

## **Email Update 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

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

We hope you've enjoyed the summer and maybe managed to get a holiday. We've been a bit quieter than usual during the summer due to family commitments (amongst other things) so we have several pieces of news to share - we hope some of it will be of interest to you. You are welcome to share this email (or parts of it) with your friends or groups. but please mention Parents' Voice if you do, thanks.

- 1) Parents' Voice news
- 2) Local Surveys
- 3) National Surveys
- 4) Back to School help
- 5) Worcestershire Careers Central
- 6) Special Educational Needs news
- 7) HealthWatch Worcestershire Board Meeting in public
- 8) Talking Walk-In Drop-In Sessions
- 9) First Mental Health Champion for schools

### **1) Parents' Voice news**

We were delighted - and rather surprised - to be nominated for 2 WorcestershireHour awards! WorcestershireHour is a weekly twitter "chat hour" where local businesses and organisations share what they're doing and basically network with each other. It was started in May 2013 and we've been taking part since the 2nd week (rather sheepishly because it seemed to be only for businesses). We've only missed a couple of weeks since then and have managed to schedule tweets to take part when we've known in advance that we can't take part "live". In fact, we think we may have been the first nonprofit/charity/non-business organisation to take part in WorcestershireHour!

Stuart Allen, the man behind WorcestershireHour, set up a number of awards and the winners were announced at the Festival of Business event on Sunday 6th September. We were nominated for the Social Buzz (Non-profit award) and Best Use of WorcestershireHour (Non-profit). Competition was strong and we were just flattered to be nominated (voting took place on the WorcestershireHour website and it wasn't necessary to have a twitter account to vote). Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone who voted for us. If you're on twitter we'd love you to follow us - @ParentsVoiceWor.

Coffee and Chat sessions should resume in the next few weeks when school and college routines have been finally sorted out - we'll be in touch with details once we've organised a date and venue. Our next evening meeting to discuss activities will be on 22nd October.

### **2) Local Surveys**

#### **i) [Education consultations and reviews](#)**

Worcestershire County Council has three current consultations about schools and nursery provision.

These are about

- expansion of primary schools in Malvern
- proposals to cease the Autism Base at Sutton Park Primary School and
- a proposal to close the Nursery Plus provision at Franche Community Primary School.

You can find the consultation and details of Worcestershire reviews here: [bit.ly/1jqA8LP](http://bit.ly/1jqA8LP)

A reminder about two local surveys which we've mentioned previously:

#### ii) 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 (or teenager) 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](http://svy.mk/1CTvz5d)

This HealthWatch survey is continuing until further notice so you can still take part.

#### 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](http://bit.ly/1g9fjDk)

### 3) National Surveys/Consultations

There are a number of different surveys and consultations - if you think one of these surveys would be relevant to someone you know, please pass on the details.

#### i) [Further GCSE and A-Level Reform](#)

This consultation closes at 5pm on 5th November. It concerns revised content for 6 GCSE subjects and 9 A-levels and will affect the subject content from September 2017. Parents' views are wanted, as are those of young people.

The GCSE subjects are Ancient History, Classical Civilisation, Electronics, Film Studies, Media Studies and Statistics. The A-level (and AS-level) subjects are Accounting, Ancient History, Archaeology, Classical Civilisation, Electronics, Film Studies, Law, Media Studies and Statistics

You do not have to respond to questions about all the subjects to take part (so if there's one particular subject you do have views about, do take part).

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

ii) [Teen Issues - a parent's perspective](#)

Family Lives would like to know what understanding parents have of the issues young people are facing with regards to relationships, sex and the digital age. They have a [short survey for parents](#) to complete (just 11 questions).

You can find the survey here: [svy.mk/1L8NF3w](http://svy.mk/1L8NF3w)

iii) [Fevers in children and communication with GPs](#)

Plymouth University would like any parents whose child has had a fever to take part in a [survey](#). This is about your experience, communication between parents and GPs and your feelings about child services. You can find the [survey](#) and read about Plymouth University's project here: [bit.ly/1HninBO](http://bit.ly/1HninBO)

iv) [Rare Disease UK patient survey](#)

Rare Disease UK is an initiative of the charity Genetic Alliance UK. Anyone who is affected by, or cares for someone affected by, a rare or undiagnosed disease is welcome to complete this [survey](#). The European definition of "rare" is a prevalence of fewer than 1 in 2,000. If you think a condition is rare or it hasn't been diagnosed, then Rare Disease UK would like to hear from you.

[The survey](#) should take about 25 minutes to complete (you can leave the survey at any point and return to finish it at a later date if needed). It will give a full, up-to-date picture of the experiences of patients of rare diseases; the findings will be published in late 2015. (There has been one other survey like this which was published in 2010).

You can find the survey here: [svy.mk/1EE4SCJ](http://svy.mk/1EE4SCJ) and it should close at the end of September.

v) *[Ofsted Parents' Panel](#)*

Ofsted are setting up a Parents' Panel. You can find out more about this and take part in their survey here: [svy.mk/1Mxo8nj](http://svy.mk/1Mxo8nj)

#### 4) [Back to School help](#)

This should have gone out at the start of September but we're sharing it now in case some of the information may still be useful!

Many families have children going back to school/college, starting school for the first time or even going to university or starting apprenticeships.

You may find some of the following useful:

i) Information about dealing with "Back to school blues": [bit.ly/1KM35wm](http://bit.ly/1KM35wm)

ii) Making friends (starting at secondary school): [bit.ly/1RyLywf](http://bit.ly/1RyLywf)

iii) Not going to university results day guide (with suggestions for employment, gap year etc): [bit.ly/1W10q0U](http://bit.ly/1W10q0U)

iv) You can rate your child's school (and see how other parents have also rated it) using Ofsted's Parent View: [bit.ly/1rF1gIr](http://bit.ly/1rF1gIr)

### 5) *Worcestershire Careers Central*

A new site has been set up with careers information specifically for Worcestershire. With job profiles, helpful hints and links, you can check various career pathways. This should be useful for both parents and their teenagers; you can find it at [bit.ly/1V9oJko](http://bit.ly/1V9oJko)

(Some of you may remember that Matt Tope from Worcestershire County Council's Economic Development Unit attended our January meeting to tell us about the development of this careers tool.)

### 6) *Special Educational Needs news*

i) Afasic Parents' Information event (speech and language)

A million children in the UK have speech and language difficulties. Afasic is a national charity which supports parents and represents children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

On Thursday 8th October Afasic are holding a Parents' Information Event in Worcester. Places are free but must be booked and refreshments are included. Further information (including how to book a place) is included in the flyer attached to this email.

ii) [Nursery Plus provision in Wyre Forest](#)

Worcestershire County Council is proposing to close the Nursery Plus provision reserved for Special Educational Need & Disability (SEND) children at Franche Community Primary School and remove the funding to the school from the High Needs Funding Block. Funding will then be redistributed to support a more flexible approach to working with pre-school SEND pupils.

The Local Authority wants to consult with all interested parties on this proposal. They want to gather as many views as possible. A public consultation started on Monday 21st September and will finish on Friday 16th October 2015.

You can find the consultation here: [bit.ly/1jqA8LP](http://bit.ly/1jqA8LP)

iii) [Proposal to close a Mainstream Autism Base](#)

Following consultation with staff, governors and parents, Worcestershire County Council are proposing to close the Mainstream Autism Base at Sutton Park Community Primary School. The proposal is to close the Base as of March 31st 2015.

You can find details and the consultation about this here: [bit.ly/1jqA8LP](http://bit.ly/1jqA8LP)

### 7) *HealthWatch Worcestershire Board Meeting in public*

HealthWatch Worcestershire have rescheduled their next public Board Meeting. This will now take place on 29th September at the Committee Room, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT. The

meeting starts at 6.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend (no need to book). You can find further details here: [bit.ly/17aay7l](http://bit.ly/17aay7l)

### 8) 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).

Wednesday 30th September, 11.00 - 11.30 am - REDDITCH  
Willow Trees Children's Centre, Loxley Close, Church Hill, B98 9JL

Wed 30th September, 11.00 - 11.30 am - WORCESTER  
Saffron Children's Centre, Stanley Road School, WR5 1BD

Thurs 1st October, 10.30 - 11.00 am - KIDDERMINSTER  
Tree Tops Children's Centre, Birchen Coppice Primary, Woodbury Road, DY11 7JJ

Thurs 1st October, 11.00 - 11.30 am - BROMSGROVE  
Sunnyfields Children's Centre, Charford First School, Lyttleton Avenue, B60 3FG

Friday 2nd October, 2.15 - 2.45 pm - REDDITCH  
Woodlands Children's Centre, On site of Woodrow First School, Longdon Close, B98 7UZ

Friday 2nd October, 11.00 - 11.30 am - PERSHORE  
Blossom Vale Children's Centre, Abbey Park First School, Abbey Road, WR10 1DF

Mon 5th October, 10.30 - 11.00 am - KIDDERMINSTER  
Brookside Children's Centre, Comberton Primary School, Borrington Road, DY10 3ED

Mon 5th October, 10.30 - 11.00 am - STOURPORT  
Half Crown Wood Children's Centre, St Bartholomew's Primary, Princess Way, DY13 0EL

Mon, 5th October, 11.00 - 11.30 am - BROMSGROVE  
Tulip Trees Children's Centre, Catshill First School, Gibb Lane, B61 0JP

### 9) [First Mental Health Champion for schools](http://bit.ly/17aay7l)

On 30th August it was announced that the Department for Education's (DfE) first ever mental health champion for schools will help to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around young people's mental health. The move comes as part of a wider government commitment to improve children and young people's mental health. You can read more about it here: [bit.ly/17aay7l](http://bit.ly/17aay7l)

Thank you for reading this email and for your continued support, we really do appreciate it. If 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](#).

**Parents' Voice - Worcestershire**

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