

## Email Update 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015

### **To all Supporters of Parents' Voice**

We hope you're enjoying the summer (it seems hard to believe that it's now August). Here's a roundup of the latest news which we think could be of interest to you:

- 1) Parents' Voice news
- 2) County Council Have Your Say roadshow events
- 3) Local Consultations/Surveys
- 4) National Surveys
- 4) Health/Safety
- 5) Ofsted Parents' Panel
- 6) PlayDay 2015
- 7) Talking Walk-In Drop-In Sessions
- 8) Grandfriend

### 1) Parents' Voice news

Our planned First Aid for Parents meeting should now take place in September and we intend taking part in an event in October about internet safety. Coffee and Chat will resume in the autumn and our next evening meeting to discuss activities will be in October.

### 2) County Council Have Your Say roadshow events

Worcestershire County Councillors and Senior Officers are hitting the road to talk with the local community, giving residents a chance to help shape the future delivery of services.

This is your chance to tell the County Council what you think about services for families, what you like/dislike and what you need and want them to do in the future!

"Response from previous public roadshows have been used to inform the council's four corporate priorities: supporting Children and Families, promoting Health and Well-being, protecting the Environment, and championing Open for Business."

The first event is in Redditch tomorrow (4th August), 10am - 4pm at the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. After that Worcester High St on Saturday 8th August, Kidderminster Town Hall on 12th August, Evesham Market Square on Thursday 13th August, Malvern High St on 14th August and Bromsgrove High St on Tuesday 18th August,

You can find more details here:

[bit.ly/1I5mLGa](http://bit.ly/1I5mLGa)

### 3) Local Consultations/Surveys

There are two local consultations which may be of interest to you.

#### i) Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health

Healthwatch Worcestershire is an independent organisation that gives a voice to people who use health and social care services. They want to know what young people think about mental health services for young people, especially the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Worcestershire.

If your child has needed some help with mental health or used CAMHS during the last 12 months do take part in Healthwatch's (anonymous) survey for parents/children: [svy.mk/1CTvz5d](https://svy.mk/1CTvz5d)

#### ii) Wychavon Priorities

Wychavon District Council want to know what their residents think the priorities should be for the next 4 years.

The Council has a short online survey ([bit.ly/1RE5Cx9](https://bit.ly/1RE5Cx9)) and you can tell them what you think they should do more and what you think they should do less. Although most of the questions have boxes to tick, there is an expandable text box so you can write lots (if you want to) about the issues you want the district council to work to influence at a county, regional and national level.

If you think there are priorities for parents and families which are not included, this is your chance to tell them. (When saying how you heard about the survey, you can tick "Other" and list Parents' Voice.)

The survey is here: [bit.ly/1RE5Cx9](https://bit.ly/1RE5Cx9)

#### iii) 4Children's Children's Centre Survey

4Children want to find out what parents and carers think about the services they provide for children and families through their children's centres and how they can improve them.

If you live in an area where there is a Children's Centre run by 4Children (eg: Evesham) you might like to take part in their survey. Views are wanted on why people don't use Children's Centres too, so you can take part if you haven't visited one of them.

Take part in the survey here: [bit.ly/1g9fjDk](https://bit.ly/1g9fjDk)

#### 4) National Surveys

A quick reminder of these surveys which are closing in August.

##### i) Government call for evidence in to the cost of providing childcare.

This call for evidence closes at 5pm on 10th August.

You can find the relevant documents here: [bit.ly/1ImHuF9](https://bit.ly/1ImHuF9)

##### ii) GCSE Reform: Design and Technology

The consultation closes at 5pm on 26th August.

You can find the documents (including a downloadable response form) about this consultation and a link to respond online here: [bit.ly/1O2WWdD](https://bit.ly/1O2WWdD)

##### iii) The 2021 Census - Initial view on content for England and Wales

The consultation closes on 27th August.

You can find the consultation here: [bit.ly/1BrYoor](https://bit.ly/1BrYoor)

##### iv) Academic research survey about parental leave

In order to participate you must be currently employed. You must also be a father, a soon to be father, or thinking of becoming a father in the recent future.

The deadline for taking part in this survey is 10th August.

You can find the survey here:

[svy.mk/1M6s8em](http://svy.mk/1M6s8em)

### 5) Ofsted Parents' Panel

Ofsted are setting up a Parents' Panel. They say: "We are setting this up as we know parents in England have a valuable contribution to make to the work of Ofsted and we'd like to ensure that you have a say on important matters that affect your child(ren)'s education – for example, the frequency of inspection, format and content of inspection reports, behaviour in schools etc"

You can find out more about this and take part in their survey here:

[svy.mk/1Mxo8nj](http://svy.mk/1Mxo8nj)

### 6) PlayDay 2015

Playday is the national day for play in the UK, traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August. On Playday thousands of children and their families get out to play at hundreds of community events across the UK.

We'll be celebrating it on Twitter and Facebook (when we're not playing), and you can find out more information here: [bit.ly/1IzFxVD](http://bit.ly/1IzFxVD)

There are also tips about celebrating Playday on a budget here: [bit.ly/1OKkLHi](http://bit.ly/1OKkLHi)

### 7) Talking Walk-In Drop-In Sessions

Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy have published the following dates for their Talking Walk-In Drop-In Sessions. Parents of pre-school children can go along for general advice and if appropriate refer their child.

Please note that these dates have been publicised as taking place; we are not responsible if any are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances (we will try to let you know if we learn of any changes).

Tues 4th August, 2.30- 3.00 pm - WORCESTER

Bluebell Wood Children's Centre, Perry Wood Primary, St Alban's Close, WR5 1PP

Wed 5th August, 11.00 - 11.30 am - WORCESTER

Saffron Children's Centre, Stanley Road School, WR5 1BD

Wed 5th August, 11.00 - 11.30 am - MALVERN

Sunshine Children's Centre, Bluebell Close, WR14 3QR

Thurs 6th August, 10.30 - 11.00 am - KIDDERMINSTER

Tree Tops Children's Centre, Birchen Coppice Primary School, Woodbury Road, DY11 7JJ

Fri 7th August, 11.00 - 11.30 am - PERSHORE

Blossom Vale Children's Centre, Abbey Park First, Abbey Road, WR10 1DF

Mon 10th August, 10.30 - 11.00 am - KIDDERMINSTER

Chestnut Children's Centre, Franche School, Chestnut Grove, DY11 5QB

Mon 10th August, 2.15 - 2.45 pm - REDDITCH

Cherry Trees Children's Centre, Batchley First School, Cherry Tree Walk, B97 6PD

Mon 10th August, 2.30 - 3.00 pm - EVESHAM

Spring & Orchard Vale Children's Centre, next to Evesham Nursery, Four Pools Lane, WR11 1BN

### 8) Grandfriend

Jane Potter (a Parents' Voice supporter) is trying to set up a board of trustees for Grandfriend (Worcester News article here: [bit.ly/1Pya8ML](http://bit.ly/1Pya8ML)), a surrogate grandparent scheme which we mentioned a while ago.

If you are interested (or know someone else who might be), you can contact Jane through the Grandfriend site ([bit.ly/1IepwHr](http://bit.ly/1IepwHr)) or find her on twitter (@Grandfriend).

Thank you for reading this email and for your continued support, we really do appreciate it. If you have received this email on behalf of a parents' group, or you know another parent (or group) who may find some of this information useful do pass it on to them. When passing on this email (or part of it) to other people, please mention that it came from [Parents' Voice](#).

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