

## WFPF Newsletter 2 April '26



Hi everyone

We hope you are all enjoying the sunshine.

### **Co-production workstream**

Following the recent Voices Day, we are continuing this work through a co-production workstream.

This will focus on developing a co-production charter and a practical toolkit to help services work more effectively with parent carers and make sure your voices are genuinely heard and acted on.

We will also be sharing the draft Voices Day report with this email, which brings together the key themes and feedback shared by families, professionals and young people.

### **CAMHS and ND pathway update**

We recently met with the Head of CAMHS and the Head of the Neurodevelopmental (ND) pathway to discuss ongoing concerns around waiting times and access to support.

We heard that there are a number of factors affecting the service including pressures on the triage process, shared care arrangements with GPs, and the very high number of referrals (around 300 each month).

At the moment, around 1,200 young people are waiting in triage, with waits of at least 9 months before being processed and placed onto a pathway. We know how difficult this is for families.


The service is planning some changes over the summer. By reducing routine activity for short periods( a week each month) in July, August and September (while keeping urgent care running), they hope to use staff capacity to reduce the triage list by around half. A new clinical lead is also starting in September, with a focus on bringing triage waits down to around 4 weeks longer term, and to drive change.

### **Have your say**

In the meantime, we are gathering feedback from families about what would help while waiting- both during the triage stage and while on the ND pathway.

We have put together a short survey to gather your views. We've included some suggestions, but please do add anything else that would make this time easier for you and your child.

### **[Complete the survey.](#)**

 We are offering a prize draw (5 x £10 Amazon vouchers) for anyone who would like to enter

### **SEND White Paper Consultation**

There is still time to respond to the SEND White Paper consultation, with the deadline fast approaching.

These proposals could bring significant changes to how SEND support works in future, so it's important that parent carer voices are heard.

### ■ Join our upcoming sessions

We are continuing our webinar series to explore different aspects of the reforms and gather your views.


#### **Tonight – Session 4: Plans, Provision and Transitions**

 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Focus includes:

- Individual Support Plans (ISPs)
- EHCPs and specialist provision
- Transitions into post-16 and adulthood

👉 We also have further sessions coming up:

 27 April – 7:00pm

 29 April – 7:00pm

👉 Join any of the remaining sessions here:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/376943955346932?p=yEgEPxYkAqPDpZnsiQ>

### Share your views

We are also gathering feedback through a short survey to help shape our response.

### 👉 Complete the survey

[SEND Reform White Paper – Parent Survey – Fill in form](#)

🎁 As a thank you, we are offering a prize draw with **5 x £20 Amazon vouchers** for those who choose to enter.

### National demonstration

There will be a national demonstration in central London:

 Saturday 9 May

👉 Find out more

<https://facebook.com/events/s/save-send-legal-rights-nationa/851492921288457/>

### ♥ Supporting the forum

A huge thank you to everyone who has already donated, recycled or supported us through Easyfundraising- we really appreciate it. Every contribution helps us continue providing activities, support and opportunities for local families.

While our DfE funding supports our strategic work, it does not cover the activities, groups and sessions we run. These rely on additional funding and community support.

### 🙏 Ways you can support us

#### ♥ Donate

If you are able to, you can make a small monthly or one-off donation:

#### 👉 Donate here

<https://www.walthamforestparentforum.com/donate>

Even small amounts make a real difference and help us plan more sustainably.

### Recycle ink cartridges

We are now registered with Recycle4Charity- a simple way to raise funds by recycling used ink cartridges.

- Order a free recycling box and send cartridges directly
- Or bring them along to any of our support groups and we will send them for you

#### 👉 Register or request a box

<https://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/register/C166253>

### Easyfundraising

A big thank you to everyone already supporting us through Easyfundraising ♥

You can raise **FREE donations** for Waltham Forest Parent Forum every time you shop online- at no extra cost to you.

Over 8,000 retailers will donate, including John Lewis, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat and many more.

It only takes a couple of minutes to sign up, and once you're set up, you can raise funds every time you shop- without changing where you shop or spending anything extra.

👉 **Start Easyfundraising and support us here**

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wfpf/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_content=fb-1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wfpf/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=fb-1)

## **Training and recordings**

Our training sessions are available to book via our website:

👉 **Book training sessions**

<https://www.walthamforestparentforum.com/events-training>

- Girls and Keeping it all Inside – Autistic Girls Network  
Thursday 30 April, 7–8.30pm
- Family Wellbeing-Ange McMillan-5th May 7-9PM

### **Dates for Diary**

Tigger Pritchard: Understanding AuDHD- 19th May 7-9PM

Understanding PDA- 17th June 7-9PM

Booking links to follow soon

### **Recent recordings**

If you weren't able to attend, we have recordings available:

 **Meltdowns and Shutdowns – Sarah Fisher**

👉 **Watch the recording**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NOranEtZ9Th8klIdUSANYaDrQcXBB06x/view?usp=sharing>

 **Supporting Autistic Young People to Understand Themselves – Jess Garner (GROVE)**

 *This recording is only available for a limited time (approx. 30 days)*

👉 **Watch the recording**

[https://gr0veorg-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/jess\\_gr0ve\\_org/IQAmYMdqIID3SaTvnvHvWvOTAZpUVCQ1WmDGL2we6gPkzs](https://gr0veorg-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/jess_gr0ve_org/IQAmYMdqIID3SaTvnvHvWvOTAZpUVCQ1WmDGL2we6gPkzs)

👉 **Download the slides**

[https://gr0veorg-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/jess\\_gr0ve\\_org/IQBxbay7w9tRQYEutd54xFqVATZB1jvYJoaXGn3VmdOkIKI](https://gr0veorg-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/jess_gr0ve_org/IQBxbay7w9tRQYEutd54xFqVATZB1jvYJoaXGn3VmdOkIKI)


## **Other sessions and activities**


We have a range of activities and support sessions coming up- a great opportunity to connect with others and get involved.


### **Highlight: Sunday Football**


Our **Sunday football sessions (ages 5–10)** are now running- a relaxed, inclusive space for children with SEND and their siblings.

 Wadham Lodge, E17

 Sundays, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

 Running until 19 July

 £4.50 per child

 Siblings welcome

👉 **[Book via the Shop on our website](#)**

### **Highlight: Lego Engineers**

A popular structured session where children build models with moving parts.

 Ages 6–13

 Queens Road Family Hub

 11:00am – 12:15pm

 Next session: 2 May

£4 per child (SEND children & siblings)

👉 [Book via the Shop on our website](#)

**FREE** Lego club will take place at the same time- feel free to drop in between 10.30AM-12.30PM

### ☕ **Coffee & Chat – 1 May**

A really important session for parents of older young people.

🕒 11:00am – 1:00pm

📍 Longshaw Primary Academy, E4

We will be joined by **Carly Attridge from Outward**, an adult day services provider, who is keen to hear directly from parents about:

- What you would want from an adult day service
- What works well and what doesn't
- Ideas for a new service being developed

👉 If you have an older young person, your input here is really valuable.

👉 **Find out more about support sessions**

<https://www.walthamforestparentforum.com/support>

### 🧠 **Support groups**

#### **Autism Support Group (training session)**

📅 11 May

📍 Longshaw Primary Academy, E4

🕒 11:00am – 1:00pm

#### **ADHD Support Group (Q&A session)**

📅 11 May

📍 99 Leyton Green Road, E10

🕒 11:00am – 1:00pm

#### **Online Autism Support Group**

📅 12 May

🕒 7:00pm

👉 **Find out more**

<https://www.walthamforestparentforum.com/support>

### 🧠 **Working with services**

We also have a meeting with the **Head of SEND and Head of Education** on:

📅 12 May

Parent feedback is used to shape these discussions, so please continue to share your experiences.

👉 **Find out more**

<https://www.walthamforestparentforum.com/working-with-services>

### 🗣️ **Stay connected**

And finally.....You can find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Waltham-Forest-Parent-Forum-142452533350/> and on Twitter @WFParentforum.

A reminder that we have closed Facebook groups and WhatsApp groups for parent carer members.

#### **Facebook groups:**

- Waltham Forest Parent Forum Chat (general)
- ADHD chat
- Epilepsy chat
- EBSNA (Emotionally Based School Non- Attendance) chat
- 4Ds (dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia) chat
- Profound needs chat
- Preparing for Adulthood chat
- Cerebral Palsy chat
- Social Anxiety chat

**WhatsApp groups:**

- Early Years (0-5)
- Reception / KS1 / KS2
- Primary (ages 7-11)
- Secondary (11-16)
- Post 16
- Tribunal support

If you would like to join any of our groups, please email us and we can send you the relevant links.

These are supportive spaces to share experiences, ask questions and connect with others who understand.

Have a good weekend

Carol

