

Your Voice

Support



Advice

Information

“Have your voice heard”

July 2025

Dear all,

Welcome to PPV's July newsletter. We hope you find it useful to see everything we have been doing

We will be back to the office on 2nd September 2025. Wishing you all a restful and happy summer.

PPV Team

PROJECTS PPV HAVE BEEN WORKING

Portsmouth ND Profile Training

Portsmouth Parent Voice have been co-delivering the ND Profile Tool training with the ND Team for over 3 years now. PPV have co-delivered online sessions across the country as well as Wales and face-to-face sessions in Portsmouth and London. PPV also have had the pleasure of training the **PCFs** across the country with the support of the charity CONTACT.

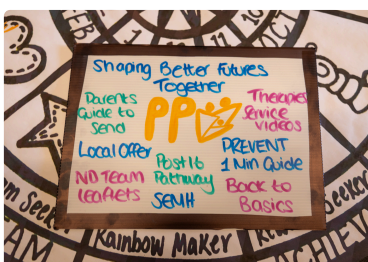
PPV bring real lived experiences to each training session, providing professionals with examples and stories from a parent carer and child/young person perspective.

PPV feel a valued member of the team and have been involved in the design of the training and now, after the evaluation from Portsmouth University, we are working together to edit the current training to reflect the findings.

Co-production

Co-production week was at the beginning of this month, PPV worked alongside Portsmouth Parent Board and Dynamite to produce videos about how coproduction for Portsmouth City Council to use in their lunch time learning session.

On the 3rd July PPV presented at the Kids Co-production Workshop with members of other Parent/Carer led groups in Portsmouth. We also heard from young people about what coproduction means to them and how they get involved. We were thrilled to welcome seekers create, who built us a wall of coproduction. People from all over the city came to add their projects brick by brick. These will be put on display at future coproduction events so we can share the fantastic work in the city. **See photos here.**



Quote from
Claire Mason – Service Manager Neurodiversity Team (0-19)

“Having PPV co-deliver the profile tool training with the team has been essential in it's successful roll out.

PPV bring lived experience to the training which brings the tool to life.

We consistently receive positive feedback about the training and the contribution of PPV to the training – this is also echoed in the recent training evaluation from the University of Portsmouth.”

June / July 2025

**Time spent in strategic meetings,
parent hubs and 1:1s supporting
Parent/Carers**

194
HOURS

10
1:1S
PARENT
CARERS





SPOTLIGHT ON A SERVICE

NXT Skills

What is NXT Skills?

NXT Skills is a specialist Post-16 provider and alternative provision for young people aged 14 and up with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) or special educational needs (SEN). Established in March 2022, NXT offers a supportive, practical environment for those who benefit from an alternative approach to education and training. Since opening, the service has supported hundreds of young people — helping them move on to school reintegration, college, employment, or simply building the confidence and skills needed for their next steps.

What they offer?

NXT delivers a wide range of practical, skills-based workshops at the NXT Skills Hub in Fareham. These include:

- Construction and trades: Carpentry, light motor mechanics, bike maintenance, plastering, bricklaying and plumbing
- Digital and creative: Digital design, web design, streaming, game design, music production and podcasting
- Other practical areas: Catering, beauty, fitness and arts & crafts

In addition to vocational sessions, NXT provides life skills and career sessions, alongside a varied enrichment programme to support personal development and wellbeing.

Some of the things they support with are:

NXT specialises in re-engagement for young people who are struggling in education, have dropped out, or feel disconnected from mainstream school environments. Many of the young people they support are unsure about their next steps due to social, emotional or mental health difficulties.

The setting offers a more adult-oriented environment where young people are given greater responsibility and are treated with trust and respect. Through practical activities, structured support and consistent expectations, NXT helps young people build social confidence and develop the skills they need to move forward. The focus is always on achieving positive, realistic outcomes that reflect each young person's starting point and potential.

Accessing the service

Referrals to NXT Skills are accepted from schools, local authorities, and other professionals working with young people. The service is suitable for those aged 14 and over who may be struggling in mainstream education or who require a more tailored, supportive approach to learning and progression.

Each referral is considered individually. NXT works closely with referrers, families and the young person to ensure the placement is appropriate and that the support on offer matches the young person's needs and goals. Visits to the NXT Skills Hub can be arranged as part of the referral process.

To discuss a potential referral or request further information, contact the team at: info@nxtskills.co.uk

Website: www.nxtskills.co.uk

Phone number: 01329 760112

Katie McHugh
Registered Manager



Katie began her career as a school photographer, working across a range of educational settings and developing a strong interest in school environments. She later retrained as a teacher, graduating with first-class honours from the University of Winchester.

Her first teaching role was at The Polygon School in Southampton, a specialist setting for young people with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) and special educational needs (SEN). The role gave her a clear view of the impact a well-supported school environment can have—but also highlighted a consistent gap. Many students who made good progress in school found it difficult to sustain that progress once they left education and moved into further training or employment.

That gap became the starting point for NXT. Katie left teaching in July 2021 to begin planning a new service, which opened in March 2022. She is the Registered Manager at NXT, where her focus is on ensuring young people are supported to move forward with purpose and stability.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

30

FAMILY FESTIVAL 2025

10:00am – 16:00pm

Victoria Park, Portsmouth, PO1 3HJ

Sep

2

CAMHS DROP IN

10:00am – 12:00pm

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX

Sep

8

MORIAH COFFEE MORNING

10:30am – 12:30pm

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX

Sep

17

ND DROP IN

9.45am – 11.45am

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX

Note: Family Festival, all welcome. Drop Ins and Coffee Morning are open to parent carers of children and young people with special additional needs and disability. Feel free to bring a friend or family member.

PARENT/CARER QUOTES

"I've got more direction since I started attending PPV drop in"

*"Good to meet parents who are in similar situations
and be able to talk to someone from ND team."*

GET TO KNOW A MEMBER OF THE PPV TEAM:

Ana Dobeson



Position at PPV and the year you joined:

Portsmouth Parent Voice Administrator joined in January 2022

Reason for joining:

About ten years ago CAMHS referred us to PPV to seek advice for our son. PPV were very supportive and they helped us getting in the right direction with our son. Before I realised, I got involved helping PPV with producing their newsletter. It was a few years later when I saw the opportunity to join PPV part time, it gave me the flexibility to work from home as my son was not able to attend school, for this I am very grateful.

Biggest achievement whilst working at PPV:

Setting up an online booking system for parent/carers to book face to face appointments online, book on courses or events. Also, I revamped the website last year.

Three people you'd invite to your dinner party (dead or alive):

My parents and sister who sadly are not here anymore.

What superpower would you like to have:

Teleporting. To be able to be with family and friends in an instant.

If you were an animal what would you be and why:

A beaver. They have incredible engineering skills, providing amazing ecosystem services: eg. reduce flooding, improve water quality... Beavers form strong family bonds. Oh and they can dive for almost 15 minutes!

What I wanted to be when I was a child:

A teacher, because I loved learning and wanted to improve the way the old fashioned way I was taught.



**PPV is closed for the summer from 22nd July 2025.
We are back in the office on 2nd September 2025.**

Hello SUMMER *enjoy every moment.*

Visit our website, read about what we do, sign up to our newsletter,
book a zoom sleep course, contact us and more:

portsmouthparentvoice.org 