Walsall SEND Service Communications



AUTUMN 2 2025

WELCOME TO THE WALSALL SEND SERVICE AUTUMN TERM 2 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

We're now approaching the end of the joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) Local Area SEND and AP inspection, which has taken place over the past few weeks. Inspectors have reviewed evidence, visited settings, and spoken with families and partners to understand how we support children and young people with SEND.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, your input has been invaluable. We'll share the official findings once the report is published.



SPAGHETTI TOWERS AND DOUGHNUTS: YOUTH SEND FORUM GETS CREATIVE AT THE CIVIC!

During October half term, the Youth SEND Forum met in person at Walsall Civic Centre for a fun and engaging session. Members explored the venue, connected with each other, and took part in meaningful activities.

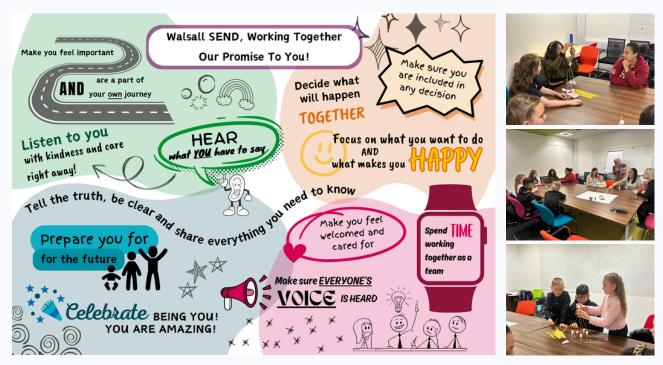
The day began with a spaghetti tower challenge, encouraging teamwork and discussions around communication, collaboration, and respect. Parents and carers joined in, adding to the fun!

Afterwards, the group shared their experiences of the forum, what they enjoy, what could improve, and ideas for growth. New members of the group looked at the coproduction charter and gave their thoughts, They really liked the layout and the bright colours and felt it reflected their ideas of co-production.

Of course, no meeting is complete without treats, doughnuts and cookies were enjoyed as conversations and friendships flourished.

Thank you to everyone who made the day so positive and productive. We can't wait for our next in-person meeting after Christmas!

For more information or to get involved, contact the <u>Local Offer Lead</u>





SEN CASEWORK OFFICERS - ANNUAL REVIEW

How We Support Families Through the EHCP Journey

Who Are Our SEN Casework Officers?

In Walsall, we have two SEN Casework Officer teams:

- New Assessment Officers support families during the initial EHCP process
- Annual Review Officers manage ongoing EHCP reviews

If your child has had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has been agreed, you'll be supported by one of our Annual Review SEN Casework Officers.

How They Support You

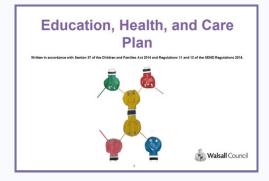
Our Annual Review SEN Casework Officers are here to ensure your child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continues to reflect their current needs and aspirations. They work with you, your child, and professionals to keep the plan accurate and up to date.

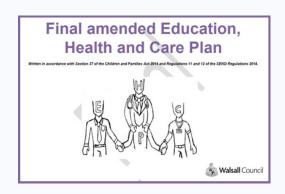
Our officers are here to:

- Guide you through the annual review process and explain what to expect.
- Listen to your concerns and answer any questions you may have.
- Collect **updated evidence** from schools, settings, and professionals.
- Review progress and identify any changes needed to the EHCP.
- Make sure the plan reflects your child's current needs, outcomes, and future goals.
- Keep the process on track and ensure timelines are met.
- Champion your child's voice and potential throughout the review.

Working Together

They're part of Walsall's wider SEND team, working with schools, health, and social care to help achieve the best outcomes for your child.





EMPOWERING PARENTS: FREE SEND WORKSHOPS

Following feedback from our recent survey of parents, carers, and professionals, we've listened to what matters most to you. We're excited to announce two new workshops coming up, designed to empower and support families of children and young people with SEND:

Understanding SEND Support in Schools

- 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.

Date & Time: Thursday 22nd January - 10am - 11:30am

Location: Online - Via MS Teams

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

Preparing for Adulthood with Your SEND Child/Young Person

- Understand what 'Preparing for Adulthood' (PfA) means for you and your child.
- Learn what you can do now, whatever your child's age, to support their future.
- Explore the key areas that matter: independence, health, education, employment and community life.
- Feel more confident with practical, early planning and making informed decisions together.

Date & Time: Thursday 26th February - 10am - 11:30am

Location: Online - Via MS Teams

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

WALSALL SENDIASS SUPPORT SURVEY

FACE Walsall PCF is collecting feedback to better understand awareness, experiences and needs across our community.

They are inviting parents, carers, young people and professionals to complete a short survey about the Walsall SENDIAS Service.

Please use the QR code or link to the right to complete the survey. Thank you





Walsall SENDIAS Survey

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT

HENRY - Creating a Healthy, Happy Start for Every Child



HENRY programmes and workshops are now available in Walsall, offering free, local support for parents and carers of children aged **0-12** years.



Whether you're looking for ideas to encourage healthy eating, create healthier habits and routines, or better understand your child's behaviour, HENRY is here to help. Group-based programmes and one-off workshops are packed with practical tools and strategies to support your family's health and wellbeing. For more information and how to get in touch, use this link: <u>HENRY</u>





More Info: MettaMinds More Info: Collingwood



Website: https://www.facewalsall.com/





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 <u>sallywagter@gmail.com</u> 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

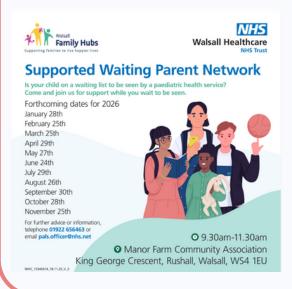
SENDIASS here: WalsallSENDIASS

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 <u>Last</u>

<u>Wednesday</u> 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**

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY (SALT) DROP IN

Monday 15th December 9:15-11:30am

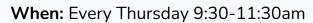
Virtual Drop In Session

If you're worried about your child's communication skills and your child is not already known to our service, please come to one of our drop-in sessions for advice and support.

For more info, email the SaLT team: walsall.slt@nhs.net or call: 01922 605400

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.



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

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

01922 603074



Black Country Integrated Care Board





HEALTH SUPPORT



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



get started or visit: kooth.com

Feeling alone?

Use our forums and

advice, find people who feel the same

- and to help others. You can also

share your experiences anytime by

Feeling lost?

anxiety and depression to coming out,

submitting a poem or article.

relationships and self care.

discussion boards to get



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.

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 unsure?

X

0 We're a

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

We have a tonne of helpful

podcasts, videos and articles on all kinds of topics, from self harm,

kooth.com: free access to support today.

bacp Accredite

*BACP stands for British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. We're an accredited service, and our practitioners are either BACI



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/rVzkVH2LmBb If asked for a code, please enter: BCWA2023

Student download



CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES



Phoebe's Green Christmas is a **free**, digitial festive show created especially for neurodiverse children, those with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), and children with life-limiting conditions. I

Expect music, puppets, sensory fun, and lots of Christmas cheer! The show is available to watch from **3rd November 2025 to 9th January 2026.**

For more information in how to book a slot please use this link: **EmbracingArts**



KIC RADIO - AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES



KIC Inspire: Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: Central to our mission is KIC Inspire, a dynamic volunteering and training programme tailored for individuals aged 13 to 25. For more information on how to get involved use this link: **KicRadio**

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

CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES







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





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

FAMILY EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES



WINTER GLOW SANTA EXPERIENCE & LIGHT TRAIL

The Sensory friendly sessions allow children to visit Father Christmas in a calmer environment with less bookings per time slot, music and lights kept to a lower level, and the elves will be ready to greet the children in a way that suits them.

For more info use this link; Malvern Winter Glow

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY - RELAXED SANTA STEAM TRAIN SPECIALS

A relaxed experience featuring a relaxed Santa stage show with lower volume and lighting on low with reduced capacity. You will have your own space on the train either a table or private compartment, present for each child, sweet treat for each passenger and a free return ticket for each child for the 2026 season.

Use this link for more info: **Severn Valley Railway**



TAMWORTH SNOW DOME - SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Sen sessions offer a relaxed experience with lower sound and lighting levels, fewer people, extra wheel chair spaces and a calm supportive atmosphere. More info: **Snowdome**

















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 1

Submit your updates by 7th January 26 to be included!

Please use the below emails

Sam: samantha.house@walsall.gov.uk

Local Offer: local Offer: local Offer: local Offer: local Offer: local offer@walsall.gov.uk



Thank you for being part of the Walsall SEND community!









