

Your Voice

Support



Advice

Information

“Have your voice heard”

March 2026

Dear all,

Welcome to PPV’s March’s newsletter.

The office will close on Friday 27th March for the Easter holidays. We will be back on Monday 13rd April 2026.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Happy Easter!

PPV Team



PROJECTS PPV HAVE BEEN WORKING

CELEBRATING NEURODIVERSITY

The 3rd Annual Celebrating Neurodiversity event hosted by Nikki Coles took place on 18th March 2026 at Portsmouth Guildhall.

People from across the city attended, including those who support neurodivergent individuals, those who are neurodivergent themselves, and others who simply wanted to learn more.

There were some very interesting talks from people with lived experience. Author and comedian Joe Wells talked about his life experiences, as well as reading us a chapter from his upcoming book.

Advocate, artist and researcher Jon Adams spoke about the importance working together, and PPV's very own Olufolake Ayeyemi, founder of Moriah Family Support talked about parenting a neurodiverse child and how she found her passion for helping others. There were also representatives from **Portsmouth Carers Centre**, **Portsmouth Sendiass**, **Room One**, **Autism and ND Transition Team**, **Seekers Create**, **Send Butterflies South Coast** and Portsmouth Parent Voice.

The aim of the event was to bring people together to share information and celebrate the positives but also to offer support.

[More Photos here](#)



PROJECTS PPV HAVE BEEN WORKING

S.A.F.E.

Earlier this month, parents and carers and local services came together for S.A.F.E (Support, Awareness, Family, Empowerment), Portsmouth's first community event bringing together all parts of the city's mental health services alongside local community partners.

The event was designed by CAMHS to support families by making mental health services more accessible and providing practical information for supporting young people. Parent carers had the opportunity to attend workshops and presentations, ask questions and connect with professionals and local services.

The event was supported by Portsmouth Parent Voice, Hive Portsmouth, CAMHS Learning Disability Service, Early Help and other local services. The S.A.F.E event brought together parent carers and services across the city for a full day of learning, sharing and connecting, helping to make mental health services more accessible and information more readily available to Portsmouth families.



PROJECTS PPV HAVE BEEN WORKING

MOVING FORWARD 2026

On March 20th PPV attended Portsmouth's fantastic Moving Forward event.

Moving Forward provides parent/carers and young people the opportunity to find out about services that are available to them post 16. With over 40 stalls there is a wealth of information available ranging from education provisions, social groups, health and wellbeing services and more.

If you missed the event but want to know more about what is available please get in touch.

[More Photos here](#)



PROJECTS PPV HAVE BEEN WORKING

Shaping Better Futures Together (SBFT)

The purpose of the SBFT is to provide parent carers accessing services within Portsmouth with a means of working with the local authority and its stakeholders to influence decision making, to help deliver better outcomes for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

The coproduction group will, wherever possible ensure that services are coproduced to ensure parents and carers views are represented and that documents are in an easy-to-read format.



Do you work with children and young people with SEND?

Looking for meaningful co-production

Join our monthly group to get honest feedback from parent carers of children and young people with SEND (0-25).

Got a project? Big or small we are here to help.



Every Second Tuesday of the month

10am - 12pm

The Mary Rose Room,
The Haven, 17 Lake Road,
Portsmouth, PO1 4HA

ppvadmin@hportsmouth.org.uk
www.portsmouthparentvoice.org

PPV come under the umbrella of Home-Start Portsmouth

A charitable company limited by guarantee. Charity no. in England 1124943 Company no. 6636439
Registered office: The Haven, 17 Lake Road, Portsmouth, PO1 4HA. www.hportsmouth.org.uk



SEND REFORM CONSULTATION PERIOD



The Government is currently holding a public consultation on the proposed changes, which **will close closes at 11:59pm on 18 May 2026**. There will be other steps the Government has to go through to make these changes and the proposals could still change. This is why it is important that they hear from as many people as possible during the consultation.

This means they want to know what young people think on certain topics. [Kids](#) have questions and activities to help get this information, and will feed in your answers.

Wednesday 1st April, 11am - 12:30pm: In this online session we will be thinking about how children and young people can be supported with their mental health. We will split this into support that can help at different ages, from nursery through to adulthood!

Wednesday 8th April, 1pm - 2:30pm: The government have announced that there will be inclusion bases in schools. We want your help to design your ideal inclusion base, thinking about what support it gives, the resources it has and what it looks and feels like in there.

[Reserve your session here](#)

QUOTES FROM PARENTS

“

“Great session I always find these helpful all leaflets and info on how to get support is great. Keep it up this is a very much needed service”

“

“It was fun to talk with other parents as well as professionals.”

“

“It was very nice and straightforward, got everything why I came for.”

“

“A chance to meet and talk to other people in the same boat as me. The opportunity I’m to get help from like minded people that have the experience I don’t is invaluable”



Portsmouth Parent Voice

This half term:

Hours spent in meetings

65.75

Meetings

29



SPOTLIGHT ON A SERVICE

Sarah Lehmkuehler

"My name is Sarah and I am the Electoral Engagement Officer at Portsmouth City Council. That means that a big part of my job is to work with people all across Portsmouth to make sure that they know how voting works and also make sure that they find voting accessible for them.



When working on making voting more accessible, many groups help me to create materials and make changes that are right for people. They are lived-experience experts and tell me what works for them and what doesn't. The easy read project with Dynamite is one of those things I do to make voting accessible. The guys at Dynamite told me all about what they find confusing about voting and what would help them to understand it better. We sat together and talked about good explanations and pictures to go with them. So far, we have produced two guides: one about how registering to vote and voting works, and one about the different terms involved in voting, like councillor and MP. Both of those guides are available to anyone who wants them - just get in touch and I can send a printed or digital version! One of them is already up on the Dynamite website too: *"Great session I always find these helpful all leaflets and info on how to get support is great. Keep it up this is a very much needed service"* The other one will be uploaded soon. We will also continue to work together on more easy read guides around voting!

My advice for anyone who wants to vote is to know that it is your right to vote just as much as anyone else's! All voices matter and should be heard in democracy. I also want to encourage everyone to not be shy about asking candidates about what they believe in, and what they want to change if they get elected - that helps when making a decision on who to vote for! As a final piece of advice, I also want to say that if anyone is nervous about voting, for example because they have some access needs for the polling station or need extra support, to please just contact me. There are lots of things we can do to help everyone feel comfortable when voting and we will try our best to make everyone feel able to vote."

GET TO KNOW A VOLUNTEER

Kate Bradley

Reason for joining and year you joined:

I joined PPV in 2016. My primary motivation was a deep-seated desire to expand my professional knowledge and gain a comprehensive understanding of the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) landscape to better support our community.



Biggest achievement whilst working at PPV:

My greatest achievement is my decade of dedicated service. Over the last 10 years, I have built a wealth of expertise that allows me to provide meaningful, high-level support and guidance to parents navigating complex systems.

The song that gets you on the dance floor:

The Final Countdown by Europe—it never fails to get me moving!

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

I would choose to spend the evening with my mother and my grandparents, whom I unfortunately lost when I was very young. It would be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and share stories.

What superhero would you be and why:

I would be Iron Man. Having the ability to fly and travel anywhere at high speeds would be incredibly efficient and exciting.

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

I would be a hippo, as I have a great love for the water and find it to be the most relaxing environment.

What I wanted to be when I was a child:

I always had a passion for the beauty industry. I followed that dream through college, completing all the necessary training to become a qualified beauty therapist and hairdresser.

EVENTS

April
7

CAMHS DROP IN

10:00am – 12:00pm

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/camhs

April
14

SEND REFORM WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION

10:00am – 12:00pm

The Haven, Mary Rose Room 17, Lake Road, Portsmouth PO 4HA
Come along to learn about the proposals and share your thoughts. Your views will help shape what happens next.

April
15

NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP

9:45am – 11:45am

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/neurodiversity

April
17

SECONDARY PARENT HUB

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Stacey Centre, 37 Walsall Road, Copnor Portsmouth, PO3, 6DN
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/parenthub

April
20

TRANSITION TO SECONDARY WORKSHOP

10.00am – 12.00pm

Menuhin Room, 3rd Floor, Portsmouth Central, Library, Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2DX
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/parenthub

April
29

PACE TRAINING FOR PARENT/CARERS

9.00am – 10.30am

Beacon View Primary Academy, Allaway Avenue, Portsmouth PO6 3PS
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/parenthub

May
5

CAMHS DROP IN

10:00am – 12:00pm

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/camhs

May
20

NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP

9:45am – 11:45am

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/neurodiversity

June
17

LOCAL OFFER

1:30pm – 7:00pm

Mountbatten Centre, Hilsea, Portsmouth PO2 9QA

July
25

FAMILY FESTIVAL 2026

10:00am – 4:00pm

Victoria Park, Portsmouth, PO1 3HJ

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.