

Email Update 31st December 2015

To all Supporters of Parents' Voice

Happy New Year (almost)!

We hope some of this email will be of interest to you. You are welcome to share it (or parts of it) with your friends or groups, but please mention that it came from [Parents' Voice](#) if you do, thanks.

- 1) Parents' Voice news
- 2) Local Surveys and Consultations
- 3) National Surveys
- 4) Special Educational Needs news
- 5) Health News
- 6) Talking Walk-In Drop-In Sessions

1) Parents' Voice news

i) As 2015 comes to an end many organisations send out emails reminding us of all they've achieved in the last year. We'd like to join in - but since we're still struggling to find time to do many things it's a pretty simple list!

We have shared:

- information about a number of Worcestershire events such as the County Council's public roadshows in August and Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy's Time to Talk campaign.
- information about a range of local and national consultations and surveys. These have included Healthwatch Worcestershire's consultation about mental health services for children and young people, [Family Lives' survey for parents about issues for teenagers](#), the County Council's consultations about expansion/remodelling of schools and nursery provision and several Department for Education consultations about reforming the subject content of GCSEs and A-Levels.
- useful general information for parents (and anyone else who is responsible for a child or young person). Information has included the [Charlie Waller Memorial Trust's Parents' Guide to Depression](#), how to keep babies safe during hot weather, [a guide to common drugs](#), festive safety advice from the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and [abbreviations/language used by teenagers online](#).

We've hosted more Coffee and Chat sessions for parents, including one where a representative from the South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group asked us for views on a new website page.

We have continued to post messages regularly on both Twitter and Facebook, including the local "hours" on Twitter.

We have increased

- our email supporters (thank you!)
- our twitter followers (thank you!)
- our Facebook likes (thank you!).

That sounds a bit blunt, but what it means is that more parents receive the information etc that we share now than at the start of 2015.

We've managed to continue! This year has been more challenging than usual for many of our small committee and we had to put lots of plans on hold. However, we have continued to hold occasional evening meetings to steer the group's activities and Parents' Voice is still going despite all the challenges of the year! Thank you for your ongoing support.

ii) Dates for your diary - 14th January and 20th January

Our next evening meeting will be on Thursday 14th January, 7.15pm - 9pm. The committee will be meeting to plan events for 2016 (and review some of what we did in 2015) and anyone else can come along too.

On Wednesday 20th January there will be a Focus Group for parents' views about how the 0-19 prevention and intervention service in Worcestershire should look. The basic details for this group are: Wednesday 20th January, 10:30am -12 noon, KGV meeting room, Worcester WR4 9TL. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Michele Davies (via text or call) if you would like to attend: 07595 091200. A focus group may sound official but it's a chance for parents to find out more and then give their opinions about proposed changes.

We will send out further details for both the above meetings in the new year.

Remember, Parents' Voice is run by Worcestershire parents, for Worcestershire parents. It's completely free to join us (you just need an email address) and our supporters have children of all ages (from babies to young adults) because parents never stop being parents! We are nothing without our supporters and we appreciate you all.

2) Local Surveys and Consultations

i) Redesign of 0 - 19 prevention and intervention service

Worcestershire County Council will be commissioning a new prevention service for families with children aged 0-19. To help shape this they want the views of parents and children/young people and have set up [online questionnaires](#) for both.

The new prevention service will bring together and replace the following services:

- Health Visiting (who carry out pre-school child development checks plus targeted support)
- Family Nurse Partnership (more intensive support for first time young mothers)
- Breastfeeding support services
- School Health Service (who carry out school-age health and development reviews plus targeted support)
- Some Early Help support delivered in each district. This includes:
 - o Some of the support delivered through Children's Centres
 - o Parenting support
 - o Online information and advice

This [survey](#) closes on Friday 29th January. There will also be a focus group about the proposed changes which will take place on 20th January (as mentioned above).

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

ii) Worcestershire Children's Centres

Worcestershire County Council is going to commission a new service to support families with children/young people aged 0-19 years. This means that from October 2016 services will be different for some families.

Each Children's Centre currently offers a range of services depending on the needs of the local community. The council is asking for [views on the use of Children's Centres](#) buildings around the county.

Children's Centres are historically seen as providing services for families with children aged 0 - 5 (the age they were aimed at initially); however, this consultation is open to *everyone* and it will help determine what the buildings are used for in the future, what ages any activities are aimed at and other considerations, eg: what days/times they are open.

You can find further details with the consultation here: bit.ly/1N1m1nX

The [consultation](#) closes on 29th January 2016.

3) National Surveys/Consultations

There are a number of current national surveys and consultations - if you think one of these would be relevant to someone you know, please pass on the details. You can also find details of some consultations/surveys Special Educational Needs news.

i) [The Big Nappy Survey](#)

Go Real is a not-for-profit project that promotes the use of reusable nappies through a range of activities. This [national survey](#) is a research project to find out which nappies parents choose to use and why.. They "don't mind if your baby/toddler is still in nappies, or if your children have grown up and moved out. If you are a parent and have used nappies, cloth or disposable." So if you're a parent reading this email you can take part in this [survey](#).

You can find the survey here: bit.ly/1QyxhhP.

A reminder of some national surveys we have already told you about:#

ii) [Survey Content of the Survey of the Mental Health of Children and Young People \(MHCYP\) 2016](#)

NatCen Social Research and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have been commissioned by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) to carry out the Survey of the Mental Health of Children and Young People (MHCYP) 2016.

They would like views about the survey content for 2016 on:

- Which existing areas the survey should continue to cover;
- Whether there are new question areas that should be included;
- Where new question areas are suggested, which areas these should replace in the survey.

You can read about this [consultation](#) and find a link to give your views here: bit.ly/1HtrOWD

This [consultation](#) closes on 5th January 2016.

iii) [Wraparound and Holiday Childcare](#)

The Department for Education is seeking views on draft departmental advice about how schools should respond to requests regarding wraparound and holiday childcare.

'Wraparound childcare' is childcare that schools provide outside of normal school hours, such as breakfast clubs or after school.

Parents' (or carers') views are wanted.

This [consultation](#) closes on 29th February 2016.

iv) [Implementing the English Baccalaureate](#)

The Department for Education is seeking views about the government's proposals on how to get at least 90% of pupils to take GCSEs in the EBacc subjects. This consultation closes at 5pm on 29th January 2016.

Parents' views are wanted, as are those of pupils.

You can find the documents (including a downloadable response form) about this [consultation](#) and a link to respond online here: bit.ly/1S3Gps2.

v) [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.

You can find the survey here: svy.mk/1L8NF3w

vi) [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

4) [Special Educational Needs news](#)

i) [POET](#)

Worcestershire County Council is one of 70 local authorities taking part in a project, part funded by the Department for Education, looking at a Project Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET). Parents whose child/young person has an Education, Health and Care Plan are wanted to take part in their anonymous [survey](#). The survey is about you, your child and the help they get (but it is anonymous).

The [survey](#) should close at the end of December.

ii) [Local area SEND consultation](#)

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission are holding a [consultation](#) about the inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who are disabled and have special educational needs. The views of parents or carers of a disabled child or young person (or one who has special educational needs) are wanted (and you can describe yourself as this when responding to their survey). The views of children and young people with disabilities or special educational needs are also wanted (and there is a separate young person's survey).

According to information on the consultation site "We particularly want to hear from disabled young people and those who have special educational needs **and their parents and carers.**"

You can find all relevant documents, the survey and a link to the young person's survey here: bit.ly/1Ok0iaT

The [consultation](#) closes at 11.30pm on 4th January 2016.

5) Health News

i) Improving Mental Health Services for Children and Young People in Worcestershire.

NHS England has approved a local transformation plan for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). A national initiative by NHS England has made just over £1 million of additional funding available across the three Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups (once local plans had been assured).

Worcestershire's CAHMS Partnership Board met in December and Parents' Voice were delighted to send a representative to attend.

ii) [A Parent's Guide to Eating Disorders](#)

If you're worried about a young person's eating habits you may find this Guide to Eating Disorders in Young People by Dr Pippa Hugo useful: bit.ly/1O8qfjI

6) Talking Walk-In Drop-In Sessions

The following dates have been published by Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy 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).

Mon 4th January, 10.30 - 11.00 am - KIDDERMINSTER

Brookside Children's Centre, Comberton Primary School, Borrington Road, DY10 3ED

Mon 4th January, 10.30 - 11.00 am - STOURPORT ON SEVERN

Half Crown Wood Children's Centre, St Bartholomew's Primary, Princess Way, DY13 0EL

Mon, 4th January, 11.00 - 11.30 am - BROMSGROVE

Tulip Trees Children's Centre, Catshill First School, Gibb Lane, B61 0JP

Tues 5th January, 11.00 - 11.30 am - BROADWAY

Apple Vale Children's Centre, Broadway First School, Lime Tree Avenue, WR12 7BD

Tues 5th January, 2.30 - 3.00 pm - WORCESTER

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

Wed 6th January, 11.00 - 11.30 am - REDDITCH

Holly Trees Children's Centre, site of St Stephens First School, Mabey Avenue, Riverside, B98 8HW

Wed 6th January, 11.00 - 11.30 am - REDDITCH

Willow Trees Children's Centre Loxley Close, Church Hill, B98 9JL

Wed 6th January, 11.00 - 11.30 am - MALVERN
Sunshine Children's Centre, Bluebell Close, WR14 3QR

Wed 6th January, 11.00 - 11.30 am - WORCESTER
Saffron Children's Centre, Stanley Road School, Stanley Road, WR5 1BD

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

Thurs 7th January, 11.00 - 11.30 am - BROMSGROVE
Sunnyfields Children's Centre, Charford First School, Lytteton Avenue, B60 3FG

Fri 8th January, 11.00 - 11.30 am - DROITWICH
Wands Children's Centre, Westlands First School, Farmers Way WR9 9EQ

Thank you for reading this email and for your continued support, we really do appreciate it.

Parents' Voice - Worcestershire

Email: info@parentsvoice.co.uk Web: www.parentsvoice.co.uk

Twitter: [@parentsvoicewor](https://twitter.com/parentsvoicewor)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParentsVoice.co.uk>

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