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February 2022 Members Newsletter

News • Updates • Information
Dates for the Diary

Inspection of Cheshire West and Chester Council from Monday 14 February to Friday 18 February 2022.

The PCF were invited to meet with the Inspectors this week, we wanted our parents and carers to have a voice and share their views on SEND Services for our children and young people.

We had an opportunity to share our survey results with the inspectors. Full analysis and a report will be produced and shared with our parents and carers in due course but in the meantime, here is a summary of the Overall Themes that came from the survey.



Summary - This report has been broken down into 5 areas of Focus.

1. Overall Themes - page 3

2. Demographic of Respondents - page 4

3. Needs Assessments by Sector - page 5

4. Communication - page 8

5. Accessing Support - page 9

Appendix A - Analysis of Responses - page 10

Further statistical analysis will be completed in the forthcoming weeks.

1. Overall Themes

There are some excellent examples of good practice across the whole of the borough. The general feeling is that professionals within Education, Health and Social Care assess children's needs and are providing a good service. However, the overwhelming feedback is that the system to access the services is difficult to navigate, takes too long and there is no clear path for the parents to follow.

Communication

It has been widely reported that communication across the borough is poor. Parents are left with unanswered questions and no clear path of progression. Information is hard to find and littered with jargon. Parents are looking for a roadmap from birth to adulthood. With lack of clear directions parents have sought the help of local charities to support them and signpost them to services.

Assessment of Needs

Parents are feeling that they are not being heard when they are raising issues and concerns with both schools and health professionals. Despite the 0-25 Inclusion Framework not requiring a diagnosis, parents are reporting that until a diagnosis has been confirmed they are not receiving the additional support that their child needs.

Gaps in Services

Many parents identified there are significant gaps in dyslexia assessments resulting in them seeking private assessments. For our more complex children the opportunity for inclusive clubs and childcare is severely lacking. This is resulting in parents having to stop working to ensure their child is cared for outside of school hours. There is a clear inequality in access to social and extracurricular activities between children and young people with SEND and their peers who do not have SEND. The impact of little or no respite after the pandemic is reaching critical levels for some of our families.

Waiting Times

Parents recognise and understand the impact that the COVID-19 has had on waiting times. Flexible approaches such as online therapies have been well received. The strain on the CAMHS service has caused the biggest concern for families. A clear communication about a recovery plan would be well received.

EHCP Process

The introduction of the EHCP Hub has benefitted those who have had access. It has improved communication with parents significantly. However, those families who still don't have access have reported an increase in dissatisfaction with the EHCP process. Families are waiting for long periods of time without any acknowledgement or communication when plans are being updated.

- identifies the needs of children and young people with SEND
- meets the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

Any news about the inspection will be shared on our website so please check our updates online or visit the [LiveWell website](#) for news.

PCF Ofsted Inspection Update

Our Next Forum Event:
Wednesday 9th March 2022
10.30am - 11.30am on Zoom

**Mental Health
Update &
Meet the
Professionals**

Online Meeting for Parents
Book online and we will send you a link before the date.
www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on

Our next Forum is on Wednesday, 9th March, 10.30am - 11.30am

Meeting will be hosted on Zoom

To book a Forum place, [Click Here](#).

Our face-to-face Forum was a success!



Great to hear about Preparation for Adulthood and Supported Internships in Cheshire West & Chester. Special shout out to Dom who shared his experience of a supported internship leading to paid employment.

Also great information from Gill Tyler (Designated Medical Officer for CWaC) about the importance of a healthy lifestyle to prepare our young people for the transition to adulthood.

For those who attended the Forum we have had clarification from Angela Lewis with regards to the service the Endorphins Group will be offering...

We are please to be able to clarify that the Endorphins Group will provide personal care as part of its short breaks sessions and will be working with the current provider to ensure a smooth transition to support the children and young people currently accessing them.

[Click Here to view the presentations from the event.](#)

Parent Volunteer Workshops

After receiving such fantastic feedback from the first Parent Volunteer Workshop we have decided to reopen the bookings for the March sessions



Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

Parent Training

Parent Volunteer Workshop - March sessions open for bookings.

Venue: Chester Rugby Club, Littleton, Chester, CH3 7DB

Time: 9:45 coffee/welcome, course starts at 10am.
Includes a morning coffee break and lunch at 1pm.

Topics covered on the sessions:

3rd March - IASS/One Page Profile/Live Well

10th March - IASS/Health

17th March - Meet the Professionals

24th March - Commissioning/Meet the Professionals

31st March - Third Sector Charities

Free Course - Lunch & Refreshments Provided

If you would like to know more about the PCF or think you might be interested in volunteering with us in the future and can attend some or all the above sessions, please click below register your interest.

[Click Here](#)

Save the Date

2022

Jan 12th, 11.30-12.30 - Zoom

Parent Training
CHAPS/One Page Profile

Feb 9th, 10.00-14.00 - Cheshire View

Preparation for Adulthood
High Need Review Update
Marketplace

Mar 9th, 10.30-11.30 - Zoom

Mental Health Update
Meet The Directors

Apr 13th, Evening - Zoom TBC

**May 11th, 10.00-14.00 -
Ellesmere Port (tbc)**
Topics - Sensory Processing

Jun 8th, 10.30-11.30 - Zoom

Carers Week

July 13th, 10.30-11.30 - Zoom AGM

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 secretary.pcf.cwac@gmail.com

or join us for one of our meetings.

We hope to see you soon!



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