



# Monthly Newsletter.

## November 2025

Welcome to PACC's monthly newsletter.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please email:  
[info@paccshropshire.org.uk](mailto:info@paccshropshire.org.uk)

PACC- Facebook



PACC- Website



### Shropshire Overnight Short Breaks Contract Awarded to New Provider



The Shropshire Overnight Short Breaks Service is a specialist service delivered from the Shropshire Council owned Bradbury House, providing essential breaks from caring for Parent Carers supporting children with complex needs. Over the past 12 months PACC has supported the recommissioning of this Service, ensuring that feedback from families was central to the design and delivery of the Service.

Currently the Service is delivered by Action For Children, but through the recommissioning process the contract has been awarded to Shaftsbury from 1st April 2026 and they will become the new provider. PACC was involved in all aspects of the recommissioning, including developing the Service specification and scoring the bids. While consideration of value for money is part of the commissioning process the decision-making process is focused on the quality of the Service to be provided. There has been a slight increase in the funding of this new contract.

PACC looks forward to working with Shaftsbury in this new role. We know how much families value the overnight support delivered from Bradbury House and how important this Service is for family wellbeing. PACC will continue to remain involved in the transition period between the current and new provider and will highlight the need for regular and clear communication with families, introducing the new provider and making sure that families are aware of any upcoming changes. Individual support plans will not be impacted by this change in provider and levels of support should remain the same.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above, please contact Sarah on [enquiries@paccshropshire.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@paccshropshire.org.uk)



Updated guidance on developing and implementing school uniform policy is a welcome step forward in the consideration of SEND needs in the school environment. The guidance highlights the importance of governing boards considering the guidance “to help ensure that they comply with their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010”.

The update makes it clear that governing boards should be aware of the needs of pupils with SEND and “consider whether certain items of clothing could create challenges” for them. When doing this, leaders need to be aware of how uniform policy “aligns with human rights and equalities legislation” and pupil wellbeing, among other things.” There is an expectation that in relation to pupils with SEND school leaders should review “what flexibilities, adaptations, adjustments or alternatives might mitigate any negative impact on these pupils” and in response can adopt “a more comfortable or less restrictive uniform” or a “more flexible policy that allows pupils to choose from a range of items”.

The guidance also highlights the need to work in partnership with families to develop and review the school’s uniform policy, ensuring that this document is co-produced.

PACC welcomes this new guidance with stronger messages about making reasonable adjustments for SEND pupils. For many years parent carers have highlighted the negative impact of discomfort due to inflexible uniform policies, experienced by many children and young people with SEND. Not meeting this basic need has impacted many young people’s ability to access education and damaged school-based relationships. This issue has been championed through the work done via programmes such as Autism in Schools and the Partnership for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS), promoting a move to a more inclusive culture within the school environment. PACC has been central to delivering this work in Shropshire and supporting this change to happen.

**READ MORE**





## Information & Support | Influence & Change



“Shropshire Council ensures that there are different services in place for adults with LD&A including supported living and day opportunities. We'd like to hear from you to understand what is working well and how things could work better. The survey focuses on externally provided services and not those delivered directly by Shropshire Council.”

Day Opportunities for adults with LD&A includes activities and support offered during the day to help people learn new skills, make friends, be more independent, and take part in their community.

Supported Living should enable people to live as independently as possible in their community, with support from staff. This can either involve living by themselves or with other adults who have similar support needs.

**The surveys will close on Tuesday 23 December 2025.**

It is very important that any Young People accessing Day Opportunities or in Supported Living share their feedback to ensure that services meet the needs of those accessing them, Family Carers are also able to provide their feedback!

If you are having any difficulties accessing these services, please get in touch and we are happy to help!

**CLICK HERE**



**Day Opportunities** for adults with LD&A includes activities and support offered during the day to help people learn new skills, make friends, be more independent, and take part in their community.

Shropshire Council would like to hear from you to understand what is working well and how things could work better. The survey focuses on externally provided services and not those delivered directly by Shropshire Council.

**Which Day Centres can we provide feedback on?**

- Blossom Barns
- Innage Lane
- Our Space
- 448's
- The Windfall Project
- Freda's Day Service
- Fordhall Farm
- Cherry Lodge
- Willow Lodge
- Nineveh Ridge Care Farm
- Working Together Ludlow
- Broseley Life Skills
- Condoover Day Opportunities
- Crows Mill Craft Centre
- We Are Champions
- Crossbar Alternative Provision
- Erlas Victorian Walled Garden

**Supported Living** enables people to live as independently as possible in their community, with support from staff. This can either involve living by themselves or with other adults who have similar support needs.

**For clarification, this is applicable to all Supported Living settings- while Shropshire Council commission the care and support they do not deliver it.**



# Surveys

PACC collect feedback from Parent Carers and Family Carers via surveys to inform and influence change within the system.

## Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

You can provide feedback on your child/ young person's EHCP- including- Application Process, Annual Reviews, quality of plans and timeliness.



## Barriers to accessing PA's for 14-25 year old's

PACC are currently collecting feedback from Parent Carers about barriers to accessing PA's for their child/ young person aged 14-25 in Shropshire. Feedback collected in this survey will be used to inform and influence change within current Services available for families to access PA's.



## Childcare for school-age children with SEND in Shropshire

PACC are currently collecting feedback about child care for children in Shropshire with SEND. The feedback from this survey will be shared with Shropshire Council to inform information on the Local Offer and identify any themes in feedback shared. All information shared will be anonymised.



## General Feedback

Please use this form to share with PACC any feedback you have about your experiences of SEND services, systems, and practices as a family. This information will be used to inform the discussions we have with partners across the SEND system to improve the care and support made available to families in Shropshire. All information will be used anonymously, but we do ask for your contact details so that we can contact you about your feedback if we may require further information to understand your experience.





## Cerebra Launches New Report on System Generated Trauma



‘Systems Generated Trauma is the harm caused by the policies and practices of the public services that disabled children and their families are forced to navigate. While often unintentional, this harm stems from deep-rooted problems that turn the act of seeking help into an ordeal.’ – Cerebra Report

Parent Carers and SEND Family Carers have for some time reported that engaging with the SEND system has had a negative impact on their wellbeing. The negative impact of trying to navigate a complex and disorganised system, where finances too frequently take priority over legal duties or wellbeing and families feeling they have to constantly fight for the help they need, has been becoming increasingly obvious. The new report from Cerebra highlights the extent to which this is happening and the damage it is causing.

The Report Summary states;

- ‘Systems Generated Trauma’ is the harm caused by the policies and practices of public services. Our work with families has identified several problems within the systems that are meant to support them:
- Different parts of the system work separately and don’t communicate with each other.
- The system is incredibly difficult for families to navigate.
- Parents often feel blamed for the challenges they face.
- The system doesn’t listen to parents or value their expertise as parent carers.
- Families aren’t kept informed and decisions aren’t explained.
- The system focuses on saving money rather than supporting families.’
- 

These are issues that Shropshire Parent Carers and SEND Family Carers often raise with PACC. Recently PACC presented a summary of engagement activity and feedback to the Shropshire SEND and AP Partnership Board which shared these concerns with senior managers of the Shropshire SEND system. You can read this summary [here](#)

PACC has repeatedly highlighted concerns about poor Parent Carer/SEND Family Carer mental health, which is being impacted not just by the local situation but the current difficult national conversation about SEND which is often distressing listening for families. We are aware that there is a long-standing issue with the delivery of Parent Carer Needs Assessments in Shropshire, but perhaps of more concern is the lack of clarity about what these assessments when carried out, can actually deliver and how effectively they support Parent Carer wellbeing.



# AUTUMN TERM

## SEND MEET & CHAT FAMILY DROP-IN

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help









**Do you care for a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)?**

These sessions are open to anyone supporting a child with SEND — whether you're a parent carer, family member, or professional.

Come along to ask questions, get practical advice, and connect with professionals who understand your journey

Speak with experts in:

-  EHCPs
-  School support
-  Health and wellbeing
-  Social care
-  Mental health
-  Navigating SEND challenges

Each session will have different professionals available, so come along, have a chat, and find the help you need.



### HAVE YOUR SAY!

Scan the QR code to suggest topics and activities for future drop-in sessions.

#### RAVEN HOUSE

**Tuesday 23rd September 2025**  
2:00pm-4:00pm

Raven House,  
129 Cheshire Street,  
Market Drayton, TF9 3AH

#### BRIDGNORTH LIBRARY

**Tuesday 14th October 2025**  
1:00pm-3:00pm

Bridgnorth Library,  
Listley Street, Town Centre,  
Bridgnorth, WV16 4AW

#### THE LANTERN

**Thursday 13th November 2025**  
10:00am-12:00pm

The Lantern,  
Meadow Farm drive,  
Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

#### OSWESTRY LIBRARY

**Thursday 4th December 2025**  
1:00pm-3:00pm

Oswestry Library,  
Arthur Street,  
Oswestry, SY11 1JN



# LETTERS TO SANTA



Writing a letter to Santa this  
Christmas?


Make sure you send your  
letters to Santa by 10  
December. Don't forget to  
include a full name and  
address on the back of the  
envelope so Santa can reply.

Send your letters to:  
Santa/Father Christmas  
Santa's Grotto Reindeerland  
XM4 5HQ



## Christmas tips for SEND families!

- ☒ **Put presents in one big box** and let your child open them at their own pace over the following days
- ☒ **Avoid surprises** by picking gifts from their list and wrapping them in clear cellophane (or not at all)
- ☒ **Add batteries** to toys before wrapping
- ☒ **No food rules.** Who says pizza and pot noodles can't be Christmas dinner?
- ☒ **You do you!** Don't feel guilty telling friends or relatives if something doesn't work for you
- ☒ **Don't put unrealistic pressures on yourself.** The holidays can be overwhelming for everyone, so stick to your regular routine if you want to

contact 





# BETSY'S LITTLE WOODLAND



## TIMETABLE AND OFFERS

<b>MONDAY</b> 9.30AM-3.00PM  <b>OPEN SESSIONS</b> 	<b>TUESDAY</b> 9.30-AM-3.00PM  <b>SEN SESSIONS ONLY</b> 9.30AM-3.00PM £10 HOT DRINK INCLUDED	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9.30-AM-3.00PM  <b>COFFE AND CAKE</b> INCLUDES: 1X CHILD ADMISSION SENSORY ROOM ACCESS 1X COFFEE 1X SLICE OF CAKE £15.00 <b>OPEN SESSIONS</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 10.00AM-3.00PM  <b>MESSY PLAY SESSIONS</b> £10 10.00AM-11.30AM LIMITED FOOD WASTE MAXIMUM LEARNING  <b>OPEN SESSIONS</b> 12.00PM-3.00PM	<b>FRIDAY</b> 9.30AM-3.00PM  <b>OPEN SESSIONS</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> 9.30AM-12.00PM  <b>FAMILY PLAY &amp; EAT BUNDLE</b> 2X ADMISSION 2X SNACK PLATES 2XSANDWICHES 2X COFFEE SENSORY ROOM ACCESS £35 £11.80 SAVING <b>OPEN SESSIONS</b>





RockAbility

FIRST SESSION FREE!

# INCLUSIVE MUSIC MONDAY

*In Oswestry*

5:30-6:30pm - Inclusive Jam  
6:30-7:30pm - The RockAbility Choir

Hope Church, Oswestry SY11 2NR  
Email to book your place - [info@rockability.co.uk](mailto:info@rockability.co.uk)



ALBRIGHTON FC

JOIN OUR NEW PAN-DISABILITY FOOTBALL TEAM

OPEN TO AGES 5 - 11

ALBRIGHTON FC COMETS



INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH WITH LEE VIA EMAIL:  
[COMETS@ALBRIGHTONFC.CO.UK](mailto:COMETS@ALBRIGHTONFC.CO.UK)



ALBRIGHTON FC



## FESTIVE GARDENS 2025 SEN NIGHT

Thu 18 Dec, Telford Town Park



MAIN INFO

VENUE INFO

MORE FROM THIS VENUE

## Tea & Time

A **SEND sational** place for a cuppa and company with other SEND parents/carers feel free to bring along little ones

Come along on Tuesdays  
1.30pm-3.00pm  
(term time only)



To meet other families in the community

Coffee, Biscuits, Cakes & Fruit will be provided

£3 per week

Meet at The Lodge, Upton Lane  
Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, SY2 5RR



Scan this QR code to complete the form so our staff are aware of any allergies you have before you attend



[kerry@sya.org.uk](mailto:kerry@sya.org.uk)

[www.sya.org.uk](http://www.sya.org.uk)



07710095802



The Lodge @ Monkmoor



No  
Diagnosis  
Required

A DROP IN SESSION FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO FIND SOME SUPPORT, FUN AND FRIENDSHIP.

Drop in for A Chat, A Coffee, A Play, Advice, Support or just some company

## FAMILY DROP IN EVERY WEDS

3 - 6 PM

Home Cooked Tea Available  
£2.50 / child

Inclusion Hub

empathy for special children

[www.empathyforspecialchildren.org/events](http://www.empathyforspecialchildren.org/events)





**you are invited to  
Christmas at**

# **Acton Scott Heritage Farm**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 & 13 11AM - 3PM**

**Join us as we prepare for a traditional  
Christmas on the farm. Enjoy Victorian  
festive traditions, Christmas crafting,  
storytelling, carols & seasonal treats  
from the Acton Scott Farm Cafe.**

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Corn dolly decorations  
Christmas stories by the tree  
Butter making in the dairy  
Christmas Trail  
Basketmaking  
Victorian Christmas traditions  
Carols in the farmyard  
Make Christmas Nutcrackers  
Help decorate our Christmas Tree

**Saturday 13 Dec only**  
Wreath making demonstrations  
Brass Band 11am

**Tickets**  
[actonscottheritagefarm.org.uk](http://actonscottheritagefarm.org.uk)







# THE POLAR EXPRESS

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

10:00am



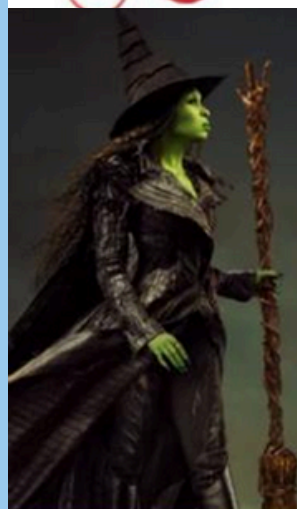
## Relaxed Screening

What to expect:

- Low lighting throughout the screening so you can move around if needed
- Reduced sound levels for a more comfortable experience
- No trailers—just the film!
- Trained Ushers available to support those with SEN needs
- Perfect for children, young people and families looking for a gentle, supportive environment to enjoy the magic of cinema.



Sponsored by



# WICKED FOR GOOD

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

1:30 pm



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# Christmas

## OPENING HOURS

22<sup>ND</sup> DEC  
23<sup>RD</sup> DEC

\* SEND SESSION  
\* 9.30AM- 5PM

XMAS EVE  
XMAS DAY  
BOXING DAY

CLOSED  
CLOSED  
CLOSED

27<sup>TH</sup> DEC  
28<sup>TH</sup> DEC  
29<sup>TH</sup> DEC  
30<sup>TH</sup> DEC

9.30AM- 12PM  
SEND SESSION  
\* 9.30AM-5PM  
\* 9.30AM-5PM

NEW YEARS EVE  
NEW YEARS DAY

\* SEND SESSION  
CLOSED

2<sup>ND</sup> JAN

\* 9.30AM-5PM





Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway

# *SEN SANTA SESSIONS*

Book Now

Christmas Magic with The Stick Man at Haughmond Hill

Families are invited to join Stick Man and Santa for a brand-new festive trail at Haughmond Hill this Christmas! Running from 7 November through December 2025, the trail is packed with fun winter activities, hidden letters, and woodland adventures — all inspired by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved story.





# Shropshire Christmas Tractor Runs







## Come and dance with Shropshire Inclusive Dance

- Learn dance sequences
- Boost confidence and creativity
- Make your own dances
- Have fun, make new friendships

Contact Ray at SiD for bookings  
[raysidance@gmail.com](mailto:raysidance@gmail.com)

# Thrive - creative dance class

A weekly dance class for adults with learning disabilities  
and/or are neurodivergent

Wednesdays  
1.30pm – 3pm

The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE

Winter Holiday Fun and Food in Shropshire

## **Book Now!**

Spaces are available on the Winter HAF programme.

Over the holidays, eligible children and young people  
aged 4 (reception class age) to 16, are invited to  
attend free holiday clubs happening across the county.

To find out more please go to:  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/haf)



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