



# Update



February 2026



Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice CIC is an independent, parent carer led organisation for everyone in Warwickshire who has a child or children with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25.

We are the recognised parent carer forum in Warwickshire and work with Education, Health and Social Care decision makers. We make sure parent carers are included when designing services for our children / young people and their families. We invite all parent carers to join us and to get involved.

## Message from the Directors

Welcome to our first SEND Community Forum update. You may have been on our database for a while or you might be reading this as someone new but 2026 is an exciting time for our SEND community and we want you to be part of that as we re-launch our SEND Community Forum, more on that later.

As a parent carer forum we feel we seem to always be having a 'New Year' as we work with the calendar year, the financial year and the academic year but as we start 2026 it is important for us to reflect on where we have made a difference and plan for the year ahead. It's been another busy year for us and we've continued to grow our membership, increase the strategic representation across the SEND system in Warwickshire (also influencing across Coventry and Warwickshire in relation to health and supporting parent carer activity across the wider West Midlands and nationally). It's hard to identify our highlights but its always great to meet with families to hear their experiences and we are proud to be representing SEND families in a Local Authority that are open to engaging with us, who listen to what we are saying and who are prepared to work with us to make changes.

2026 will also be our 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday and we look forward to inviting you to celebrate with us.

Best wishes

Elaine, Emma and Olivia

## Contact Us

[hello@warwickshireparentcarervoice.org](mailto:hello@warwickshireparentcarervoice.org)

[www.warwickshireparentcarervoice.org](http://www.warwickshireparentcarervoice.org)



[@warkspcf](https://www.facebook.com/@warkspcf)

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**WARWICKSHIRE**  
PARENT CARER VOICE



# Introducing the Warwickshire SEND Community Forum

## Why a SEND Community Forum?

As the recognised parent carer forum Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice we represent Warwickshire's SEND families. We can't possibly manage to communicate with everyone who is parenting a child with additional needs in Warwickshire so want to build a network with community organisations that are providing support and give those organisations the opportunity to find out what is going on. As the parent carer forum we feel that the more networks we can create with others the more chance parent carers have of hearing about us, the more chance we have hearing their experiences (good and bad) and the more useful information we can share with you. We hope you agree that this network will be helpful to all of us and will join us.

### Join Us / Update Your Details

Please use this [form](#) to join our SEND Community Forum or to update your details.



### What do you get?

We want our SEND Community Forum to be shaped by you but here are our initial ideas.

- The opportunity to connect and collaborate with like minded people and be part of something bigger
- A forum meeting each half term (online)
- A quarterly newsletter with community updates
- Direct mailings about particular projects / surveys or focus groups
- Invitations to our events
- Listing on our website as members of the SEND Community Forum
- Information about your group / organisation on our padlets
- Use of our 'Members of' logo on your organisations materials

### Date for Your Diary

**Monday 9th March  
12.30pm**

**Relaunch of the Warwickshire  
SEND Community Forum**

Please share this newsletter with any other community organisations that support children and young people with SEND or their families. The more members we have the more representative we are.

# Short Breaks & Parent Carer Support Survey

Thank you to everyone who shared our Short Breaks and Parent Carer Support survey. You can read the full report [here](#).

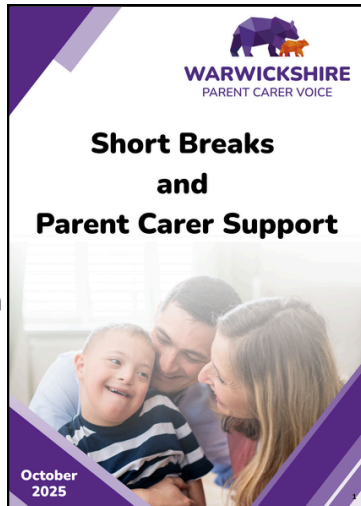
**59.7%** of parent carers didn't feel there was a short break that met the needs of their family

**39.2%** of parent carers reported having never had a carers assessment

**ALL** parent carers reported that a lack of support / short breaks has impacted on their mental health

Sadly, the findings will not be a surprise to parent carers and reflect similar national reports.

We are looking forward to working together with Warwickshire County Council over the next year to make positive changes for families.



Stay in touch to see how you can get involved with this work.



## We Need Feedback from Warwickshire's SEND Families

Please encourage the families you meet to tell us about their experiences of support or services (good and bad) so that we know what is happening, can prioritise what is important for the parent carer community and share with the local area partners to celebrate the successes and work to make improvements. The more feedback we have the better we can represent SEND families.

Feedback can be given by talking to us at an event, sending us an email or adding a post to our feedback wall [www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarerveice/feedback](http://www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarerveice/feedback).

# 2025 Review

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We have engaged with parent carers online through our website, online feedback wall and social media (2.2k facebook followers). We attended the Kidz to Adulz Show, Carers Events and others, we ran 'walk and talk' and 'coffee and chat' events, attended parents evenings at special schools. We carried out a survey about experiences of short breaks and parent carer support.



## OUR PEOPLE

We have:

- 3 Directors - Elaine, Emma and Olivia
- 3 additional Focus Leads - Avril, Elissa and Kirsty
- 2 members of staff - Gemma (PINS) and Eleanor (admin / office manager)
- 33 Parent Carer Reps in our online Parent Carer Panel (WPCV community)
- Over 650 Parent Carers in our Membership



## RELATIONSHIPS

We have regular meetings with the:

- Executive Director for Children and Young People (Nigel Minns)
- Director of Education (Johnny Kyriacou)
- Director of Children and Families (John Coleman)
- Head of SEND (Ross Caws)
- Designated Clinical Officer (Julie Brotherton)

and many others across education, health and social care.



## WORKSTREAMS

We represented parent carers on over 20 different workstreams including:

- SEND Partnership Board
- work with SENDAR (e.g. 20 Week redesign, EHCP Quality Assurance)
- work with social care including Short breaks and parent carer support
- work with health partners including autism, ADHD and long term health conditions

We currently Co-Chair the Autism Partnership Board.



## INTERVIEWS

We have been part of interview panels and stakeholder groups at interviews for many different roles across the Local Authority (education and social care), ones that are joint with the Integrated Care Board and with an NHS Trust (health provider), including the increased staffing for SENDAR, Children and Families Service Managers, Commissioning roles and a CAMHS Service Manager.



## COMMISSIONING WORK

We have played an increasing role in commissioning activity this year including coproducing tender specifications, evaluating the bids and then being part of mobilisation and monitoring. Some of the tenders we have been involved with include Short Breaks, SEND Mediation, the 'Wraparound service' and CAMHS Service 1 (prevention and early support).



## PINS PROJECT

We are coordinating the parent engagement for the 42 Warwickshire Primary Schools that are part of the national Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project. Meeting with parents to find out families experiences and then working with the school leadership teams to make changes. We developed our Great Groups Training about setting up parent engagement groups (available to all schools) and supported the Community of Practice and training for Governors.



## COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

With the change of Council following elections in May we supported SEND training to all of Warwickshire's county councillors who sit on Cabinet and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC). We are part of the SEND Members Panel which brings together councillors from the CYP OSC to focus more on SEND and attend OSC speaking as members of the public as appropriate. We also meet with councillors and provide information for them as requested.



## The PINS Project

The Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) is a national project now in its second year (running until March 2026) aiming to support the education and health needs of neurodivergent children in primary schools through a partnership approach working with health services, local authorities and parent carer forums.



The project aims to work together to:

- help shape whole school SEND provision,
- provide early interventions at a school level,
- support and upskill school staff
- strengthen partnerships between schools and parent carers.

The Warwickshire PINS project is working with 42 mainstream primary schools across the county - 23 from Year 1 who have an 'embed' offer including joining a 'Community of Practice' to continue their learning and continued support from us to develop the parent engagement groups to be led by parent carers from their community and 19 in Year 2 who are currently accessing their full menu of support - training, audits and other resources as well as support from us to facilitate their parent engagement groups.

Thank you to all of the schools involved for signing up to the project, completing your school evaluations, sharing the parent survey with your families and welcoming us to your school. Thank you to all the parent carers who have attended our meetings in their school or have provided us with feedback. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the new year.



## Useful Links

### Warwickshire SEND Local Offer

The SEND local offer contains information about the local services and support available across education, health and social care for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25, who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer)



HEARD

### Warwickshire County Council Family Information Service

The Family Information Service (FIS) will listen to you and help you access information and services that can support you.

Email: [fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk) Phone: 0800 408 1558 or 01926 742 274



SAFE

### Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice padlets (digital clipboards of useful links)

[www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/neurodiversity](http://www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/neurodiversity)

[www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/supportgroups](http://www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/supportgroups)

[www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/sendactivities](http://www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/sendactivities)

[www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/books](http://www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/books)



HEALTHY



SKILLED



HAPPY



Free, confidential and impartial service for parents, children and young people age 0-25 with SEND

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