



WARWICKSHIRE PARENT CARER VOICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026



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WARWICKSHIRE
PARENT CARER VOICE



WARWICKSHIRE

PARENT CARER VOICE

About Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice

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.

We have a membership made up of parent carers who live in, or who's children use services in Warwickshire. We host the 'Warwickshire SEND Community Forum' bringing together community and voluntary sector SEND groups and the support the development school engagement groups / parent carer forums.

As the Department of Education recognised parent carer forum in Warwickshire we are restricted from campaigning activity (including protests) as we use the collective voice of families to challenge and work in a solution focused way for positive change.

Our Values

Our values come from the work from Genuine Partnerships. The four cornerstones of coproduction developing and nurturing each of these to build trust are core to everything that we do.

Welcome and Care

We are welcoming to all and care for everyone in our SEND community; children, young people, families and everyone we work with

Value and Include

We value the lived experience of families and seek to engage all parts of the SEND community to provide valuable insight

Communicate

We actively listen to the voices of families, share these with services and communicate with you about what is happening

Work in Partnership

We strive for coproduction, working together with the SEND system so that we can improve outcomes and experiences for families

Trust

We build trusted relationships with others within the SEND Community to work towards an inclusive environment for all

From the Directors...

We are pleased to present this years annual report highlighting the work of Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice. Taking the time to step back and reflect on everything we have been involved with made us realise how much we have done and how much we have grown. Our purpose remains clear: to enable the voice of parent carers to be heard so that the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) and their families are met, and with the SEND Reforms underway we are needed now more than ever.

Over the past year, we have continued to work collaboratively with partners across education, health and social care to ensure that parent carer views and lived experiences shape services and decision-making, working towards better outcomes for children and young people and an improved experience for our families. We have attended strategic meetings and been part of workstreams and we have provided challenge to thinking and processes when necessary.

Listening to families experiences and ideas remains central to everything we do. All of our representatives (including us as Directors) have living experience of parenting children and young people with a variety of additional needs and we want to help make the system better for the families who come after us. We made reaching more parents and community engagement a priority, and are proud to report ongoing growth in our outreach activity and seeing increases in our membership numbers and parent carer engagement. We have seen encouraging engagement at the school-based sessions we have supported and the increasing number of volunteers who will continue this schools work for us. The new Family Hub at Hatters Space, Nuneaton and our link with the Stour Health Federation and the Ellen Badger Community Hub provide us opportunities to develop volunteer-led engagement opportunities over the coming year.

There have been changes over the past year - the Education Directorate was restructured, political make-up of the County Council has changed being Reform led, the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) is clustering with Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB and undergoing a staffing restructure, John Coleman has taken over the role of Executive Director for Children and Young People and we await the outcome of the Local Government Reorganisation which will determine whether Warwickshire is one or two Local Authorities going forward and what this means for us as an organisation.

We would like to thank all of our team for their contributions - all the parent carers on our Parent Carer Panel who volunteer to give feedback, the Parent Carer Reps who join us at strategic meetings, Gemma for her work on the PINS project and special thanks to Eleanor in the office who does her best to keep us organised! . Most importantly, we thank the parent carers who engage with us and share their experiences. We also want to thank those who work in the system who have believed in working together, support and challenge, coproduction and partnership showing that together we can make a difference.

We have an exciting year ahead and we can't wait until we get to reflect this time next year!

Elaine Emma & Olivia

Our People

Directors

The Directors of Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice CIC are Elaine Lambe, Emma Roberts-Davies and Olivia Lee. They are all employed by Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice on part time contracts for their strategic work.

Focus Leads

In our planning day last year we agreed to rebrand our Steering Group to Focus Leads to reflect the role that they have in the legal structure organisation. Avril, Elissa and Kirsty have remained in this role supporting the Directors with information to support their decision making. Developing this group to have focus leads from across Warwickshire with a variety of experiences is a priority for the year ahead.

Parent Carer Representatives

Our Parent Carer Representatives are parent carers who we remunerate to attend specific meetings for us to represent Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice. They do not attend to tell their own story in the way an individual expert by experience (EbE) would but think and act collectively about the wider community. We are especially grateful to our Parent Carer Representatives for supporting the Local Offer Coproduction Group and the EHCP Multi-Agency Quality Assurance Workshops.

Parent Carer Panel

Our Parent Carer Panel is a group of parent carer volunteers who have signed our Code of Conduct and are happy to provide us with feedback for specific projects or represent us at meetings or events.

Over the last year we moved our parent carer panel from being on the Slack platform to a WhatsApp Community. This process involved asking everyone to recommit to our Code of Conduct and complete a declaration of interest and then join the community.

We have about 30 members in this group which whilst fewer members than on the previous platform the amount of engagement from the group has significantly increased. All new members are invited to join the community in their welcome email and we are starting to evaluate 'who we aren't hearing from' to encourage Parent Carer Panel members from particular groups.

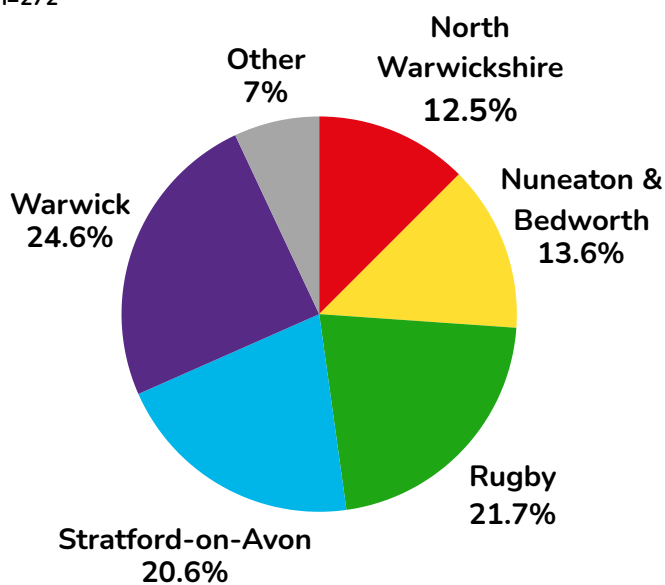
Our Membership

Our membership is open to anyone who is the parent carer of a child or young person aged 0-25 who has additional needs who lives in Warwickshire (or who attends a Warwickshire school / uses services in Warwickshire).

We now have **701** members on our database an increase of **25%** over the past year. To join we only require parent carers to give us their name, their email address and to confirm they are eligible to join - all demographic reporting is optional but helps know if we reflect the Warwickshire SEND population.

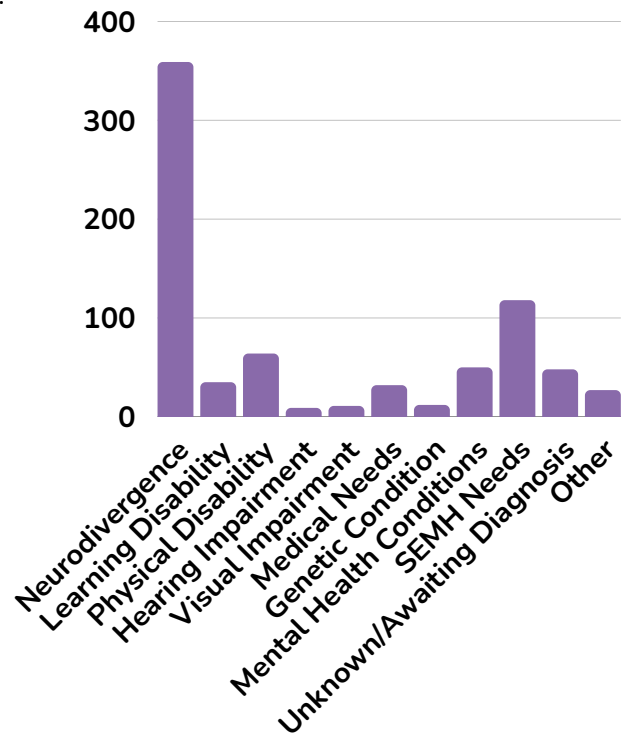
District / Borough

n=272



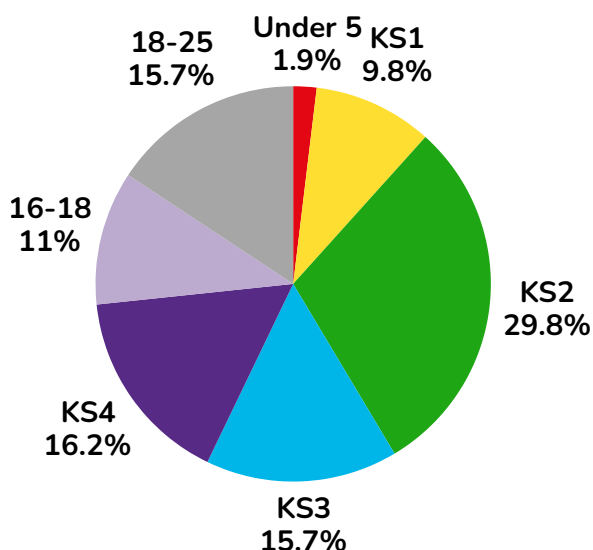
Child / Young Person's SEND

Note: During 2025/2026 we amended the options on our membership form and reclassified this data to enable this data to be more meaningful as a graph (and a child or young person may have multiple needs).



Age of Child / Young Person

n=420 (nb. members may have more than one CYP)



Other Demographics

- 88% of our members are White British
- 93% are female
- 22% of our members were eligible for Free School Meals (an indicator of income)
- 21% of our members are lone parents
- We have parent carers in our membership from the LGBTQIA+ community.
- We have members who are foster / kinship carers and parent carers who have adopted their child / young person
- We have members who are or have been in the Armed Forces (or their partner)

Our Work

Each year we are involved in many areas of work, meetings, interviews, writing documents, evaluating tenders, delivering training and co-hosting conferences. Some of this is regular and ongoing other things are one off pieces of work or time limited workstreams.

Events

We have a mix of different types of events that we have used over the past year to engage with different groups of people - some are about meeting with parent carers and getting their feedback whereas others are about promoting our work to those who can encourage families they meet to get involved. Here are some of the highlights:

SEND Conference

We co-hosted the Warwickshire SEND Conference with IMPACT and Warwickshire County Council. This event programme was based on the Four Cornerstones with local schools being celebrated for their work within one of the areas. We were proud to co-present the Working Together segment with Birchwood School highlighting our work and the benefits of parent carer engagement from the PINS project and for one of our parent carers to speak about their experience and the difference the right support can make.

Kidz to Adultz Exhibition

We again had a stand at the Kidz to Adultz Exhibition at the Coventry Building Society Arena. We find that due to the this show having exhibitors Motability car retailers and adaptive equipment this show gives us the opportunity to meet families of children with physical disabilities and get their feedback. It was good to see people who recognised us and to continue to build links with other exhibitors.

Engagement Activities

In the summer term we ran a series of Coffee & Chat and Walk & Talk events however sadly these did not get the attendees that we had hoped for so we paused these to focus on engaging with existing group and meeting parent carers where they are already or where we have parent carers who can actively support in a locality. Watch out for our new groups in partnership with the Stour Health Partnership and the Warwickshire Family Hubs.



School Parents Evenings / Events

This year we were welcomed into Brooke, Evergreen, Oak Wood Secondary, Welcombe Hills and Woodlands to meet with their parents at parents evenings and coffee mornings. We found this a great opportunity to chat to children and young people with children with complex needs,

Communication

We communicate with the parent carer community and wider stakeholders in a variety of ways.

Social Media

Our Facebook page has 2.3K followers and we post regularly getting good engagement from parent carers, organisations and others from the community.

We have started to develop our presence on LinkedIn page and have 79 followers.

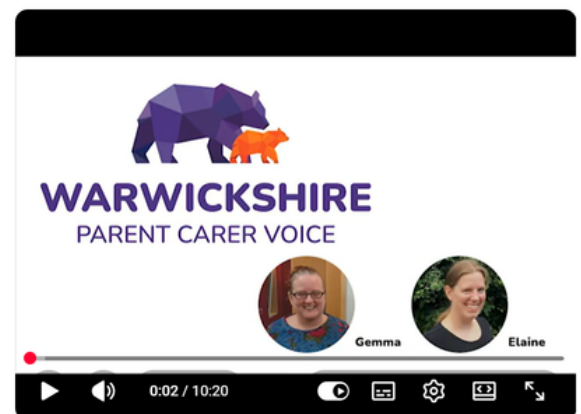
Information for Parent Carers

We love a padlet and use as a way of giving parent carers information e.g. our padlets of local information or recommended resources and as a tool for gathering feedback e.g. our feedback wall or our SEND reforms consultation padlet.

Podcast / Broadcast

We worked with a volunteer from Radio Warneford (south Warwickshire hospital radio) to record an introduction to Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice.

This is available on YouTube, was shared on our social media and is added to our WPCV Rep information padlet to form part of an induction process.



What is WPCV?

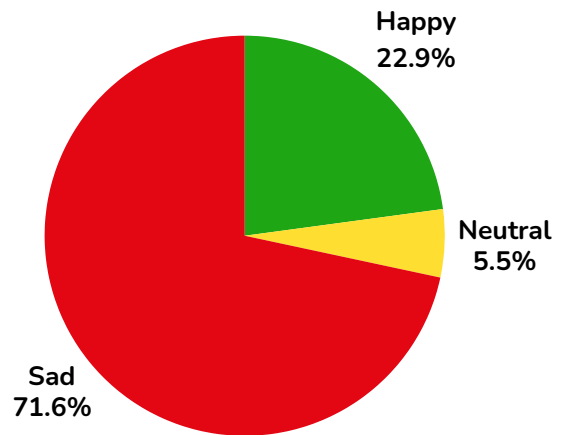
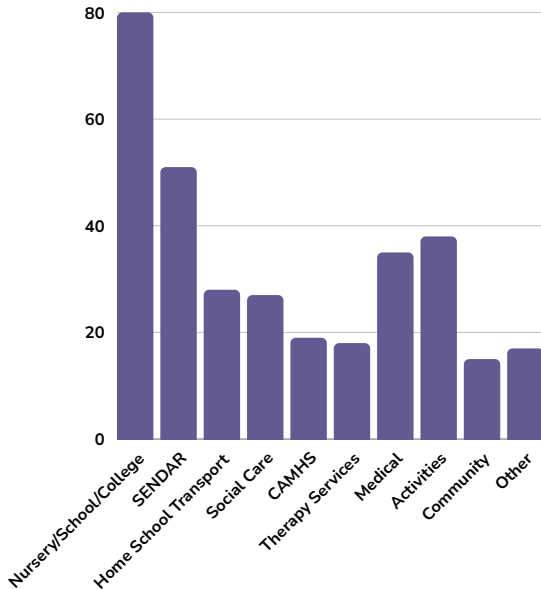
Local Area SEND Partnership Comms

We work with Warwickshire County Council to support communication for parent carers including coproduction of the SEND Newsletter, press releases and position statements.



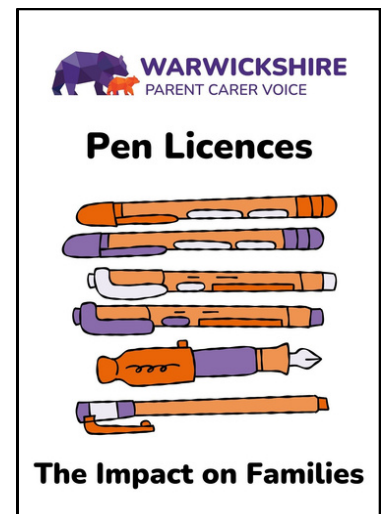
Feedback Wall

Our main mechanism for general feedback is via our Feedback Wall www.padlet.com/warwickshireparentcarervoice/feedback. From April 2025-March 2026 we received 328 pieces of feedback on the feedback wall. Most of the feedback is linked to experiences with education settings and most feedback was negative. We use this feedback to influence our work.



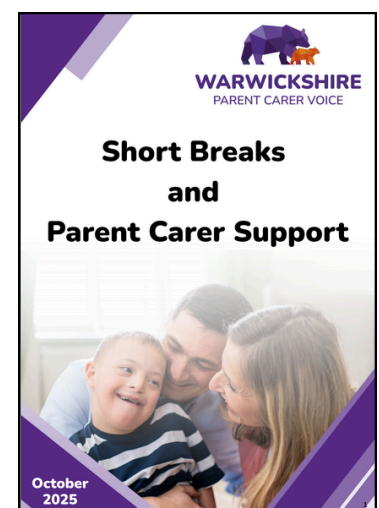
Pen Licences - The Impact on Families

Through our engagement work with parent carers in our 2024/2025 PINS Schools we found that children were struggling with Pen Licences so we asked wider families to share their experiences. We had a lot of feedback about the long lasting impact on children and young people about the practice of issuing Pen Licences so produced a report to help think about the practice in their schools.



Short Breaks & Parent Carer Support Survey

This year we joined other West Midlands PCFs in a focus on experience of Short Breaks. We combined this with local interest about Parent Carer Support to create one survey / report.



Autism and ADHD Support Survey

We launched a survey looking at experience of support before and after Autism and ADHD diagnosis in Neurodiversity Celebration Week - this is will close at the end of April.

Affiliated Schools

Building on the work on school engagement from the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) Project we are developing our ongoing support offer for school parent carer engagement and encouraging more schools to develop groups / school based parent carer forums and link with us as an affiliated school. Our two booklets developed through the Autism in Schools Project and the Great Groups Training created in PINS Year 1 are available to support schools with this work. We have recruited SEND Parent Champions who will volunteer to lead on the work in their school being supported by us.



SEND Community Forum

We know that can't possibly manage to communicate with everyone who is parenting a child with additional needs in Warwickshire so want to build a network of community organisations that are providing support to our families or activities to our children and young people. The SEND Community Forum creates a network to help more parent carers hear about us and enable us to hear from more of them. The SEND Community Forum was relaunched with an on online meeting in February 2026 and we are actively adding organisations who want to join onto our database and will have half termly drop ins for the leads.



Warwickshire County Council Consultations

We promoted the Warwickshire County Council Home to School Transport consultation to encourage families to share their views and we completed a response as Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice on behalf of families of children and young people with SEND highlighting the issues that would affect them most. In particular those without an EHCP who are not eligible for SEND Transport.

Interviews

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice has provided representatives for many roles - sometimes we are part of the main panel and sometimes we are part of a stakeholder panel that influences the final decision but is not part of the decision making. Roles we have been part of recruitment for include the Head of Early Years and School Effectiveness, Commissioning Manager for Children and Families, Designated Social Care Officer (Maternity cover), various SENDAR roles, CAMHS Service, Early Years Specialist Teacher and PINS Project Lead. We typically ask a question about explaining what coproduction means to the candidate and for an example of something that they have coproduced.

Training

Over the past year we have delivered a wider variety of training (online and in person). We worked with Warwickshire County Council as part of the Workforce Development Project to create a workshop for school staff on Home School Communication called 'Closing the Communication Gap', we also delivered training to schools as part of the PINS project. We delivered a session for the Children and Families Practice Learning Hub titled "Parent Blame: Language Matters" explaining how sometimes what is said is not what families hear. We coproduced and co-delivered training on SEND for both Children and Families Directorate as part of their Principles of Practice Event and County Councillors. We also presented information about Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice as an event for Short Breaks Providers.

Commissioning

We have been involved with various commissioning activity including developing the service specification, evaluating the tenders, supporting the mobilisation of new services and being part of service monitoring. Services that we have been involved with this year include Mediation, Short Breaks (and Overnight Short Breaks), the Early Intervention and Prevention Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. We also helped review the specification for the Parental Advocacy Service.

Reviewing Documents

Our Parent Carer Panel are regularly asked to review and provide feedback on documents e.g. leaflets, forms, letters and guidance to check that it is parent friendly.

Stakeholder Events

We attended the Education Conference, the Governor Conference, the Children and Families Directorate Principles of Practice Event and the Short Breaks Provider Forum to increase understanding about who we are and what we do.

PINS: Partnerships for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

The Partnerships for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) was a national project that ran for two years (ending in 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 aimed 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.

During 2025/2026 we worked with 42 mainstream primary schools across the county:

- 23 from Year 1 on the '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
- 19 in Year 2 who accessed their full menu of support - training, audits and other resources as well as support from us to facilitate their parent engagement groups.

As the parent carer forum led part of the project we facilitated 84 parent carer engagement sessions with over 477 parent carers to increase participation and coproduction in their schools - helping parents to provide feedback in a solution focused way and supported school leaders to work with families to create change. We are continuing to support the schools directly until the end of the academic year and are recruiting volunteer Parent Champions who we will support and mentor to continue leading the groups in their school.

We were also commissioned for additional work in this project. We partnered with the Specialist Teacher Service to run the Community of Practice events and to deliver training to School Governors. We developed and delivered training for school staff about 'what it means to be parenting a neurodivergent child and how they can help', co-created a video resource on the experience of neurodivergent parents and we co-hosted the Coventry and Warwickshire PINS Conference..



SENDIAS

We have continued to promote SENDIAS to parent carers who require individual support. We are trying to work more closely with the service and have supported the creation of information for families and have encouraged their involvement with wider projects with Warwickshire County Council. We provide parent carer representation at the SENDIAS Steering Group to share parent carer experiences of accessing and using the service.

County Councillors

This year was a year of change for the county Council with many longstanding councillors stepping down or not getting re-elected and new Cabinet Members for both Education and Children and Young People Portfolios. We have spoken at the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee reminding the councillors that every statistic is a not just a number on the page but an actual child / family and to highlight the need for better support for parent carers.

Following the Council Motion in March 2024 to introduce mandatory training for councillors we co-delivered the 2025 update to to increase their understanding of special educational needs and / or disabilities - both the statutory processes and what it means to be a 'SEND family' and have started planning 2026's training which will focus on the SEND reforms.

We have continued to have a co-opted representative on the SEND Members Panel (a group of Warwickshire County Councillors including representation of each party) which scrutinises the work to support SEND families in Warwickshire and have had meetings with councillors from different political parties about our work.

Working with Members of Parliament (MPs)

Throughout the last year there was anticipation and then the arrival of the SEND Reforms through the Schools White Paper and the SEND Reform Consultation. We follow our local MPs on Facebook and have shared their events for SEND parents when we can and some of our representatives have engaged with their local MP to discuss SEND issues.

In September 2025 we helped facilitate a SEND Roundtable for Matt Western (MP for Warwick and Leamington) with his SEND Roundtable providing us the opportunity to meet with parent carers invited by him who may not have heard of us before.

Meetings and Workstreams

Directors / SEND Core Group

We had regular meetings with the Executive Director for Children and Young People, the Director of Education, the Director of Children and Families at Warwickshire County Council and the Chief Nurse (who was the Senior Responsible Officer for SEND at the ICB) to discuss emerging issues.

Since the changes to the leadership at Warwickshire Council and Coventry and Warwickshire a new meeting for the SEND Core Group has been established to help build relationships and joint working which will replace this.

SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board

The SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board is the oversight board for the SEND Strategy bringing together partners from across education, health and social care to manage the SEND strategy.

Partnership KIT Meeting

We join the regular keeping in touch (KIT) meetings with the Department for Education and NHS England representatives - this includes the monitoring of the Written Statement.

Autism Partnership Board (and associated workstreams)

The Autism Partnership Board oversees the delivery of the Autism Strategy and the associated workstreams - we cochair the board. Over the past year the board evaluated progress made against the previous Autism Strategy and started to consider what the new strategy should be.

ADHD Transformation Plan

The need to make radical changes to the way the ADHD diagnostic (and medication) pathways work is recognised by the system. We have been part of various ADHD workstreams to look at different ways the system could work and to align the Autism and ADHD work over the next year as there are a lot of overlaps. The NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has approved a new all age commissioning policy for ADHD and autism at the end of March 2026.

Local Offer Coproduction Group

We have a meeting with a group of parent carers and the Local Offer leads from Warwickshire County Council to make continuous improvements to the Local Offer webpages. Over the past year we have started to review the information behind each tile, simplifying language and adding graphics / videos to make it more accessible and adding information including pages about the Dynamic Support Register, Disabled Facilities Grants and how to get a blue badge. This group has also linked with the 20 week redesign project to create new pages to explain the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment process.

20 Week Redesign Project

This project was a multiagency project led by Warwickshire County Council to improve the timeliness of the Education Health and Care Needs Assessment process so that it meets the statutory duties of being within 20 weeks from the request to the issuing of a final plan.

We had regular meetings with both the wider project team and meetings for parent; carer representatives and the project manager; we also provided feedback to many documents via our Parent Carer Panel. Coproducing the letters sent to families, a new road map document to guide people through the process (still draft) and updating the information on the Local Offer. We are pleased with the feedback we have received about the new online form that we coproduced to help parents complete a parental request. This form makes it easier for families to know what information is required and makes it easier for the SENDAR team to process.

Delivering Better Value

Warwickshire was part of the Department for Education's Delivering Better Value programme. This targeted four main areas: the expansion of resourced provisions, continued implementation of the Inclusion Framework Trial, the introduction of a Workforce Development Programme and the Digital Infrastructure Programme of work to join up systems.

We were most involved in the Workforce Development Programme supporting with the training videos, coproducing a workshop session for the online conference on Home School Communication called 'Closing the Communication Gap' and having an information stand at the celebration event where schools collected their resourced packs.

Education Other Than At School

We worked with Warwickshire County Council to develop the guidance around the provision of Education Other Than At School to make this offer clear for families. This involved working with parent carers who have EOTAS packages to ensure that the document was supportive of their needs and was an example of best practice.

EHCP Multi-Agency Quality Assurance Review (MAQAR)

We join the termly multi-agency sessions looking at the quality of EHCPs. We have developed our attendance and increased the number of our reps who attend so that we can have parent carer representation in each group. Over the last year these sessions had a focus on Preparation for Adulthood, Transferability and Future Proofing of Plans and the Review of Plans Over Time. The session on review of plans over time was a focus due to our feedback that whilst new plans had quality assurance before issue, many older plans had been issued before this process and tweaked over time losing quality.

Carers Forum

We attend the Carers Forum and are going to be invited to join the Steering Group. Our involvement in this group helps to raise the profile of parent carers as often we are forgotten. We have attended Carers Expo events and are working with Warwickshire County Council on developing a training to increase awareness of what it means to be a parent carer.

Overnight Short Breaks Mobilisation

We were involved in the tender evaluation for the new overnight short breaks provider and have worked with the mobilisation team to ensure that the new provider meets families expectations, that the situation is clearly communicated to families and that interim arrangements are in place when Rouncil Lane finishes operating.

Early Years (including Development Plan / Best Start Family Hub)

Over the past year we have increased our strategic participation within Early Years work. We attended the WInckS (Warwickshire Inclusion Kitemarking Scheme) award presentation where inclusive Early Years Settings were celebrated. We have shaped the Early Years Development Plan, the Best Start Local Plan and the development of the Family Hub ready to open on 1st April.

Emotional Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA)

We previously supported this project by gathering parent carer experience - this information has been used to shape the guidance for schools which has now been published. In 2026/2027 we will work with the Educational Psychology and Specialist Teacher Service leads to develop information for parent carers.

Preparation for Adulthood

We joined multi-agency workshops with NDTi to start to develop an action plan for Preparation for Adulthood / transitions work going forward. This work will include updating of resources for parent carers and young people to replace the current 'Transitions booklet' this work will continue in 2026/2027.

Exclusions / Alternative Provision (AP)

We supported work on the Exclusions / Alternative Provision project and the formation of the new AP model for Warwickshire.

Asthma Friendly Schools Initiative

We codesigned the the criteria and application process and were part of the accreditation panel for the new Asthma Friendly School Accreditation programme across Coventry and Warwickshire.

Commissioning Boards

We attended the Joint Commissioning Board and the Education Commissioned Places Board. We also work with the Children's Commissioning Team.

Warwickshire Education Partnership Board

We presented at Warwickshire Education Partnership Board about the Partnerships of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project and our school engagement work, after this were invited to continue to attend the meeting as a way to build relationships with headteachers.

Neighbourhood Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs)

We have joined the Steering Group to develop the Neighbourhood MDTs (a new health initiative) in Warwickshire.

Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance (RIIA)

We have attended the West Midlands SEND forum and joined with other West Midlands parent carer forums and system leaders to work on a plan to improve coproduction in our areas - funding is in place for this work in 2026/2027.

Partnerships

We link with other organisations to raise awareness, increase understanding of the work of parent carer forums and expand our reach.



As the Department for Education funded forum for Warwickshire we are members of the **National Network of Parent Carer Forums** and the **West Midlands Region Parent Carer Forums Network** linking with other parent carer forums and contributing to strategic work at a regional and national level. We attended the joint Contact / NNPCF conference in Sheffield.



We work closely with **IMPACT** - the Young Peoples Forum for SEND promoting their work and joining together to ensure that the voice of families is heard.



We work with **Healthwatch Warwickshire** to align our work in the health arena. Following parent concerns about the change of provider for Health Visiting, Healthwatch produced a report about the experiences of new parents.



We have linked with the **Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership** to try and reach families of very young children (and encouraged their invitation to participate in the Best Start and Early Years work.



We have attended the Rugby Disability Forum as organised by **Equip** and look forward to joining other forums as they become established.



We are members of the **Coventry and Warwickshire Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCSFE) Collaborative** a network of organisations from across Coventry and Warwickshire region, who are working together to deliver the mission and priorities of the Integrated Care System (ICS).



We are members of the **Coventry & Warwickshire REACH Mental Health Alliance** (REACH - Realising everyone's access to community help) which supports the VCFSE sector contributions to mental health services.

You Said, We Did...

You Said	We Did
There is inconsistent inclusion practices across Warwickshire schools (we heard amazing positive examples and sadly occasions where needs are not being met)	We promoted the Schools' Inclusion Charter and supported the Workforce Development Project and the PINS Project to try and improve inclusive practice
There were delays to EHC Needs Assessment Process and EHC Plans were not being issued within 20 weeks	We have supported Warwickshire County Council with communication about the delays and worked on the redesign project to improve timeliness - this data is now regularly reported
There are delays to EHCP Annual Reviews of EHCPs being carried out and paperwork completed	We supported Warwickshire County Council with the communication about the schools role in the EHCP Review and have asked SENDAR for performance data to see any improvement
There are issues with Home to School transport including out of date risk assessments and one page profiles	We provided a feedback report to Warwickshire County Council Transport Team, responded to the Home to School Transport Consultation and will meet with the team in the Summer term
The criteria for support from Social Care is unclear (see also findings from our survey)	We continue to work with the Children and Families Directorate to try and improve the transparency and to have it clearly explained on the Local Offer - this is a priority for 2026/2027
There were issues with the payment cards for Direct Payments and you needed more information	We worked with the Children with Disabilities Team and the Direct Payments Team to get information for families
There are issues with accessing CAMHS particularly with neurodivergent children and young people	Our Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Services Report (2024) was used to inform the development of the new Service Specifications and we hope that this will improve services
There are gaps in Mental Health support for 16-18 year olds	During all of the CAMHS recommissioning work we have been pushing to ensure that there is a young adults (16-25) mental health service in line with NHS guidance
The Right to Choose process / finding private diagnosis providers is difficult to navigate	We have asked the Commissioners to provide information for families to support this process / decision making

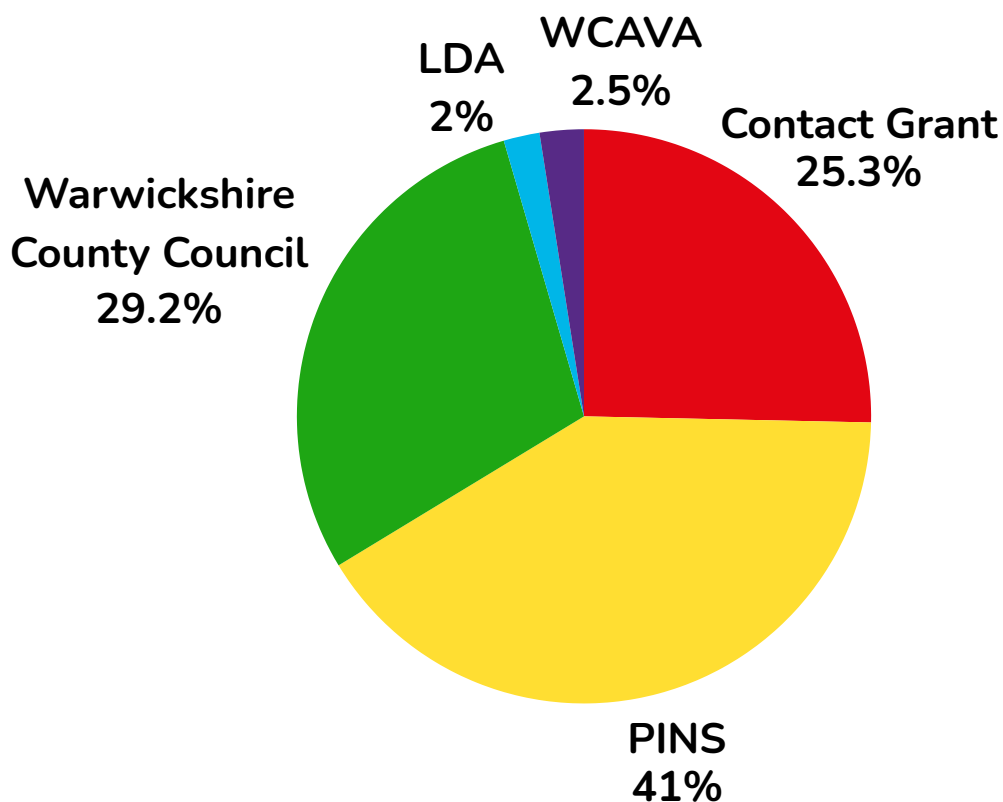
You Said	We Did
Right to Choose (RTC) providers are not always neuroaffirming	Unfortunately the language used by RTC providers is not able to be influenced locally as they are independent contractors, however we have provided this feedback to the Commissioners so that they can give guidance to any provider that they are commissioning directly to offer assessments
There is no ARFID (Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder) support / pathway	We have raised this issue with Commissioners in both the mental health and Autism / ADHD and will continue to ask for this support
Not getting therapy provision and / or referrals	We have shared this feedback with the SEND Partnership Board, South Warwickshire University Foundation Trust (SWFT) and the Integrated Care Board. Therapy services were discussed as part of workshops about Joint Commissioning and there is a workshop to discuss a new model of delivery for Speech and Language Therapy in April 2026
Accessibility to play areas especially for children who are wheelchair users	We provided feedback to several councils about play area accessibility. Added access to the community as a priority for 2026/2027
Lack of Changing Places facilities	We have remembered this when we are asked to provide feedback about new facilities and have added Access to the Community as a priority for 2026/2027
SEND Inclusive holiday clubs are difficult to find / too expensive if we have to fund the 1:1 needed	We are working with the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) and Short Breaks commissioners to try and improve the availability of suitable provision
Living on the border of the county we struggle to find out about school options, holiday clubs, activities etc	We have added a 'nearby' column on our SEND Activities and SEND Parent Support padlets to help signpost to activities that are close to the border

Finance

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice is funded through a combination of grants and project-based income, all of which is reinvested into our work on parent participation on behalf of families of children and young people with SEND across Warwickshire. We carefully manage our resources to ensure that as much funding as possible is directed into engagement and impact. As a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC), our purpose is entirely community focused.

Our core parent carer participation work is funded by the Department for Education. This funding enables us to gather the views and lived experiences of parent carers and to work strategically with education, health and care partners to influence improvements in local services and outcomes. In 2025/2026 we received additional money from Warwickshire County Council to support our core work. In contrast to many parent carer forums nationally, we did not receive any core funding from Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board.

We receive additional project funding from Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) for the PINS project, from the Joint Commissioning team for Autism and ADHD work for our time and through Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) for the research project.





Priorities for 2026/2027

During 2026/2027 we will continue to embed the values of the four cornerstones of coproduction into our work to build trust with both the parent carer community and those who work within the SEND system - including those at Warwickshire County Council, Coventry and Warwickshire ICB, schools, health trusts and care providers.

Welcome and Care

Value and Include

Communicate

Work in Partnership

Trust

Widening Parent Participation

We want to increase parent participation from the groups that we are not receiving so much feedback from. We will review our demographic information to develop our membership, Parent Carer Panel and Focus Leads to ensure that they are as representative as possible. We will prioritise - those living in the north of the county, those who do not see themselves as parent carers in particular: dads / male parent carers and foster carers, and those with children / young people who have more complex physical disabilities / health needs.

Developing Coproduction

Strategic coproduction within SEND is a strength but we recognise that it could be more consistent across Warwickshire's services. We are going to work with the Voice Influence and Change team to develop a coproduction approach across Warwickshire linked to the Child Friendly Warwickshire 'be heard' ambition - this will take the existing Working Together for SEND Charter and brand this for all Warwickshire services so that coproduction can be embedded. We will look to create toolkits and guidance to support service level coproduction and increase understanding that every time a practitioner is developing a plan with a family this is individual level coproduction.

Social Care / Short Breaks and Access to the Community

From our parent feedback - Social Care was ranked as the priority including the understanding of criteria for short breaks support especially overnight respite provision. We also want to work to understand the barriers families are facing to access the community to work out what the priorities should be.

SEND Reforms

We will continue to raise awareness of the SEND consultation with Warwickshire's SEND families asking for their feedback to write our response to the SEND Consultation. We will also be working with Warwickshire County Council on the development of the Local Area Plan.

Sustainable Funding

We will seek additional funding streams (ideally multi-year project funding) to supplement our Department for Education grant to enable us to continue to grow our reach.

Celebrating Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice

We want to increase awareness of the difference Warwickshire makes and celebrate our achievements. We have dates in the diary for five events (one in each district / borough) to celebrate our fifth birthday and we look forward to using these to share our achievements.





WARWICKSHIRE

PARENT CARER VOICE

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice CIC is registered in England number 15347930

Registered address:

Office 12, Brewsters Corner Business Centre
Pendicke Street
Southam
Warwickshire
CV47 1PN

www.warwickshireparentcarervoice.org

hello@warwickshireparentcarervoice.org

