Walsall SEND Service Newsletter



AUTUMN TERM 2025

WELCOME TO THE WALSALL SEND SERVICE AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is designed for parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Here, we share important updates, celebrate successes, and highlight opportunities for you to engage with and shape SEND services in Walsall. We are committed to working together to improve support, services, and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Your voice matters, and we welcome your feedback and involvement.

ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST?



Stay up to date with the latest SEND news, updates, and events in Walsall by joining our mailing list. If you are not already receiving our emails, please contact: localoffer@walsall.gov.uk

HELP SHAPE OUR SEND WORKSHOPS

Following feedback from parents, carers, and professionals, we're planning a series of workshops to help build understanding of SEND pathways and processes. We want to make sure these sessions are relevant, accessible, and timed to suit you.

Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey. Your responses will help us decide what topics to cover, how to deliver the sessions, and when to run them, starting with our first workshop before Christmas.

Thank you for helping us co-create something meaningful!

Please use this link: Workshop Survey or scan the QR code:

AUTUMN TERM PARTNERSHIP QUALITY ASSURANCE DAY

On Tuesday 30th September, we brought together partners from across education, health, social care, and our parent/carers for our 2nd SEND Quality Assurance Partnership Day of 2025, held at Walsall Art Gallery. It was a fantastic, creative space to explore this important work together.

The focus of the day was to review a broad range of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and reflect honestly on what's working well and where we need to improve. This wasn't about perfect plans, it was about real ones and using them to drive forward a shared vision of consistently high-quality, child and young person centred EHCPs across the borough.

The session was another example of our ongoing and impactful approach to coproduction. Parents, carers and professionals played a key role in the discussions, contributing their insight and lived experience to help shape better outcomes for families.

Thank you to everyone who took part. This is part of our continued commitment to improving the quality and consistency of EHCPs in Walsall, making sure every plan tells the real story of a child or young person and supports them to achieve their best possible outcomes. See you all again in the Spring Term!

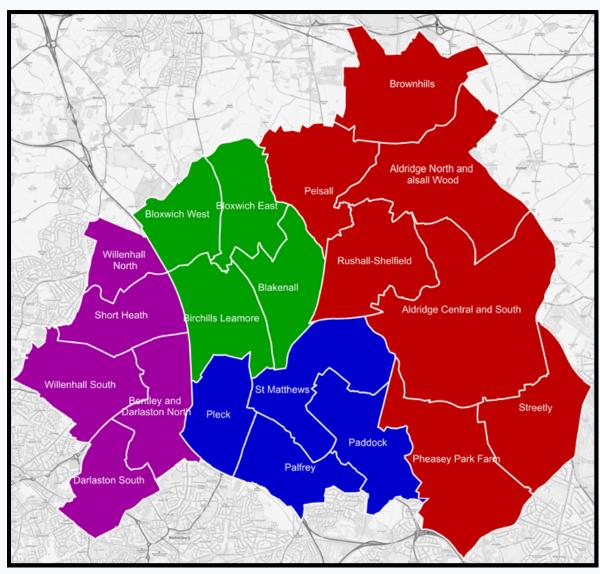
If you'd like to be part of it, please get in touch at localoffer@walsall.gov.uk



UNDERSTANDING YOUR WALSALL WARDS & LOCALITIES

There are 4 localities in Walsall. The North, East, South and West. Within these localities there are wards. There are 20 wards within Walsall.





Here is a list which locality each ward sits in

North	East	South	West
Birchills Leamore Blakenall Bloxwich West Bloxwich East	Aldridge Central & South Aldridge North & Walsall Wood Brownhills Pelsall Pheasey Park Farm Rushall Shelfield Streetly	Paddock Palfrey Pleck St Matthews	Bentley & Darlaston North Darlaston South Short Heath Willenhall North Willenhall South

SEN CASEWORK OFFICER ASSIGNMENT

The EHC team is split into two smaller teams. We have a team of SEN casework officers who work on EHC New Assessments, another that works on EHC Annual Reviews.

The annual review teams are split into localities and SEN Caseworker Officers are allocated to the wards of Walsall. Each team of SEN Caseworker Officers has a Senior SEN Casework Officer. Please see the list below of which caseworker works in which ward.

Please note that due to the nature of the role, there may be changes to staffing, including movement between roles, staff absences, or staff leave. We will provide updates as necessary.

Please see below table for the EHC Team Structure

EHC Team Manager: Rebecca Shaw						
Senior SEN Casework Officer	Olivia Dodd	Alison Hancox	Nicola Mitchell	Michelle Stafford	Amy Male	
Team	North Annual Reviews	East Annual Reviews	New Assessments	West Annual Review	Tribunals & Complaints	
	Sharon Henry	Rachael Holdcroft	Lisa Small	Tiffany Smith	Josie Morgan	
SEN Casework Officers	Takunda Mugabe	Lisa Tanner	Sophie Dowson	Holly Parsons		
	Mia Porter	Lauren Askey	Laura Bevan	Emma Humphries		
		Lucy Varley	Bethan McGarrie			

SEN CASEWORK OFFICER WARD ASSIGNMENT

North Locality				
Birchills Leamore	Birchills Leamore Bloxwich East Bloxwich West Blakenall			
Sharon Henry	Mia Porter	Mia Porter	Takunda Mugabe	

East Locality						
Aldridge Central & South	Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	Brownhills	Pelsall	Pheasey Park Farm	Rushall Shelfield	Streetly
Rachael Holdcroft	Laura Askey	Rachael Holdcroft	Lisa Tanner	Lisa Tanner	Lauren Askey	Lisa Tanner

Central & South Locality				
Paddock Palfrey		Pleck	St Mathews	
Lucy Varley	Lucy Varley	TBC	ТВС	

West Locality					
Bentley & Darlaston North	Darlaston South	Short Heath	Willenhall North	Willenhall South	
Holly Parsons	Emma Humphries	Tiffany Smith	Holly Parsons	Tiffany Smith	

CONTACTING THE SEND TEAM

If you need to get in touch about SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) matters, please follow the process outlined below.

Initial Contact

Please send your enquiry to the SEND Admin mailbox at <u>SEN@walsall.gov.uk</u> Your message will be directed to the most appropriate team member, and we aim to respond within 5 working days. Alternatively, you can contact the **SEND switchboard** on **01922 652871**. If your query is urgent, please let the team know, they will do their best to find an alternative team member who can assist you sooner.

If you have your SEN Casework Officer's email address, you are welcome to contact them directly. However, please copy <u>SEN@walsall.gov.uk</u> into your message so we can track your enquiry and ensure it is followed up if needed.

If You Haven't Received a Response

We aim to respond to all enquiries within 5 working days. If you haven't heard back after this time, please send a follow-up email to the <u>SEN@walsall.gov.uk</u> with the subject line: Follow-Up Enquiry – For the Attention of the Senior Casework Officer. This will alert a senior member of the team to review your message and ensure it is picked up promptly.

If You Still Need Support

If your enquiry remains unresolved or you need further assistance, please email <u>SEN@walsall.gov.uk</u> with the subject line: For the Attention of the EHC Team Manager. Our EHC Team Manager, will review your message and make sure it is directed to the right person for a timely response.

Please Note

To help us manage correspondence efficiently, individual staff email addresses are not routinely shared. All communication should go through <u>SEN@walsall.gov.uk</u> to ensure your enquiry is properly logged, tracked and followed up.

Respectful Communication

We understand that some situations can be frustrating, and we're here to help.

We ask that all communication remains courteous and respectful so that we can work together to resolve issues effectively. Aggressive or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and calls may be ended if necessary.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT



More Info: MettaMinds



More Info: Collingwood







BARRIERS TO EDUCATION: HELPING EVERY CHILD FEEL SAFE AT SCHOOL



The Barriers to Education website is a supportive resource for families and professionals working with children who struggle to attend school. It's built on real experiences and offers practical advice to help children feel safe, understood, and included.

Explore tools, stories, and ideas to help your child thrive, whether they're in school, out of school, or somewhere in between. For more info use this link:

BarrierstoEducation

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT

WALSALL SENDIASS DROP IN SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

For more info and book your space contact Walsall





Drop In Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 21 st October	10am - 11am	South & Central Family Hub, WS3 1HJ
Thursday 20 th November	1pm - 2pm	East Family Hub, WS8 6HA
Tuesday 9 th December	11am - 12pm	West Family Hub, WS10 8AE

Date	Time	Session	Venue
Tuesday 11 th November	12:30pm - 2pm	Workshop 3 How to make a request for a parent led EHCP	Manor Farm Community Association, WS4 1EU
Thursday 11 th December	10am - 12:30pm	Workshop 4 What is an EHCP and what do all the sections mean?	Manor Farm Community Association, WS4 1EU

CONTACT - SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS



Contact offers trusted advice and support for families raising children with additional needs. From a free helpline and a Listening Ear service to downloadable guides and email newsletters.

They also run fun and informative workshop, both online and in-person across the UK - covering topics like benefits, sleep, wellbeing, and more.

Find out more at **Contact**

HEALTH SUPPORT

SUPPORTED WAITING NETWORK DATES

The supported waiting partnership network meetings will be running every month where there will be guest speakers to advise on a variety of monthly topics and many services who support with access to additional support for you and your child.



Each monthly meeting will be held on the <u>Last</u>
<u>Wednesday</u> of the month at Manor Farm
Community Association, Rushall, WS4 1EU

Next Dates:

- Wednesday 29th October
- Wednesday 26th November

For more information or further advice please call: **01922 656463** or email <u>pals.officer@nhs.net</u>

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY (SALT) DROP INS

Do you have questions about your child's speech or language development? Are you worried that your child is not talking or does not understand you? Would you like some advice on general strategies to help?

If you're worried about your child's communication skills and your child is not already known to our service, please come to one of our drop-in sessions for advice and support.

Thursday 6th November

9:30-11:30am

Oak Park Leisure Centre WS9 9PQ Thursday 20th November

9:30-11:30am

Willenhall Library WV13 2EX Monday 24th November

9:15-11:30am

South Family Hub WS2 8NF Monday 15th December

9:15-11:30am

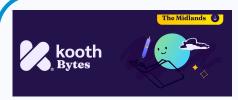
Virtual Drop In Session

For more info, email the SaLT team: walsall.slt@nhs.net or

call: 01922 605400



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



EBSNA' - Emotionally Based School Non- Attendance

A free 45 minute webinar for parents and carers

'Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance, or EBSNA for short, refers to young people who struggle to attend school because of a range of emotional factors.

These can include struggling with issues like low mood, anxiety and loneliness. The impact of EBSNA can range from the young person experiencing an occasional reluctance to attend school, to complete non-attendance. It can start suddenly or develop gradually over time.

Kooth have developed this free webinar for families to explore EBSNA as a complex issue and will give guidance on how digital mental health support can help.

For more information in how to access please use think link:

KoothBytes



CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops Come and join our Parent/Carer Workshops, run by Black Country CAMHS services (on Zoom for 1.5hours)! Groups held 12pm - 1.30pm. We know that suffering from mental health difficulties does not only affect the person struggling, but also the family around them. Parenting a child/young person with mental health difficulties can create additional challenges for parents. We are running workshops exploring a range of difficulties that children/young people may experience, that can impact their emotional wellbeing. 11.06.25 - Anxiety 09.07.25 - Low Mood / Depression 17.09.25 - Autistic Spectrum Conditions 15.10.25 - Trauma and Attachment 12.11.25 – Anger / Conduct Issues 10.12.25 - Self Harming Behaviours 14.01.26 - Anxiety / OCD To register your interest telephone Andrea Ehgartner on 01922 607400 bchft_camhs X@CAMHS_BCHFT www.blackcountrychildrens.nhs.uk/



CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES



The Youth SEND Forum will be meeting in person this half term!

If you or a young person you know aged 8-16years old would like an opportunity to share your thoughts, experiences and meet other like minded young people please get in touch

We are really excited to meet all the young people in person and hear directly from them!

Please contact Sam on: samantha.house@walsall.gov.ukto get involved.

WINTER PORTAL GOES LIVE: TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER @ 10AM



The HAF offer for this winter for you to choose is up to 4 pick & mix/family sessions per child

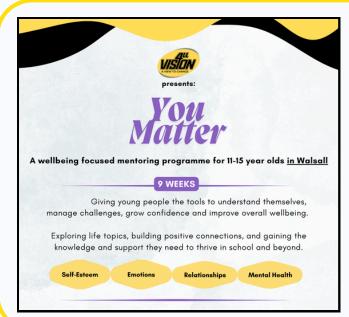
We have a range of activities that may include: Bowling, Cinema, Summer Sensory Sessions, Swimming & Adventurous Activities.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE HAF TEAM:

Please check your account/s to ensure your details are up to date (we have had a number of parents not being able to participate in the sessions as they have not updated their child/ren's details)

If you need any support please contact the HAF team via; wr4c@walsall.gov.uk

CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES

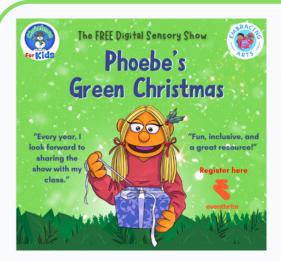


You Matter - Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme for 11-15 year olds in Walsall.

This is a 9 week course that will take place in person.

5pm - 6:30pm Tuesday evenings.

For more information please contact: ebony@vision-for-all.com



Phoebe's Green Christmas is a **free**, digitial festive show created especially for neurodiverse children, those with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), and children with life-limiting conditions. It's designed to be enjoyed wherever your child feels most comfortable, at home, in school, hospital, or hospice.

Expect music, puppets, sensory fun, and lots of Christmas cheer! The show is available to watch from **3rd November 2025 to 9th January 2026.**

For more information in how to book a slot please use this link: **EmbracingArts**







FAMILY EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES



FREE bus travel for parents this October half-term

From 27 October to 2 November 2025, Transport West Midlands are offering parents, guardians or carers a whole week of unlimited free bus travel across the West Midlands.

For more info:

<u>TransportWM</u>













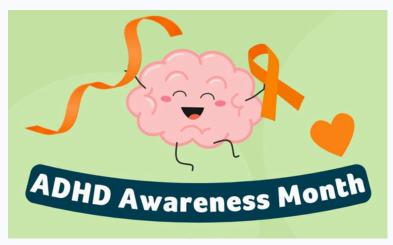
EVENTS



This is an event is designed for parent/carers to come along and to be able to chat to those who offer services to our children/ young people in Walsall

When - Friday 7th November - 10am - 12pm Where - Bloxwich Active Living, High St, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2DA







SEND SERVICES FEEDBACK

Please could you spare a few minutes to complete this feedback form on your experience with the SEND Services. Please use the QR code or link below. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

SENDServiceFeedback



FEEDBACK

If you have any feedback or wish something to be included in the next SEND Communications please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Next Issue: SEND Services Communications Autumn 2

Submit your updates by <u>5th November</u> to be included!

Please use the below emails

Sam: samantha.house@walsall.gov.uk

Local Offer: local Offer: local offer@walsall.gov.uk



Thank you for being part of the Walsall SEND community!









