes that first step, and we're here to help.

For more information and what courses are coming up check out their website:

KingsTrust

CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES

 **Black Country Healthcare**
NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Help us shape our service
Share your ideas

 **ARE YOU 12-18?**

DO YOU WANT TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

MEETING ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Come join us for our first meeting!
You can join for as long as you would like

There will be:

- ★ Crafts / art activity
- ★ Snacks available

4.30 PM - 5.30 PM

Walsall CAMHS, Canalside
Abbotts Street, Bloxwich
Walsall, WS3 3AZ

For more information call: 01922 607 400
or email
bchft.blackcountrycypf.coproduction@nhs.net

AFTER-SCHOOL GARDEN CHOIR WITH B'OPERA



**EVERY FRIDAY
3.10-4PM**

CALDMORE COMMUNITY GARDEN

GIRLS YOUTH CLUB

Every Friday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at Palfrey Park, Dale Street, WS1 4AF

Only £1 per session!

AGE: 8 - 16



IQRA
Supplementary School and Youth Provision

For more information
Call: 01922 644006
Email: info@iq-ss.co.uk

 **STAR LIGHT YOUTH CODING AND GAMING CLUB**

Every Saturday
2PM - 4PM
From 4th Jan 2025
Book Online



Gaming

Coding

Virtual Reality

Relax with friends

Free Entry
Age 9 - 16

Drop off sessions
25a Station St, Walsall, WS2 9JZ
07396 765853
www.starlightmulticic.co.uk

Funded By
 west midlands police and crime commissioner



FAMILY EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES



NEW SENSORY ACTIVITY CENTRE - AN INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR CHILDREN 0-11 WITH SEND

SENTastix is a gentle alternative to busy play centres, ideal for children who thrive in quieter, more structured spaces.

Each area within the centre supports small-group, slow-paced play, allowing children to sit, explore, pretend and engage at their own pace in a calm and manageable environment.

For more info visit their website: [SENTastix](https://www.sentastix.co.uk)

Location: 21 Market Place, Bloxwich, Walsall | WS3 2JE



OUR SPECIAL ANGELS - SEND CHILDCARE PROVISION

Our Special Angels have recently partnered with the Walsall HAF programme.

Our Special Angels offer a SEND specific programme for children and young people with complex needs and personal care requirements.

They provide high-quality inclusive holiday clubs and weekend care for children SEND. **Please note this is a paid for service.**

For more info please visit their website: [Our Special Angels](https://www.ourspecialangels.co.uk)



KIDZ TO ADULTZ MIDDLE

Date & Time: Thursday 13th March 2025, 9:30am to 4pm

Location: Coventry Building Society Arena,

This free event promises to be an invaluable opportunity to explore over 100 exhibitors showcasing the latest innovations, services and support available for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs.

From educational resources to assistive technologies, funding, equipment, WAV vehicles, plus a whole programme of free CPD and educational seminars for parents and professionals,

For more info and how to book check out the website: [**KidztoAdultz**](https://www.kidztoadultz.co.uk)



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we step into the new year, we want to thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Here's to a year filled with positivity, progress, and partnership.

SEND SERVICES FEEDBACK

Please could you spare a few minutes to complete this feedback form on your experience with the SEND Services. Please use the QR code or link below. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

[SENDSERVICEFeedback](#)



FEEDBACK

If you have any feedback or wish something to be included in the next SEND Communications please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Next Issue: SEND Services Communications Spring 2

Submit your updates by 11th March 26 to be included!

Please use the below emails

Sam: samantha.house@walsall.gov.uk

Local Offer: localoffer@walsall.gov.uk



Thank you for being part of the Walsall SEND community!



Walsall Council

