

Check in & Chat Sessions

October 2022—July 2023

Our Check in & Chat sessions have been really well attended this year. These sessions all take place at Sandy Lane Children's Centre and are your opportunity to chat with the team and other parent carers and share your experiences. Some sessions are general chat sessions and some we invite professionals to come along and chat to you or answer any questions you may have about the services they work in. We are also looking into some information and training sessions so keep your eye on our Facebook page and website for further information coming soon ...



- Monday 17th October 12.30pm till 2.30pm
- Friday 11th November 10am till 12pm
- Monday 21st November 12.30pm till 2.30pm
- Friday 9th December 10am till 12pm
- Monday 19th December 12.30pm till 2.30pm
- Monday 9th January 12pm till 2pm
- Friday 27th January 10am till 12pm
- Monday 13th February 12pm till 2pm
- Friday 3rd March 10am till 12pm
- Monday 13th March 12pm till 2pm
- Friday 31st March 10am till 12pm
- Friday 21st April 10am till 12pm
- Monday 8th May 12pm till 2pm
- Friday 26th March 10am till 12pm
- Monday 12th June 12pm till 2pm
- Friday 30th June 10am till 12pm
- Monday 17th July 12pm till 2pm



Warrington
Parents & Carers

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022



A Note From Your Chair



I am delighted to welcome you to the Autumn edition of our Newsletter. My team are all volunteers, each of us are carers for our own children and young people with Special Educational Needs. Like you we have that lived experience which makes us passionate about what we do, making sure that your young people live their best lives with great outcomes. We work tirelessly on your behalf across Education, Health, Social Care and other partners across Warrington, the North-West and Nationally.

WarrPAC are currently involved in 23 workstreams, the most impactful being the SEND Board Chaired by the Director of Children's Services where we can bring your voice to the highest level of decision making. Other workstreams include the Neurodevelopment Pathway Board led by health and Clinical Commissioners, this encompasses waiting lists, communication, lack of OT's, equipment and everything in the middle. We have met with senior staff from the CDC around waiting times, suggesting and coproducing a letter for families informing them of long-awaited results. We knew there was a shortage of consultants so we asked them to email/post out a result letter initially as a much quicker process than waiting for a face-to-face appointment. This is now part of their clinical practice. You told us Communication with families is a massive issue so we have held those teams to account telling them it needs to be better and how to improve. Meeting and challenging the transport team on the annual issues we have, especially at the start of a new academic year. We have been instrumental in challenging parental costings around post 19 transport very recently after being approached by parent/carers. We are also in a great position to deliver the positive comments that we had from over 60 families who contacted us in crisis during COVID, whose cases we were able to take directly to Education, Health and Social Care who stepped up with positive outcomes for all of them.

The LA and Health Services are doing some great work behind the scenes in the most challenging times financially for SEND so it is vital we work together as a community to find smart solutions. Whilst we have a good working relationship with the LA and health we are independent of them and very much a critical friend. We challenge them without prejudice on your behalf to ensure your voice is heard at the highest level so we can change things for the better. We hear you and I can assure you

we are giving you your voice.

Jean

Working Together with

Contact Us www.warrpac.org

07376 722719

devofficer@warrpac.org





Could you Volunteer?

WarrPAC has an extremely large work –load, we could do much more with a bigger team, If you would like the opportunity to volunteer alongside a friendly, professional, passionate, caring, fun loving team check us out, we have a great volunteer pack if you want to know more.

So what have we been up to?

With such a high workload for a relatively small group of volunteers we often find we are so busy working that we rarely get chance to feedback about the work we are doing let alone **celebrate our many achievements**. We thought it would be nice to share some of the recent work we are most proud of...

Gail has developed a **new section of our website for induction and training** of volunteers. This has streamlined our induction process and we have been asked to share this with other forums. We are also working on an **online registration form** to make it easier for our members to join.

Our **Check in & Chat sessions** have been **well attended and evening sessions are growing**. As the heart of what we do, this is really something to celebrate as these sessions are critical for us to gather live feedback about SEND services to ensure your voice is heard at the right time by the right people to achieve positive outcomes.

We are very proud that **during the pandemic we have managed to grow both our team and our involvement in strategic work**, we are currently part of more than **26 workstreams**.

During the pandemic we also met regularly with the local authority and by working together we **supported 75 families facing individual issues, to achieve positive outcomes**. We are incredibly proud that we could support those families at such a critical time and would like to express our gratitude to the professionals who went over and above to reach a positive resolution for those families.



A great big WarrPAC WELCOME!



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest volunteer parent representative's Lorraine and Laura R. Having joined us during the pandemic they have certainly hit the ground running and wholeheartedly embraced their role. Lorraine and Laura have been busy meeting parents at our check in and chat sessions as well as attending strategic meetings to present the collective experiences of our families. Both parent-carers themselves, they bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience to complement our already widely experienced team.

AGM

Last month we held our Annual General Meeting and the forum voted to keep all members in their current positions within the team. The team also voted for existing parent representative Laura F to take on the role of forum secretary. Our team now looks like this ...

Chair—Jean Fitzpatrick

Vice-Chair— Gail Hall

Development Officer— Sharon Wilson

Treasurer— Beccy Bichiou

Secretary—Laura Forster

Parent Representatives...

Andrea Machin

Julie Crane

Lakshmi Saye Narayanan

Lorraine Madden

Laura Ridings

