

[View this email in your browser](#)



NEWSLETTER

February 2025



PCF Volunteer Training

Our training journey began with a solid foundation in Week 1, featuring expert contributions from leaders like Cllr Adam Llangan and Lisa Alfred from CONTACT. Building on that momentum, Week 4 broadened the discussion with presentations from the SEN and Autism teams, focusing on the roles of inclusion officers, specialist education placements, and the latest DfE guidance.

In Week 2, IASS led an engaging session that provided practical strategies for accessing the right information and services, while Week 3 offered an in-depth exploration of essential topics from social care assessments and mediation processes to the evolving roles of SENCOs and the power of co-production. These

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

and successes. The training is equipping our volunteers with the skills and confidence needed to support families navigating the SEND system. We are incredibly grateful for the passion and commitment of our volunteers and professionals as they work together to break down barriers and drive meaningful change for SEND families.

If you're inspired by our work and wish to join our team, please get in touch via our [contact page](#).

[PCF Contact Page](#)



🌟 Thank You for Joining the Neurodevelopmental Forum! 🌟

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the discussion on support for neurodivergent children and young people in Cheshire West and Chester.

Check out the blog and slides from the event here: <https://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/neurodevelopmental-forum>

#CoProduction #InclusionMatters #Neurodiversity #SEND #ParentCarerVoice

Neurodevelopmental Forum

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼



PCF Events



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

PCF Event - Online

Thurs 13th March

10am - 11.30am

Transitions & Pathways

Want to learn more about preparing for
transitions and pathways available?

Join us online on Thurs 13th March at 10am

Free Zoom Event - All Parents/Carers Welcome

Book online on our website

www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on

 Join Us for our Online Forum-Transitions & Pathways 

Are you navigating the educational transition phases for your child with SEND? Join us on March 13th, 2025, for an insightful online event. This session will focus on key education transition phases and pathways, offering valuable insights and real parent experiences.

We'll hear from key professionals, including a special speaker from the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI), funded by the DfE, who have been working with our Local Authority on Preparation for Adulthood.

🌟 What to Expect:

- Hear from parents about their real-life experiences.
- Gain insights into the SEND pathway and transition phases.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

- Discover the latest initiatives from professionals working with SEND families.

🔗 RSVP Here: <https://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/transitions-march25>

We look forward to seeing you there!

#SEND #TransitionPhases #EducationPathways #ParentCarerForum
#CheshireWest #NDTI #PreparationForAdulthood Sent from my iPhone

Book Your Place Here





Theatre Porto, Whitby Park, Ellesmere Port

Are you a parent carer of children and young people with SEND? Come along for an informal get-together to meet other SEND parents and carers.

This is a great chance to have a chat, share experiences, and connect with others who understand the challenges and joys of supporting children with special needs.

What to expect:

- A warm and welcoming space to meet new people.
- Casual conversations over a cup of tea or coffee.
- The chance to connect with other families in your community.

Whether you're looking for a friendly chat or just want to meet some new faces, we'd love to see you there!

All SEND parents and carers & children, and young people are welcome

www.pcfcheshirewest.org

☕ Coffee & Chat – Ellesmere Port (Evening)

Are you a parent carer of a child or young person with SEND? Join us for a friendly and informal Coffee & Chat session on Monday, 17th March, from 6 PM to 7 PM at Theatre Porto, Whitby Park, Ellesmere Port.

This is a great chance to:

- ☑ Meet other SEND parents and carers
- ☑ Share experiences in a supportive space
- ☑ Enjoy a relaxed chat over tea or

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

No need to book—just come along! All SEND parents, carers, and young people are welcome. ❤️

Find out more: www.pcfcheshirewest.org

#SENDsupport #ParentCarerForum #EllesmerePort #CoffeeAndChat
#CheshireWest

Find Out More...



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

Drop-In Session

Coffee & Chat
Thurs 20th March
All Welcome
10am - 12pm

Hosted by: **Information, Advice & Support Service (IASS)**

IASS helps parents and carers, children and young people who have difficulties with learning, and or a disability from birth to 25 years. They offer a confidential service which gives parents, children and young people impartial advice and information to make informed decisions.

Your chance to give feedback and ask questions.

Chance to catch up with other parents and carers in an informal setting.



Venue: New Scene Centre, Newton Lane, Chester CH2 2HD

www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on

☕ Coffee & Chat ☕

Join us for an informal Coffee & Chat session on Thursday, 20th March, from 10 AM to 12 PM at Live Cheshire, Chester!

Hosted by PCF - Information, Advice & Support Service (IASS), this is a great opportunity to:

- ✅ Get impartial advice and support for parents, carers, and young people with SEND
- ✅ Ask questions and share feedback
- ✅ Connect with other parents and carers in a relaxed setting

No need to book—just drop in! All are welcome. ❤️

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

#SENDSupport #ParentCarerForum #CheshireWest #IASS #CoffeeAndChat

More Details....

SAVE THE DATES.....

THE PLEDGE
Your Futures Fair

Funded by UK Government | Cheshire West and Chester | Cheshire & Warrington CAREERS HUB | CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Cheshire West 'Your Futures' Fair
Your Futures Fair is a transition event for students in Cheshire West with EHCPs, in...
www.eventbrite.co.uk



Your Futures Fair - Cheshire West



Are you or someone you know planning for life after school or college? The Your Futures Fair is specifically for young people with EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plans) and additional needs, offering tailored opportunities and support!

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼



4th March 2025



Time: 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM



Location: Dee Banks School, Chester

This event is packed with opportunities to explore education, employment, and training options. Meet local providers, learn about support services, and discover the next steps to shape your future in a way that works for you!



Free tickets available here: [Your Futures Fair Tickets](#)

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cheshire-west-your-futures-fair-tickets-1111758071319?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios

Spread the word to ensure every young person with additional needs has the

chance to plan their future with confidence!



#CheshireWest #YourFuturesFair #EHCP #AdditionalNeeds #Education
#Employment #Opportunities

[Book Your Tickets Here ...](#)



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Sensory Processing
Occupational Therapy
Support Service

NHS
Central Cheshire
Integrated Care Partnership

SPOTSS NEWS

In this issue:

- Team of the Year
- Website Update
- Universal Training
- Sensory Spotlight—Vestibular system
- FAQ

Welcome to our termly newsletter, spring 2025

In here you will find more information on SPOTSS as a service and what we have been busy working on over the last few months, as well as links for training and how to find out more about our service.

🔔 SPOTSS Spring 2025 Newsletter is here! 🔔

Check out the latest updates from the Sensory Processing OT Support Service (SPOTSS)! 🎉

📌 Highlights in this issue:

- 🏆 AHP Team of the Year! - Huge congratulations to the team for their recognition at Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust! 🙌
- 🌐 Website Update! - new site is live with referral info, training links & resources for schools and parents.

📺 Universal Training - Free training sessions for schools —

- 🌀 Sensory Spotlight: Vestibular System - Understanding movement, balance & how to support sensory needs!

📞 New! SPOTSS Info Line via Eventbrite for Parents Carers Parents across Cheshire West & East can now get information to :

👉 Discuss:

- ✅ The SPOTSS service offer
- ✅ How to access support
- ✅ What input from the service could look like
- ✅ Broad sensory advice

🔗 Read the full newsletter

<https://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/spotss-spring-25-news>

#SPOTSS #SensorySupport #SEND #OccupationalTherapy #ParentSupport
#InclusiveEducation

[Click Here to Read the Full Newsletter](#)

NHS
Central Cheshire
Integrated Care Partnership

Concerned about your child's speech and language?

There are many ways to help children learn to talk and only some children will need to see a speech and language therapist for them to make progress.

At every stage you will be the best person to help your child on their journey to developing speech and language.

I have a concern that my child needs extra support to communicate
Does your child need extra support?
Click here for more ideas and advice >>

Want to help your child to talk?
All children can benefit from the strategies and activities parents can use
Click here for some ideas >>

I am still worried about my child's communication
Click here to find if they would benefit from additional specialist support >>

Because you **matter**

👤 New Speech & Language Therapy (SALT) Pathway Roadmap! 👤

If you're looking for guidance on Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) support, check out the CCICP SALT Pathway Roadmap! This resource outlines the journey for children and young people accessing SALT services, helping families and professionals understand the steps involved.

- ◆ What you'll find in the roadmap:
 - ✓ How to access SALT support
 - ✓ Pathways for different levels of need
 - ✓ Guidance for parents, schools, and professionals

🔗 View the full roadmap here:

https://www.mcht.nhs.uk/application/files/7817/2830/8842/CCICP_SALT_Pathway_roadmap_v08.pdf

✉ Got questions? Contact ccicp.therapyservices@mcht.nhs.uk for more

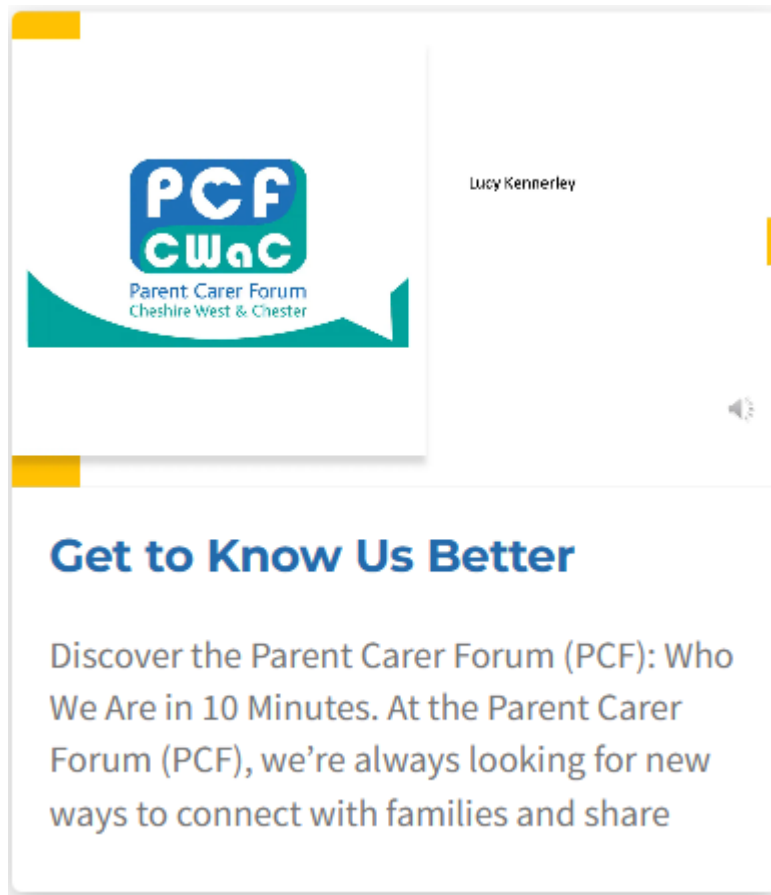
#SpeechAndLanguageTherapy #SALT #SEND #ParentSupport #InclusiveEducation
Sent from my iPhone

[View the SALT Roadmap](#)



PCF BLOGS.....

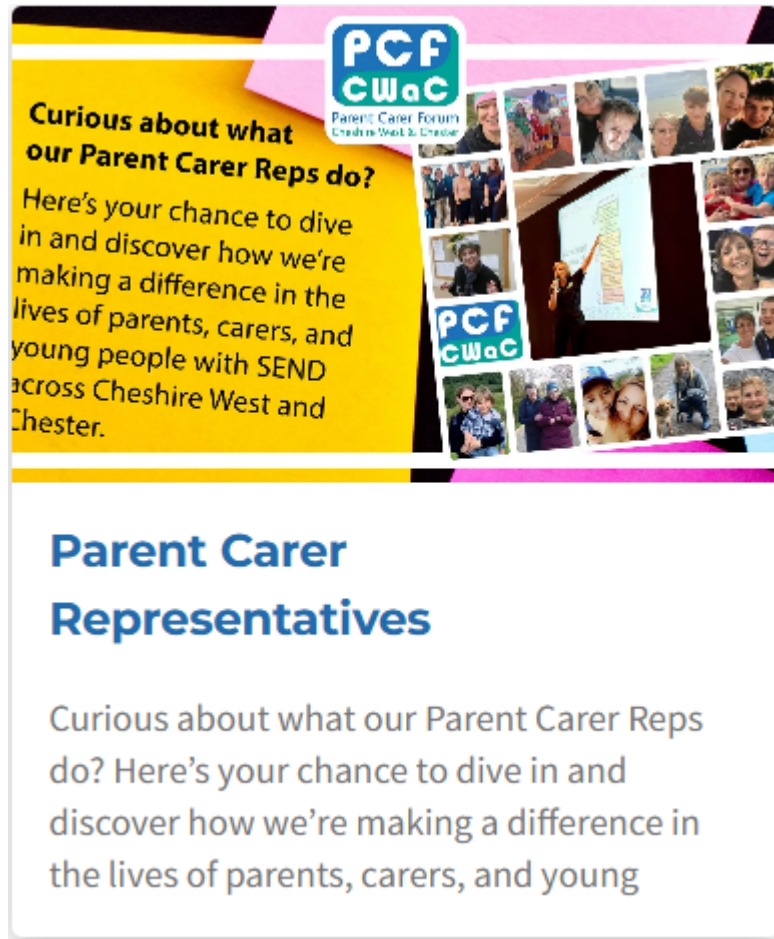
In order to keep you up to date on all of the workstreams we are attending to ensure that your experiences are heard we are creating a new BLOG area on our website.



Discover the Parent Carer Forum (PCF): Who We Are in 10 Minutes

At the Parent Carer Forum (PCF), we're always looking for new ways to connect with families and share what we do. To offer a more accessible and engaging way of learning about us, we've created a 10-minute recording that highlights who we are, what we do, and how we support SEND families across Cheshire West and Chester.

[Click Here to Read the Full Blog](#) 🖱️



Here's a sneak peek inside our Parent Volunteer Handbook:

- 📄 **Welcome Letter– Get acquainted with our community!**
- 💬 **What is the Parent Carer Forum? – Discover our mission and how we're making a difference.**
- ❤️ **Core Values – Learn about the principles that unite us.**
- ✅ **What We Do...and Don't! – Understand our approach and what you can expect.**
- 👥 **Role of the Representative – Your role in supporting and representing parents and carers.**
- 🔗 **Key Contacts & Legislation– Essential info at your fingertips!**

This is just the start. We offer training and support- all designed to empower our reps in their role. ✨

👉 Find out more and explore here:



🌈 Join Our Growing Team at the Parent Carer Forum – Vacancies Available! 🌈

Are you a parent or carer of a child with additional needs or a disability in Cheshire West and Chester? ☀️ The Parent Carer Forum (PCF CWAC) is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join as school representatives for:

- 💡 Cloughwood Academy
- 💡 Hinderton School
- 💡 Hebden Green School
- 💡 Various mainstream schools & Resource Provisions
 - 💡 Nursery Settings
 - 💡 Post -16 Settings

Why Join Us?

📣 **Amplify Your Voice:** Represent the perspectives of parents and carers in your school community. Your feedback will directly influence local services and SEND policies.

🤝 **Make a Difference:** Be part of a team that shapes positive changes for children and young people with SEND.

🕒 **Flexibility:** You can get involved at a pace that works for you—whether attending meetings, gathering parent feedback, or simply being a point of contact.

What Does a School Rep Do?

- Act as a bridge between parents, schools, and the forum.
- Share information and feedback with the PCF to support collective


Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

area.

How to Get Involved

 Contact Us to express interest or find out more:

 <https://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/contact>

 Learn More: Watch Our Video <https://youtu.be/vcfmJHiGoKw>

 Email the PCF

Don't forget that you can keep up to date with the latest PCF news and signposting information by checking our website and following us on Facebook.

PCF Website





This year's focus:
Health Inequalities and Neurodevelopmental Conditions

Speakers include:

- Prof Umesh Chauhan, *Professor of Primary Care*
- Prof Lucy Bray, *Professor of child health literacy*
- Prof Vicky Karkou, *Professor of Art and wellbeing*
- Dr Susie Roberts, *consultant in public health*
- Dr Christine Wee, *consultant child psychiatrist*
- Dr Monique Botha, *Professor in social and developmental psychology*
- Dr Ewelina Rydzewska-Fazekas, *Director of equality, diversity, and inclusion*

Topics covered include:

- Intersectionality and neurodiversity
- Barriers to healthcare for people with intellectual disability from ethnic backgrounds
 - Access to health and social care for children and young people with SEND
 - Menopause and women with intellectual disability
 - Access to urgent care for those with neurodevelopmental conditions
 - Improving access to therapeutic interventions and more

To learn more visit: www.canddid.nhs.uk/conf25 or scan the QR code below:



Visit Canddid....



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

🚩 Have Your Say on Ofsted's Proposed Changes! 🚩

Ofsted has launched a consultation on its proposed changes to education inspections, aiming to make them fairer and more transparent. One of the key proposals is to replace single-word grades with a more detailed report card system, assessing areas like curriculum, teaching quality, student achievement, leadership, and values.

However, there are concerns that these changes could increase pressure on schools and may not fully reflect the diverse needs of students, especially those with SEND.

🚩 This is an important opportunity for parents, carers, and professionals to have their voices heard.

🔗 Read about the proposals here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-sets-out-proposals-for-fairer-education-inspections-and-new-more-detailed-report-cards>

🔗 Share your views in the consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education>

🔍 For a critical review of these changes, read Special Needs Jungle's analysis here:

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/>

Your feedback can help shape a more inclusive and effective inspection system. Let's make sure the SEND community is part of this conversation!

#SEND #OfstedConsultation #HaveYourSay #EducationMatters Sent from my iPhone



GOV.UK

SEN and disability duties: guidance for school governing boards

Guidance for school governing boards on the board's role and responsibilities supporting pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

gov.uk



Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to let you know that the Department for Education and the Council for Disabled Children have just published two sets of guidance to support school governing boards in understanding their role and responsibilities in relation to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities and empowering them to hold their schools to account.

We would like to invite you please to help raise awareness and use of these publications:

SEN and disability duties: guidance for school governing boards -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sen-and-disability-duties-guidance-for->

the expectations of boards in relation to disability and SEN. It includes a checklist for governors/trustees and suggestions about how to use school performance data and build an evidence base to underpin its strategic oversight.

Equality Act 2010 and disabled pupils: A guide for governors and trustees -

https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/all-resources/filter/inclusion-send/equality-act-2010-and-disabled-pupils-guide-governors?utm_source=CDC+Newsletters&utm_campaign=490f1df4c5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_26_10_30_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_14015fa80f-490f1df4c5-320861409&mc_cid=490f1df4c5&mc_eid=0ad78a8436

The Council for Disabled Children guide which was commissioned by the Department, focuses in more detail on the Equality Act duties to disabled pupils. It sets out the individually owed duties and the more strategic duties; and again it promotes a discussion about the evidence that governing boards need in order to understand how well the duties are being met in their school.

To illustrate how the duties work in practice, the guide uses examples from schools and from case law where claim



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Are you a parent of an autistic young adult who has experience of transitioning from child to adult mental health services?



Researcher: charlotte.roche.2022@live.rhul.ac.uk
 Research Supervisor: lauren.bryan@rhul.ac.uk

understand how parents of autistic young adults experience the process of their child transitioning from child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) to adult mental health services (AMHS).

Inclusion Criteria:

- Being a parent of at least one autistic young adult.
- The young adult has begun, attempted or completed the transition directly from CAMHS to AMHS within the last 10 years.
- The young adult must have a formal diagnosis of autism.
- Living in England.

Participation involves attending a remote interview for approximately one hour. You will be reimbursed for your time with a £10 Amazon voucher.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact me via charlotte.roche.2022@live.rhul.ac.uk, I would be very pleased to provide you with more detailed information.

Ethical Approval Reference ID: 304
 Ethical Approval Date: 25/03/2024

📍 Research Opportunity for Parents of Autistic Children moving to Adult Mental Health Services

Are you a parent of an autistic young person who has experienced the transition from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS)?

A doctoral research study from Royal Holloway, University of London, is looking for at least eight participants to share their experiences in a remote, one-hour interview. Existing research highlights that autistic young adults are more likely to fall through the gap between CAMHS and AMHS, often leaving parents to provide additional emotional support. This study aims to explore how parents experience this transition and the impact it has on them.

This research has been ethically approved and is not affiliated with the NHS. If you're interested or would like more information, please get in touch with Charlotte Roche, Trainee Clinical Psychologist.

📌 Feel free to share with anyone who may be interested!

[#Autism](#) [#CAMHStoAMHS](#) [#ParentCarers](#) [#ResearchOpportunity](#) [#SEND](#)



Common Approach To Children's Health



CATCH is a free mobile app for expectant mums, parents & carers of children aged 0-5! Download today to access reliable health information with health reminders like vaccination dates, guidance for your child's age range and local support services!

<http://www.catchapp.co.uk>

Catchapp

USEFUL CONTACTS



Live Well Cheshire West - <https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk>

Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) - Tel 0300 123
7001 <https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Services/1279>

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Starting Well - <http://www.startingwell.org.uk/>

West Cheshire 0-16 CAMHS Tel - 01244 393200

<https://www.cwp.nhs.uk/services-and-locations/services/west-cheshire-0-16-camhs/>

IPSEA- Call-in Helpline Tel- 0300 22 5899

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

CONTACT Advice Line -Tel-0808 808 3555

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

Get Involved with the PCF....

We are always looking for new parents and carers to join us. You can attend meetings, give feedback to influence the services your child or young person uses or help us to identify the gaps in services. Also, a chance to meet other parents and learn about what's on offer in Cheshire West & Chester.

To contact us.....visit our website www.pcfcheshirewest.org

email contact.pfcwac@gmail.com

or join us for one of our meetings.

We hope to see you soon!



Copyright © 2024 CWAC PCF, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

contact.pfcwac@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).