

Welcome back to our new school term from our chair



How has Summer finished?

As we find ourselves already a week into another academic year? But if you are reading this... then you survived! Great job!

WarrPAC are delighted to open this term and Welcome you all back with open arms into the fold.

It's always a tough ask for our SEND families to navigate the Summer and manage the anxieties of going back to school/college for both parents/carers, as well as our children and young people. Any new situation, whether that be a new school, new class, new teacher or just being back in education, will inevitably throw them a curve ball.

Our families, children and young people are always at the forefront of our minds when planning our diary for the year ahead. This year is no exception

with chat sessions, events, up to date information around SEND both locally and nationally, particularly keeping our fingers on the pulse around the contents of the white paper on SEND reforms due this Autumn.

Making sure we have volunteers available to answer queries, signpost, listen, hear you and most importantly gather your views on services for SEND in Warrington. We know that recurrent issues like transport, communication across the board, Annual Reviews the EHCP system in general, the new NDP (Neurdevelopment Pathway) and waiting lists are your top priorities and work in progress. I can assure you the priorities raised by you, our membership, are already being addressed with meetings in situ with leads from these services.

Be assured we are on it and will be asking for your support and giving regular updates. It's also important that we know from you what's working well for you as a family, the last thing we want or need is losing services in the midst of a Government funding crisis that do make a difference to families so please let us know what's working well for you alongside any comments, ideas, solutions that you may have concerns around.

WarrPAC are here for you and look forward to welcoming you all back to our coffee and chat sessions, events, consultations, up to date news on SEND, our information, guidance and advice service as well as free face to face and online training opportunities. You will find all the information on our website

WarrPAC have remained "open" and "contactable" during the Summer, albeit with reduced volunteering capacity due to our own caring responsibilities, answering and escalating queries around transport, EHCP's, SEN Support amongst other things.

We have some great news to share with you too. In order to grow, offer sustainability and to protect and ensure the voices of SEND families in Warrington continue to be heard into the future, we have completed the process of becoming a CIC. We still have some work to do in updating our policies and procedures over time, but we will gradually be bringing all of this information up to date.

You can see all of our incorporation documents, and any subsequent filings, on the Companies House website, registration number 15892554 <u>HERE</u>. Buried within the filing history "Incorporation of a Community Interest Company" is a document entitles CIC 36 which gives a detailed breakdown of the aims and

objectives of the CIC - yes we want to be more transparent about what our aims are, but due to the Companies House bureaucracy, you have to look hard to find it! Over time, all of our filings will be on there so anyone can see what we are doing and how we are spending the limited resources that we administer.

We are also delighted to introduce four new members/volunteers to WarrPAC, growing our "Engagement Team". Each of our new volunteers brings their own specific set of invaluable skills to enhance the work we are already doing, increasing capacity enabling us to help and support more families living with SEND in Warrington. So welcome to Gemma, Sarah, Lyndsey and Hugh, thank you for choosing WarrPAC to give back!

Please Know that Warrington Parents and Carers are **your** forum, **your** voice, **your** sounding board, **your** one stop shop for all things SEND, do <u>join us</u>, lean on us. We are all volunteers and parent/carers ourselves. We don't do this for remuneration, kudos or because we don't have anything better to do. We do it because we care, we understand and above all, we want the absolute best for families living with SEND in Warrington. Remember....

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." Ryunosuke Satoro

Jean
Chair Warrington Parents and Carers

Check In And Chat



Check in and Chat sessions for the Autumn term

Warrington Parents and Carers (WarrPAC) welcomes all families to join our informative engagement sessions. All sessions are a safe space, to share and talk openly or to come along and have a coffee and biscuit and learn from others.

We are here to listen, share information, support and signpost to the right services who can provide advice and guidance.

At each of our sessions, we invite our professional partners along to tell us about their service and to share feedback from our families. The full updated list can be seen on our <u>EVENTS</u> page, but here is what we currently have planned - click on the links below to reserve your free place...

These sessions are all held at our office base Sandy Lane Children's Centre, WA2 9HY

SEPTEMBER 12th 10am - Midday

Attending this event: Rebecca Keeping, Neurodevelopment Co-Ordinator & Kathryn Watkin

October13th 2025 10am - Midday

Attending this event: Nicola Monaghan, Operational Manager, Bridgewater Trust NHS

November 14th 2025 10am - Midday

Attending this: Chrissy Skermer & Sam Yeo, EHCP & Annual Reviews

December 8th 2025 10am - Midday

We will be planning other events and evening opportunities, so keep an eye on our <u>Social Media</u> and <u>Events</u> page for updates

What have we been up to?

We have to admit, we are not always the best at keeping our membership up to date with our meetings and involvement. Between juggling our own families and the many strategic meetings we attend, it's not always easy to find the time to feed back on all that we do. Here is just a taste of what Team WarrPAC have been involved in since the start of this financial year in April...

- We engaged with 30 new parents and carers at Disability Awareness
 Day this year
- We ran "check in and chat" sessions on the graduated response, access to toilets in schools, transition to high school, the children with disabilities hub
- We've worked alongside our partners to develop the Local Offer, the Short Break Statement
- We've attended the Family Hub launch sessions
- We've sent out 4 mailshots
- We've posted 50 Facebook posts to keep our families informed, with 730 reactions and 94 shares
- We've engaged with four new schools, plus one early years placement
- We're reinvigorating our relationship with Warrington Youth Zone and Families United
- We're building relations with the Puddle project
- We're working with our new Coproduction link James Bancroft
- We're working strategically across 21 workstreams locally and 7 across Cheshire and Merseyside
- We've attended 10 events and hosted 5 of our own chat sessions.

- We've also attended ad hoc meetings along the way
- We;re getting your voice heard at the SEND Partnership and AP board
- We redesigning out coproduction strategy to really promote joint working.
- We're starting work on the next round of PINS projects and developing the Neurodevelopmental pathway
- We've been fielding questions throughout from our families, signposting and raising your concerns with our partners.

As we've said, it's been a really busy time for the team and we face significant changes in the months to come. We welcome any input from our families as we strive to make Warrington the best place possible for our families.

We can't do all of this without our members - thank you all who have joined in any event or given your feedback.

Home to School / College Transport

Thank you to all who responded to our survey following our previous mailshot. We have had our first meeting to start look at changes going forward - that will start in earnest in mid October. All of your feedback will be brought in to those conversations.

If you have not completed the survey already, you can complete it HERE



Join us as a member

If you have had this email forwarded on to you, or picked it up via a share on social media, then please feel free to join us as a member yourself.

Membership is free to all parents and carers in the Warrington area and to all professional partners who support us.

We will keep you up to date in all or our work and you'll get first chance opportunities to join any of our events.

CLICK HERE to join us as a member

Join Us



How are WarrPAC doing?

We regularly send surveys out on behalf of other people to get feedback on other services, but it's not often that we look at ourselves to hear how Team WarrPAC are doing in your eyes.

We're currently working on our annual survey to go out to all parents and carers which gives the big picture on what's going on in Warrington, but this mini survey is just to find out what you think of us and how we can improve what we do.

CLICK HERE to complete the survey

Feedback on Team WarrPAC