

Your Voice

Support

Advice

Information



"Have your voice heard"

December 2025

Dear all,

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

We will be back in the office on Monday 5th January 2026. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026.

PPV Team



PROJECTS PPV HAVE BEEN WORKING

Annual Inclusion Conference

PPV attended the Portsmouth annual inclusion conference. This year the keynote speech was from Ginny Bootman, who has been a SENDCO for many years. She recently published a book 'Being A SENDCO'. PPV also attended two really useful workshops; one from the ND team about classroom resources and another from MHST a really insightful workshop on normalizing anxiety. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and catch up with many of the cities school inclusion teams.



The Economist Interview

On October 2nd, PPV took part in an interview led by the Economist journalist Slavea Chankova all about the ND Profile Tool and PPVs part in the design and ongoing work.

We talked about how it was created in true collaboration and how families play a key role throughout the ND Profile Tool process, including the ongoing research and training.

We talked about the amazing work that the PPV team, and the ND Team along with volunteers, do to provide support to families on their ND journey.

SEND Local Offer Live

In November we hosted the Local Offer Live alongside PCC at the John Pounds Centre. We were happy to welcome 28 exhibitors, including community groups, health teams and council services. We also had two fantastic talks from the Neurodiversity team and the Mental Health Support Team. These were really well attended. We are looking forward to our next event, Moving Forward, which will be in March.

See photos here



Portsmouth SEND Appreciation Awards

As part of the Local Offer Live, PPV were really proud to host our first SEND Appreciation Awards.

The aim of these awards is to recognise local services and people across the city working, volunteering and supporting families and young people with SEND. The shortlist and winners were chosen by a panel of parent/carers, young people and professionals.

Congratulations to our winners!



[See photos here](#)

Portsmouth SEND Appreciation Awards

Connors Toy Library won the Support for Families Award in recognition of their work lending over 10,000 toys to the community, helping children learn and develop through play.



Sarah Lehmkuhler, electoral services registration officer at Portsmouth City Council won the Co-production Award for her work in making voting accessible for young people with SEND. Co-production means listening to people's ideas and experiences, and making changes based on what they say.

Enable Ability won the Support for Young People Award. They help people with severe disabilities as well as those whose needs are at a milder to moderate level. The group support approximately 500 children and adults in Portsmouth.



Calm Kits

During the summer break PPV teamed up with MHST to host two Calm Kit sessions for families.

It was a fun, hands on experience where parent carers and their children created up to eight personalised items for their own calm kits . The session was designed to help with relaxation, focus and emotional regulation.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us and to the Mental Health Support Team for collaborating on such a creative and calming session.



Mystery shopper

PPV closed the sign-up to our Mystery Shopper project, which we are doing in collaboration with Hampshire and Southampton PCFs (Parent Carer Forums).

We have been working hard to contact families on a first sign-up basis and offer them a day out at a leisure or culture provider on us within Portsmouth. So far, families will be enjoying an annual Dockyard pass, the Panto and even the cinema.

All they need to do is complete a survey in return. The feedback survey will help improve families' access to their community's leisure and culture providers, providing an improved experience for families who have children and young people with SEN/Disabilities.

There is still a chance you will hear from us in the new year offering you an opportunity to participate.



SPOTLIGHT ON A SERVICE

Send Faces

What is Send Faces?

SEND Faces is a peer led community organisation run by volunteers who provide emotional support, advocacy, activities for families and independent travel training. Although we are based in Portsmouth, our sessions are open to anyone in need of support, and we have families who join us regularly from Southampton. Our volunteers have a wealth of lived experience, but also have over 17 years of experience working within education, navigating relevant legislation and supporting people. Our volunteers also try to ensure they attend any relevant meetings to share feedback from the families they support, attend community events and regularly collaborate with other organisations to offer as much as they can.

Contact: [Facebook \(private group\)](#).



QUOTES FROM PROFESSIONALS

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"We greatly value Portsmouth Parent Voice's contribution to our High Needs SEN meetings. Their involvement ensures that an independent parent perspective is heard and considered in our decision-making"

**The SEN Team
Mrs Sharon Willis
SEN Service Manager**

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"Through genuine co-production with parents/carers, this organisation has created guidance that bridges the gap between families and schools. By valuing parent carers' voices and lived experiences, they have fostered collaborative approaches that help schools and families work together to understand barriers to attendance and develop practical, compassionate solutions for every child."

**Vicky Parker
Principal Educational Psychologist
& Service Manager**

GET TO KNOW A MEMBER OF THE PPV TEAM:

Kate Ramsell

Position at PPV and the year you joined:

2025, Operations Assistant



Reason for joining:

I have two neurodiverse brothers I grew up helping, which lead me into a career in SEND. I have worked alongside families and their children ever since! When I saw the advert for PPV, I thought it would be a perfect fit!

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

Pedro Pascal for the charm and empathy, Temple Grandin for the world view and Tina Fey for the laughs!

What superpower would you like to have:

The ability to heal.

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

Definitely a cat!! Sleeping in the sun all day, with free food and rent!

What I wanted to be when I was a child:

Ballerina

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan
6

CAMHS DROP IN

10:00am – 12:00pm

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

Jan
20

ZOOM SLEEP COURSE

10.00am – 12.00am

www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/sleepcourse

Jan
21

ND DROP IN

9.45am – 11.45am

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

Jan
27

ZOOM SLEEP COURSE

10.00am – 12.00am

www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/sleepcourse

Feb
3

CAMHS DROP IN

10:00am – 12:00pm

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

Note: Drop-ins and Coffee Mornings 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.