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Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester

September 2026

LIVEWELL UPDATE : SEND SUMMIT 2026 : PCF EVENTS & TRAINING

Message from our Chair

Hello everyone!

Welcome to this month's Parent Carer Forum update.

As we move into a new school year, I would like to thank all the families who continue to share their experiences, ideas and feedback with us.

Your voices are at the heart of everything we do. Whether you

We have also been busy planning future events, strengthening our communications and developing new opportunities for families to get involved.

I hope you find this month's update informative and helpful. As always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to contact us if there are issues, challenges or successes you would like us to hear about.

Together, we can continue to make a difference for SEND families

for support, or simply shared your family's journey - you are helping us ensure that the experiences of parent carers are heard and represented.

Over the past month, we have continued to meet with local, regional and national partners.

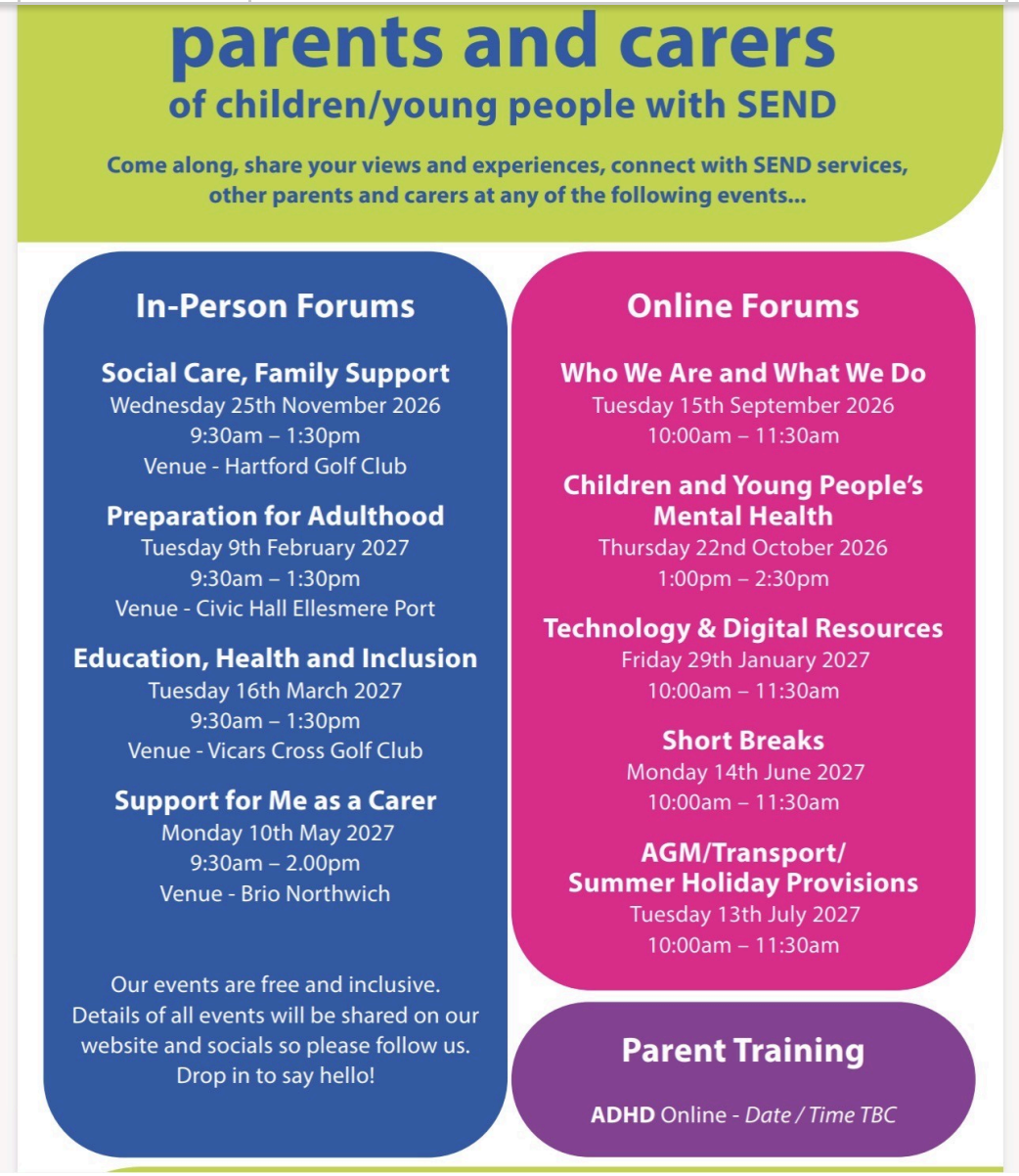
We've been raising the issues that matter most to families and working collaboratively to improve services and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Lucy Kennerley - Chair
Parent Carer Forum
Cheshire West & Chester💜

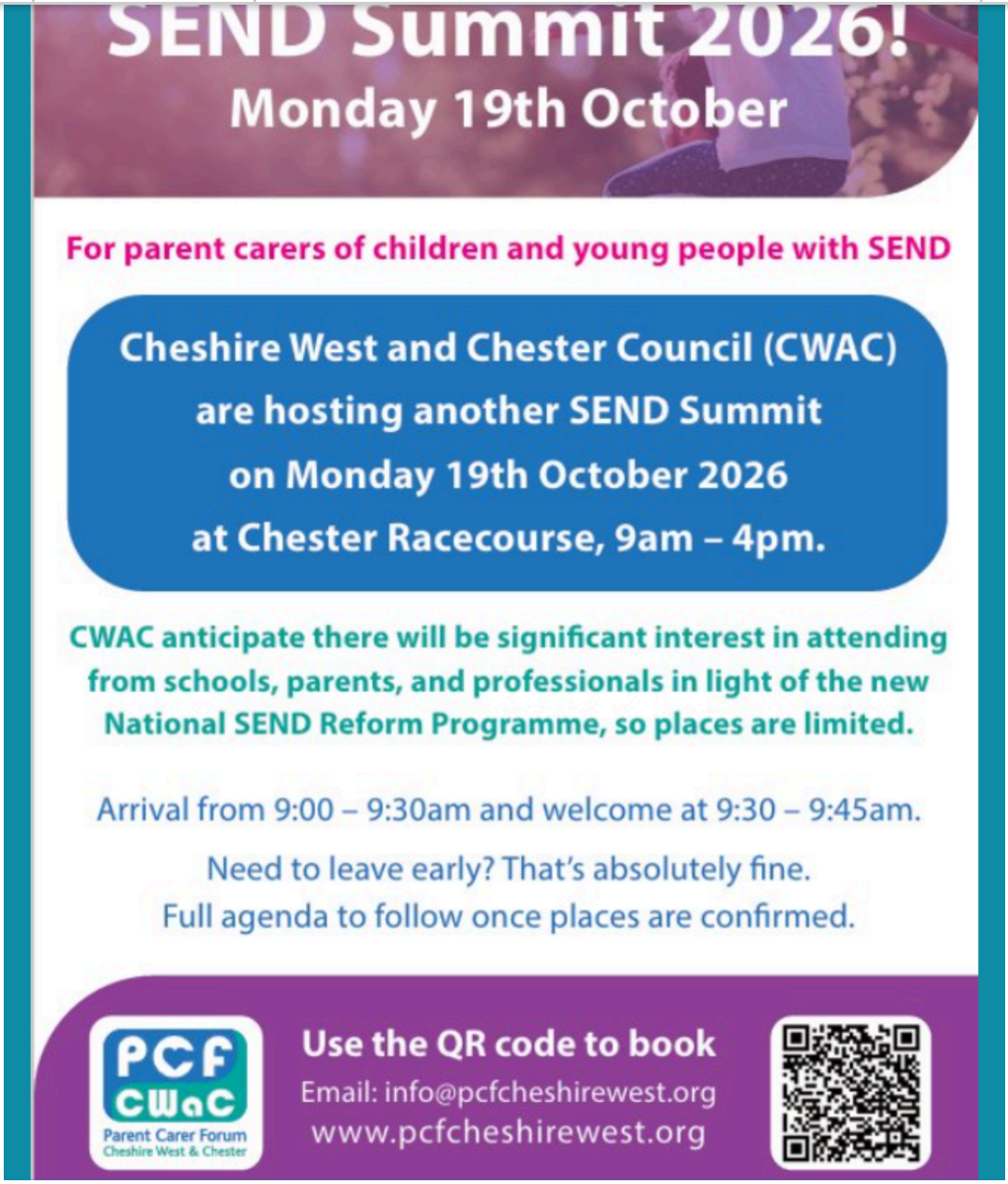


Voices that Shape SEND

New events for the year ahead 2026/2027



🗓️ Save these dates! Book now...



Book SEND Summit



Virtual Forum: Children and Young People's Mental Health

referral pathways and what to expect.

Mental health support available in schools, early intervention and crisis services, practical ways parent carers can support their child's mental health.

You can also find further support through a Q&A and signposting session.

Book Here



Who is this for?

This event is for parent carers of children and young people (aged 0–25) with SEND in Cheshire West and Chester.

It's a chance to hear from professionals, ask questions, and get practical strategies to support your child at home and in school.

Book Here

Our online event - PCF - who we are!

Thank you to everyone who joined our recent online event **Who We Are and What We Do** on Tuesday, September 15.

Don't worry if you couldn't make our online event on the 15th of September. You can watch the session back on our YouTube channel! Or click on the video below…

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Share Feedback

SEND Commitment Branding Share your voice!

Creating a consistent and recognisable look and feel will help families quickly identify trusted SEND information, make connections across different channels and become increasingly familiar with the Commitment and what it represents.
Give them your feedback on the current brand design!

Check out all the latest updates and information across the borough for parents and carers.

You also have an opportunity to get involved, have your say and improve the Live Well/Local Offer Cheshire West Website.

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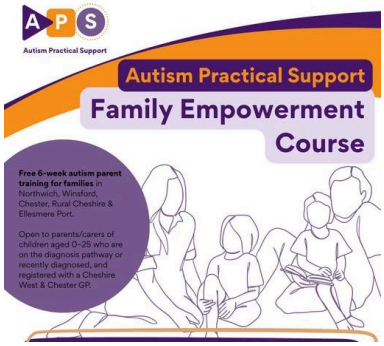


Free Programmes



Funded by Active Cheshire and **Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner**, Active Futures is a daytime programme for neurodivergent young people aged 12-17 who are not currently in education.

Participants can stay active, build confidence and connect with others through weekly boxing, gym sessions and a weekly Connect Hour. To register, please click here.

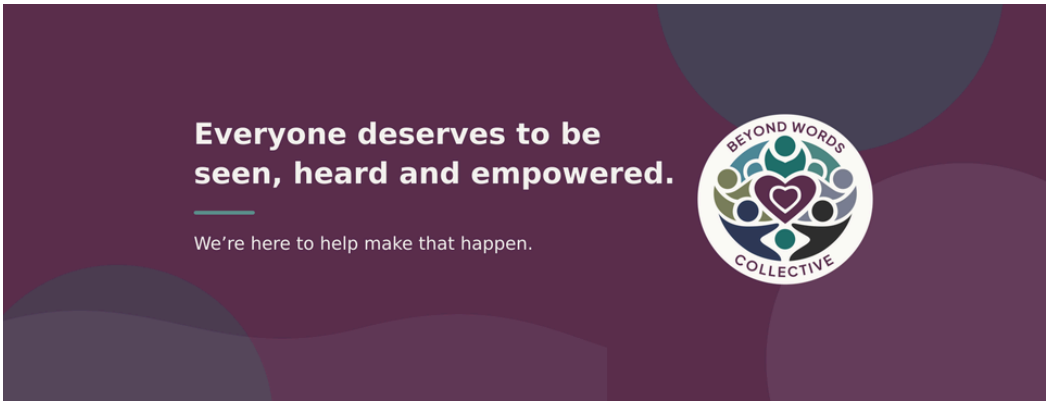


APS has been commissioned to offer **FREE autism parent six week training programmes** for residents in Northwich, Winsford, Chester, Rural Cheshire and Ellesmere Port, on behalf of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). The parent training sessions are created by parents, for parents, offering practical strategies, guidance, and a space where you feel understood and supported every step of the way. Find out more here.

Beyond Words Collective CIC's Navigate is a free, 12-week programme, run entirely online, and is helping parents and carers build the confidence and practical skills to

Advocacy & Confidence Training Programme – Beyond Words Collective

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Half term fun



Castaway Play SEN Sessions

Spooky adventure and pumpkin picking from an all-new pumpkin patch, as your favourite characters take over Castaway Play! For children who may feel overwhelmed by loud noise or busy crowds. On the **18th of October** - click on the image above to book 🎃👻🦇

6 sources for carers

Our parent carer community has found that the six support services below have been a useful source of information, advice and support along their parenting journey.

01

Early Help Navigator Service

Navigator Service

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). ENS can Help Families Navigate what support is available.

02

Listening Ear

LISTENING EAR
someone to talk to

Need someone to talk to? We offer 1:1 telephone appointments for emotional support—because sometimes being heard makes all the difference

03

Contact: the charity for families with disabled children

Contact information and advice can help you with the best possible guidance for your child. From benefits to early years education, social care and legal advice - all in one place.
Reach out, connect, and access the support you deserve.

04

Live!

Inclusive, accessible, high-quality learning, personal development and social activities for children, young people and adults with disabilities.

05

Mental Health Support for Young People

Live Well Cheshire West provides a directory of mental health support services for children and young people.

These include telephone, text and online services, as well as face to face services to make these support services as accessible as possible.

06

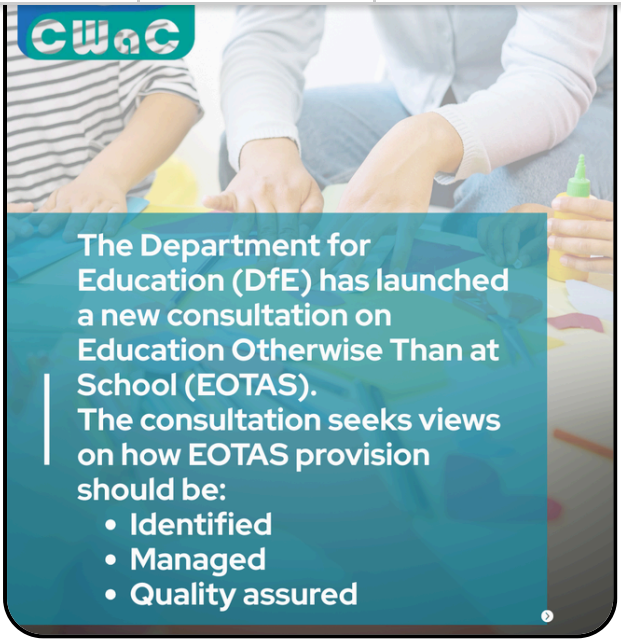
Disability Positive

Disability Positive provide services, opportunities and a voice to people with lived experience of disability and long-term health conditions, and their families.
They are commissioned by the Council to support families in accessing funding for short breaks and activities for children and young people.

Have your say!

There are some incredibly important consultations and sessions that might affect you as a parent carer. It's vital that you have your say.

We've submitted a detailed response to the **Education Otherwise Than At School review** Consultation, drawing on the lived experiences of families gathered through our 2026 Survey.



23 enrolled but unable to attend, and 11 who are out of school and receiving no education at all, alongside direct conversations with parent carers.

Read more in our latest blog here:

EOTAS BLOG

Our Aims



VOICE **Be the voice of as many parents/carers as possible!**

Co-produce improvements to Services so that all children and young people in the Borough with SEND are given the chance to achieve the

Work in **partnership** with providers of Education, Health Care and Social Care services to influence decisions about gaps in services

Provide feedback, **advice and information links** to Professionals and Voluntary Organisations

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

GET INVOLVED!

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