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A very warm welcome back!

We're so happy to welcome you back!

This academic year, there's lots to look forward to, from coffee events to forums, training, blogs, newsletters, as well as opportunities to work together with the professionals to improve outcomes for all children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Join us for our three key in-person forums on Neurodiversity, Preparation for Adulthood, and Education & Inclusion. In addition, stay connected from home with our virtual forums and workshops on a variety of SEND topics.

We will be attending parent coffee events in our schools, children centres and our local charities. We love meeting families and hearing your experiences, sharing information and resources. If you'd like the Parent Carer Forum (PCF) to host a coffee event at your school, please get in touch, we'd be delighted to help organise and come along!

Here is to another year ahead!

With warm wishes,

The Parent Carer Forum





We want to hear from parents and carers

Come along and listen to our speakers, share your views and experiences, get support, connect with other parents and carers... at any of the following events...

In-Person Forums

Neurodiversity Forum

Thursday 13th November 2025
9:30am – 1:30pm

Hartford Golf Club, Northwich

Preparation for Adulthood

Thursday 26th February 2026
9:30am – 1:30pm

Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port

Education, Inclusion & Mental Health

Tuesday 12th May 2026
10:00am – 2:00pm

Vicars Cross Golf Club, Chester

Online Forums

PCF Who Are We? & Meet the Directors

Tuesday 30th September 2025
10:00am – 11:30am

Early Years – Sleep & Toileting

Thursday 4th December 2025
10:00am – 11:30am

Benefits & Support

Wednesday 11th March 2026
10:00am – 11:30am

Short Breaks & Charitable Support

Tuesday 9th June 2026
10:00am – 11:30am

Drop-Ins & Coffee Events

Wharton Children's Centre, Winsford:
Fri 10th Oct 2025, 10am-12pm

Lache Children's Centre, Chester:
Fri 23rd Jan 2026, 1.30pm-3pm

Stanlaw Abbey Children's Centre, E Port:
Fri 12th Jun 2026, 10am-12pm

Neston Community Centre, Neston:
Fri 1st May 2026, 10am-12pm

We will be attending other Coffee Events in 2025/26 so please check our website for updates.

Online Parent Training

Empowerment & Communication

Tuesday 14th October 2025
1:00pm – 2:30pm

Help to navigate the SEND system

Tuesday 13th January 2026
10:00am – 11:30am

Support in Education

Thursday 30th April 2026
10:00am – 11:30am

All events are free and everyone is welcome. In-person and online events require booking. All information about our events will be on our website.

www.pcfcheshirewest.org

In order to keep you up to date on all of the work, that we are involved in, we have created a new BLOG/noticeboard area on our website below.

PCF Blogs and Updates





Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

Virtual Forum

Thurs 30th Sept. 2025

10am - 11.30am

PCF Who Are We? & Meet the Directors

Get to know your Parent Carer Forum
who we are,
what we do,
why we do it,
also...

meet the directors behind the SEND
services we help shape.

Join us online on Thurs 30th Sept at 10am

Free Online Event - All Parents/Carers Welcome

Virtual Forum

Learn who we are at the Parent Carer Forum (PCF)

Discover what we do and why we do it, both locally and nationally

Meet the director of Education shaping SEND services in Cheshire West & Chester

[Book your place here!](#)



Virtual Parent Training
Tue 14th Oct 2025
1pm – 2.30pm

Empowerment & Communication

Be empowered to **advocate confidently** and **communicate effectively** with professionals **supporting your child** or young person **to achieve the best outcomes** with our **FREE online training**.

Book online on our website

www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on

Virtual Parent Training

This interactive training is designed to give parent carers the confidence and tools they need to communicate effectively with professionals. We will share practical tips and real-life examples to help you prepare for meetings and be assertive in challenging conversations.

Whether you're new to navigating SEND systems or looking to strengthen your existing skills, this session will help you feel **more prepared, empowered, and heard**.

About the facilitator

Our facilitator is **Gillian Driscoll**. Some of you will know Gillian as she is a fellow parent carer to Lucy, 14. Gillian's professional background is in learning and development, where she works as a facilitator and coach to help people be the best they can be.

Gillian works with the Parent Carer Forum as a way of giving back to the people who provide support for everyone else. She promises to create a **safe space for people to explore how they can improve their skills and confidence to advocate successfully on behalf of their loved ones**.

[Book your place here!](#)



Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

Free Parent/Carer Event
Thurs 13th Nov 2025
9:30am – 1:30pm

Neurodiversity Forum

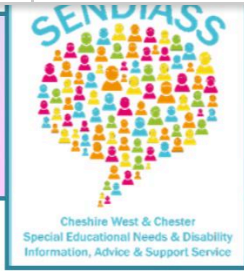
Explore the latest developments in supporting neurodivergent children across SEND and discover where to access the right support.

Marketplace: Stands & Information on support, groups and services in your area will also be available.

Neurodiversity Forum

Understanding Neurodiversity & Support Services in Cheshire West and Chester

[Book your place here!](#)

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SEND Information, Advice, and Support Service

Free Information Sessions

Do you have concerns that your child may have some additional needs?

Would you like to know a bit more about who can help you and your child?

Free Information Sessions for Parent Carers

Do you have concerns that your child may have additional needs?

Would you like to know more about who can help you and your child?

The SEND Information, Advice and Support Service is running a series of free sessions across Cheshire West and Chester this November.

Programme for the sessions include:

Session 1: Special Educational Needs – support in schools. What support can I expect for my child? Tips and techniques for meeting with professionals.

Session 2: Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP) – Understanding what is in an EHCP. How the plan should be put in place and what to do if things go wrong?

Please note: Sessions will cover the same information in each location.

Chester Area:

Session 1: Friday 14th November 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

Session 2: Friday 21st November 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

Venue:

SPACE Unit 6/7, Grange Park, Grange Road, Chester, CH2 2AN

Ellesmere Port and Neston Area:

Session 1: Thursday 20th November 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

Session 2: Thursday 27th November 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

Venue:

Room G2 at The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BA

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Session 1: Wednesday 12th November 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

Session 2: Wednesday 19th November 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

Venue:

Room G2, at Wyvern House, The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AH

You can attend one or both sessions, but due to limited numbers you must register to ensure a place.

Please bring your own lunch.

Places are limited – booking is essential

To register or find out more, call [0300 123 7001](tel:03001237001) or email

IASService@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Come along to meet other parents, learn more about the SEND system, and find out about local sources of support including the Live Well (Local Offer).



Parent/carers Coffee Events

There are a number of parent carer coffee events happening in Cheshire West and Chester, where our volunteers attend regularly including at the children centres, SPACE charity and Koala. Please keep an eye on our website where we will advertise them along with other SEND coffee events in the borough.

[Parent Carer Coffee Events](#)

Volunteering Team

All our volunteers are parent/carers with children and young people with SEND that live and/or access schools/services in Cheshire West and Chester. Between us all we have a wealth of lived experience navigating the SEND system. There is someone in our team

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[https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/2025/09/25/parent-carer-forum-news-is-here/](#) to chat to someone from our team.
For more information about us check out our Facebook page, YouTube Channel and Website below.



Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) Guidance

Cheshire West and Chester are developing new guidance to set out what support is ordinarily available in schools and the community for children and young people with SEND.

Led by Principal Education Psychologist, Kate Hughes, the Council is committed to working in partnership with parent carers, and are looking for 10 parents/carers to join a focus group to help finalise this important guidance. The full document will cover Social Emotional Mental Health, Cognition and Learning, Communication and Interaction, and Sensory/Physical/Medical Needs.

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Neurodiversity Profiling Tool Update: PROFILE STUDY (CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST)

**Cheshire and Merseyside
Neurodiversity Profiling Tool Pilot Evaluation**

Neurodiversity Profiling Tool- Update

Please see the latest blog on the development of the neurodiversity profiling tool here in Cheshire and Merseyside. Have the opportunity to complete the final surveys and have your say on the final drafts. Find out what it means for Cheshire West & Chester and next steps.

[Neurodiversity Profiling Tool - Blog](#)



Culture Change in Action- Help Shape the Pledge

We need your voice to help create meaningful change - culture and communication is important to all of us, so we want to create a set of 'Pledges', which are a shared commitment to embedding values like trust, empathy, accessibility, communication and partnership across our SEND community. See the link below to see available dates to get involved.

[Sign Up Here: Culture Change in Action](#)

Get Involved

All Age Autism and Neurodivergence Partnership Board



Join our Subgroups

Here's what is on offer...

Lived experience subgroup

The Lived Experience Subgroup, facilitated by Katy Ellison, is a welcoming, action-focused community of autistic and neurodiverse individuals and their carers, working together to tackle real-life challenges and drive positive change across the council.

Service mapping subgroup

The Service Mapping Subgroup has been formed to create an inclusive, digital directory that makes it easier for people across the borough to find and access autism and neurodiversity support services, with input welcomed from all community members.

Strategy subgroup

The Strategy Subgroup aims to create an inclusive Cheshire West and Chester where Autistic and Neurodivergent people of all ages are understood, supported, and empowered to thrive, and invites input to help shape its draft strategy.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Scan here to sign up



The All Age Autism & Neurodiversity Partnership Board Cheshire West & Chester have three subgroups to help shape a better future for Autistic and Neurodivergent people and their families.

If you live with autism or a neurological difference, or care for someone who does, this is your chance to share your experiences and ideas to make real change happen.

[Sign Up Here!](#)

Live Well
Cheshire West



Did you know?

One of the key aims of the Local Offer is to give you the chance to feedback directly to service commissioners.

This means you can:

- ✓ Share your views on the quality of current services
- ✓ Highlight any gaps in support available
- ✓ Influence what services are commissioned locally

You can tell them about:

- ◆ Services that don't exist but should
- ◆ Support that is available, but there's not enough of it (e.g. long waiting lists)
- ◆ Anything else you feel families are missing

Have your say here:

<https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Information/Gaps-in-Services>

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Your feedback will go to commissioners, who have a duty to respond. A public report is published every 6 months, including updates on actions taken.

You can read the latest report here <https://cwc-live.occsites.co.uk/Information/Perceived-gaps-report-2025>

Questions? Contact Emma Walker:

emma.walker@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Brand New – Live Well Cheshire West Newsletter

Cheshire West and Chester Council are pleased to launch the Live Well Cheshire West Newsletter! This new space will share the latest updates, events, resources and services available to children, young people, families and carers across the borough.

Explore the newsletter by tapping the image below.

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Live Well Newsletter



Live Well Newsletter

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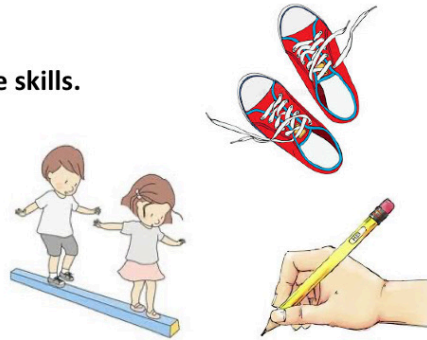


Central Cheshire Integrated Care Partnership

Paediatric Occupational Therapy for Functional Skills and Motor Co-ordination

The CCICP Paediatric Occupational Therapy service includes universal advice to support children and young people to develop skills in everyday activities. This includes strategies and activities to develop functional skills and motor co-ordination such as:

- **Washing, dressing and other self-care skills.**
- **Independence using cutlery.**
- **Fine motor skills** e.g., grasp, hand manipulation skills and strength.
- **Gross motor skills** e.g., balance, ball skills and riding a bike.
- **Motor aspects of handwriting**



Please use the QR code to access our website.

www.mcht.nhs.uk/our-services/community-services-ccicp/paediatric-physiotherapy-and-occupational-therapy-services



Paediatric Occupational Therapy Advice Line & Email

Further universal advice and discussion is available to parent/carers, health professionals and education professionals via the advice line or by emailing:

**12pm to 2pm every Wednesday during term time, 07584 386880 or
Email with your query to ccicp.paediatricotadvice@mcht.nhs.uk**

E-mail anytime and your query will be reviewed during Advice Line opening hours.



Because you **matter**



Calling all Parents and Caregivers!

Beyond and ISupport are working together to make health and social care services across Cheshire and Merseyside better for children and young people. The ISupport standards call for children to be provided with information, given choices, have their views heard and be treated with respect and kindness.

We need your help!



Do health and social care services work well for your child or is there room for improvement? Let us know by scanning this QR code and answering a few questions. More info once you scan!

Your views matter and will help decide what services we should focus on. If you would like to know more or get involved as a Parent Ambassador then email Lucy on brayl@edgehill.ac.uk



To learn more about the ISupport standards scan here  or visit www.isupportchildrensrights.com





Calling all Young People!

Beyond and ISupport are working together to make health and social care services across Cheshire and Merseyside better for children and young people.

The ISupport standards call for children to be provided with information, given choices, have their views heard and be treated with respect and kindness.

Do your appointments with professionals work for you or could they be better?

Let us know by scanning and completing this QR Code. More info once you scan!



Your voice matters!

**Could you get involved as a Young Person Ambassador?
Email Lucy at brayl@edgehill.ac.uk**



To learn more about the ISupport standards scan here or visit www.isupportchildrensrights.com



The image shows four children of diverse backgrounds and abilities, smiling and engaged in a painting activity. They are wearing white t-shirts that are covered in colorful paint splatters. They are holding small containers of paint in various colors like green, blue, and red. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

disability
positive

Buzz Juniors- A fun, inclusive group for ages 5 to 12!

Our friendly, experienced staff provide all the support your child needs, including:

- ✓ **Personal care**
- ✓ **Medication**
- ✓ **1-to-1 behaviour support**

Parents and caregivers can relax, knowing their child is being cared for with dignity & understanding.

Join the waiting list on our website:
[disabilitypositive.org](https://www.disabilitypositive.org)

disability
positive



Have you heard about The Buzz Teens Group?



Ages 13-18



Inclusive activities



Qualified support staff



Opportunities for leadership



Sessions in Cheshire East & West

**Join the waiting list now
on our website**



Tarporley Social Circle

For disabled adults aged 18+ in Cheshire

A warm, welcoming space where you can meet new friends, enjoy fun activities and feel connected to your community. From cookery and crafts to pub visits and weekend trips.

Meet  Connect  Belong

Sign up on our website



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Join Our Growing Team at the Parent Carer Forum!

Are you a parent or carer of a child with additional needs or a disability in Cheshire West and Chester? We would love you to come and join our team, between us all we have a wealth of lived experience navigating the SEND system. There is someone in our team that understands and can help guide you in the right direction.

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our team to help represent the perspectives of parents and carers in our community. Your feedback directly influences local services and SEND policies.

Call us on [07900840867](tel:07900840867) Visit our Facebook page, YouTube channel, website or email us to find out more.



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[Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Local Offer | Live Well Cheshire West](#)

Information Advice and Support Service (IASS)

Tel [0300 123 7001](tel:03001237001)

<https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Services/1279>

SEN Team

Tel [0151 337 6505](tel:01513376505)

senteam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

SEN Transport

Tel [01244973637](tel:01244973637)

spedtransportrequestwest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Starting Well

<http://www.startingwell.org.uk/>

Children's and Young Peoples Mental Health Services

<https://www.mymind.org.uk/services-and-contacts/cheshire-services/cheshire-cypmhs>

IPSEA- Call-in Helpline

Tel [0300 22 5899](tel:0300225899)

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

CONTACT Advice Line

Tel [0808 808 3555](tel:08088083555)

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



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