



SEND Voices Wokingham (SVW) CIO

Charity Number: 1201621

Annual Report and Accounts

April 2025 to March 2026



Introduction

SEND Voices Wokingham is the independent Parent Carer Forum for Wokingham Borough, representing the voices of families with children and young people aged 0–25 with any Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND). The organisation works in partnership with education, health, social care and other service providers to help ensure that services are shaped by, and meet, the needs of children and young people with SEND. It represents the experiences, views and priorities of parent carers while also providing information, events, training and engagement opportunities for families.

As the recognised Parent Carer Forum for Wokingham Borough, SEND Voices Wokingham continues to evolve and grow. Originally established in 2009 as a community group known as REACH Wokingham, the organisation became SEND Voices Wokingham in May 2019. Following consultation with its members, it became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in January 2023, strengthening its governance and long-term sustainability.

This year, the organisation further expanded its work through its involvement in the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project, funded by the Department of Education and NHS England. This programme has enabled SEND Voices Wokingham to increase its engagement with families and schools, helping to promote more inclusive practice and improve support for neurodiverse children in mainstream education.

During the year, SEND Voices Wokingham welcomed Sarah Allen to its Board of Trustees. The organisation also said a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Debbie Jacobs, who joined the Steering Group in 2020 and most recently served as Participation Lead, making a significant contribution to the organisation and the families she supported.



Overview of our Strategic Meetings

Strategic Influence and Representation - In 2025/26, SEND Voices Wokingham (SVW) represented parent carers across a wide range of strategic boards, working groups and meetings. This helped ensure that families' experiences and priorities were heard by the people planning and improving SEND services. SVW attended more than 290 meetings, totalling 605 hours.

Some of the meetings SVW attended are listed below:

- Wokingham Area SEND Partnership Board
- Wokingham Area SEND Assurance Board
- Wokingham Borough Council Children Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Wokingham Borough Council Children & Young Peoples Partnership
- Wokingham Health & Wellbeing Board
- Neurodiversity Transformation Board and working groups
- Senior Leadership Meetings with Wokingham Borough Council
- All associated SEND Improvement workstreams (Local Offer, Preparing for Adulthood, Ordinarily Available Provision, EOTAS & AP, Multi-Agency EHCP Audits) and Operational Meetings with Wokingham Borough Council & Health

- Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire & Berkshire (BOB) Integrated Care Board (ICB) CYP Board and BOB Leads & Parent Carer Forum (PCF) Leads
- Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust Directors & Parent Carer Forum (PCF) Leads
- PINS steering and working group meetings
- Wokingham Borough Council Voice of Inclusion & Equality Group
- Wokingham Borough Council All Age Autism Strategy
- Wokingham Borough Council Inclusive Design Group
- Wokingham Early Help Best Start for Life Steering Group
- SENDIASS Steering Group
- Wokingham Borough Council Short Breaks Steering Group
- NNPCF SE Regional PCF
- SE19 SEND Forum

Throughout the year, SVW met regularly with senior leaders from the Local Authority and Health. We shared what families were telling us, raised concerns and provided constructive challenge so that lived experience could inform decisions about SEND services.

Our termly Feedback from Families reports were presented to the SEND Assurance Board. This gave senior leaders across Education, Health and Social Care direct insight into the experiences of children, young people and their families.

We also gathered feedback through the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme. By working directly with schools and families, we identified common themes, what was working well and where families wanted to see improvement. We shared this evidence with senior leaders and relevant workstreams.

Driving Improvement Through Workstreams:

SVW contributed to several key SEND Improvement workstreams, ensuring parent carer input shaped work across areas including:

- The SEND Local Offer
- Preparing for Adulthood
- Ordinarily Available Provision
- Berkshire Neurodiversity Transformation Programme

There was also increased focus this year on:

- Helping Early
- Early Years
- Wraparound Care



Overview of Parent Carer Engagement & Representation

Strengthening Family Engagement - This year, we continued to offer a mix of in-person and online opportunities so that as many families as possible could take part.

Our SEND Improvement Update sessions, held with the Local Authority and Health, continued to be well attended. Parent carers asked questions, shared their experiences and spoke directly with senior SEND leaders from Wokingham Borough Council, the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) and other health providers.

SVW maintains regular contact with more than 1,500 families, representing over 2,000 children and young people, through membership, email, social media, local schools, events and voluntary sector partners.

Our registered membership grew by more than 40% this year, with much of this growth linked to the PINS project. Our members include families from across the borough with children and young people aged 0–25 with a wide range of special educational needs and/or disabilities. We are also proud to continue offering the Max Card national discount scheme to our members.

To keep families informed and involved, we share half-termly updates by email, on our website and social media, and through partner organisations.

This year, SVW ran 127 events for parent carers:

During 2025/26, we delivered 127 parent carer events across the borough - a 140% increase in engagement activity. Rising costs and static core grant funding placed pressure on our capacity. Additional PINS funding enabled us to maintain our existing work and significantly increase engagement with families and schools.



The Impact of Family Engagement

Family engagement is about more than attending events or completing surveys. It gives families a collective voice and helps services understand what SEND support feels like for the people using it.

During 2025/26, SVW created more opportunities than ever for families to share their experiences. We brought this evidence together to identify common themes and priorities, then shared it with senior leaders across Education, Health and Social Care.

This helped recurring problems to be identified across services, gave families more opportunities to speak directly with decision-makers, enabled services to test ideas with parent carers and ensured lived experience informed strategic discussions and improvement work.

Our approach is simple: Families share their experiences → SVW identifies themes → evidence is shared with decision-makers → services are challenged and shaped → progress is monitored with families.



Local Family Priorities

Listening to families is at the heart of our work. During 2025/26, feedback from surveys, PINS, drop-ins, focus groups, events and conversations showed that families wanted improvement in several key areas:

- Services and professionals working better together.
- Identifying and meeting children's needs earlier.
- Reducing waiting times, particularly for CAMHS, Autism and ADHD services.
- Improving inclusion and support for children with SEND in mainstream schools.
- Improving the EHCP and Annual Review process and communications.
- Improving information, support and communication for parent carers.
- Reducing parent blame and ensuring families feel listened to and respected.
- Greater transparency about how decisions are made and who is responsible for making them.

These priorities guide our work. We use them to decide where to focus engagement, what issues to raise with local leaders and which areas need greater scrutiny or improvement.

Activities included:

The annual **SEND Local Offer Live** - this event is a blend of information stalls for parent carers and fun activities for children and was attended by over 100 families.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Families valued being able to find a wide range of information and support in one place, and some found solutions to issues they had previously struggled to resolve. The event also gave service providers and the Local Authority an opportunity to hear directly from families about what was working well and what needed to improve.

SENDIASS Training and Parent Education - SVW supported the delivery 11 SENDIASS training sessions on key topics, including: The EHCP Process, SEN Support at School & Effective Communication, Annual Reviews and Preparing for Adulthood. These sessions continue to be highly rated by parents, who report gaining confidence and knowledge that enables them to participate more effectively in their child's EHCP process, Annual Reviews, and engagement with schools or services.

Surveys and Strategic Insight - SVW conducted a range of surveys to inform service planning and delivery, including their fourth **Annual Wokingham Area SEND Survey** as well as surveys on **Short Breaks services** and **SENDIASS Training Courses**. The Annual SEND Survey continues to play a critical role in shaping all aspects of Wokingham's SEND improvement work with the results being shared at a strategic level including the WBC Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, SEND Partnership and SEND Assurance Boards as well as numerous working groups and services. A huge thank you to all those who responded to SVW surveys. **Drop-In Sessions and Focus Groups** - SVW hosted a variety of drop-in and engagement sessions throughout the year, including two online drop-in sessions with the Senior Leadership from Wokingham Borough Council, and the BOB Integrated Care Board. These sessions focused on the SEND Strategy and

improvement plans and provided an open platform for robust feedback and discussion. Online sessions specifically focused on **Ordinarily Available Provision** and the **Neurodiversity Transformation project**.

Community Engagement and Outreach - SVW supported **17 SENDIASS drop-ins** and expanded this offer by introducing a **SEND Coffee Morning** for families across the borough. These informal sessions gave families a welcoming place to meet, find information, share feedback and access support.

PINS (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) - was a one-year programme funded by the Department for Education and NHS England. It aimed to improve inclusion for neurodivergent children in mainstream primary schools by bringing schools, parent carers, the Local Authority and Health together.

Through PINS, SVW delivered **83 face-to-face and 7 online parent engagement sessions** across 30 primary schools. We spoke directly with more than 400 parent carers, and 791 families completed the PINS Parent Survey. Their feedback informed recommendations for individual schools and wider strategic work.

Parent carers told us what was working well and where mainstream schools could become more inclusive for neurodivergent pupils. We used this feedback to make tailored recommendations to each participating school and borough-wide recommendations. Families also asked for clearer information about supporting neurodivergent children. In response, a parent carer information booklet is being developed for publication in late 2026.

Area SEND Inspection (Ofsted & CQC) - In January 2026, SVW represented parent carers throughout Wokingham's Area SEND Inspection. We provided inspectors with a written summary of family feedback and thematic evidence gathered through our Annual SEND Survey, termly feedback, PINS and other engagement activity. [SVW SEND Inspection Presentation to Inspectors](#).

SVW also took part in senior leadership meetings during the inspection. Following publication of the [inspection findings of systemic failings across the local area partnership](#), we contributed to the development and monitoring of [Wokingham Borough's Priority Action Plan](#), ensuring that family experiences continued to inform improvement work. <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/sites/wokingham/files/2026-07/Wokingham-ASEND-Priority-Action-Plan-20-July-2026.pdf> <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-families-and-young-people/send-local-offer/about-send-local-offer/wokingham-area-send-inspection-2026>

SEND Reforms and Consultation - The publication of the Government's SEND Reform White Paper consultation in February 2026 represented one of the most significant developments for children and young people with SEND this decade. Recognising the importance of ensuring that local parent carer voices informed the national response, SEND Voices Wokingham (SVW) planned to actively engage with families during the consultation period which will form an important part of plans for 2026-2027.

SVW also engaged with the wider national engagement led by the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) to ensure the voice of Wokingham families were heard at a national level.

Information for Parent Carers - Information is a key area for families, and SVW often hear families say it is hard to find information locally. They were able to offer parent carers information through the following:

- **SEND Guide for parents** a quick and easy guide for parent & carers of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) available both online and hard copy.
- **Local Offer Live Family Information & Fun Day** in person event, with information stands showcasing the support, services, and activities available in Wokingham for parent carers of children and young people with SEND.
- **Local Offer Guide** a booklet for parent carers and professionals to find services, organisations, help & support for children and young people with SEND. Available both online and hard copy.
- Our **website** which is regularly updated with all our events and news items. www.sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk
- **Facebook page** with useful information, participation opportunities and our events. www.facebook.com/SendVoicesWokingham
- **Supporting events** for parent carers such as Carers Information days, Preparing for Adulthood and Autism Awareness marketplace events.



The Difference SEND Voices Wokingham Has Made

Our role is not only to listen to families, but to bring their collective experiences to decision-makers, using this evidence to inform, influence and challenge the development of services and support for children and young people with SEND.

During 2025/26, family evidence helped SVW influence and contribute to improvements including SEND Team communication and restructuring, additional Short Breaks services, work on EHCP Annual Reviews, part-time timetables and Alternative Provision, information about masking, PINS recommendations and improvements to information available to families.

SVW also provided constructive challenge where families told us that services were not working well. This is an important part of our role as Wokingham's independent Parent Carer Forum.

Our contribution has been recognised by the Wokingham Area SEND Partnership. In its [SEND Self-Evaluation Framework](#), the partnership identified having an 'Engaged parent carer forum' as one of the areas it is most proud of and recognised SVW's essential role in shaping services, supporting families and providing constructive challenge.

While SVW cannot deliver change alone, our engagement helps ensure that decisions are better informed by the lived experiences of local children, young people and their families.

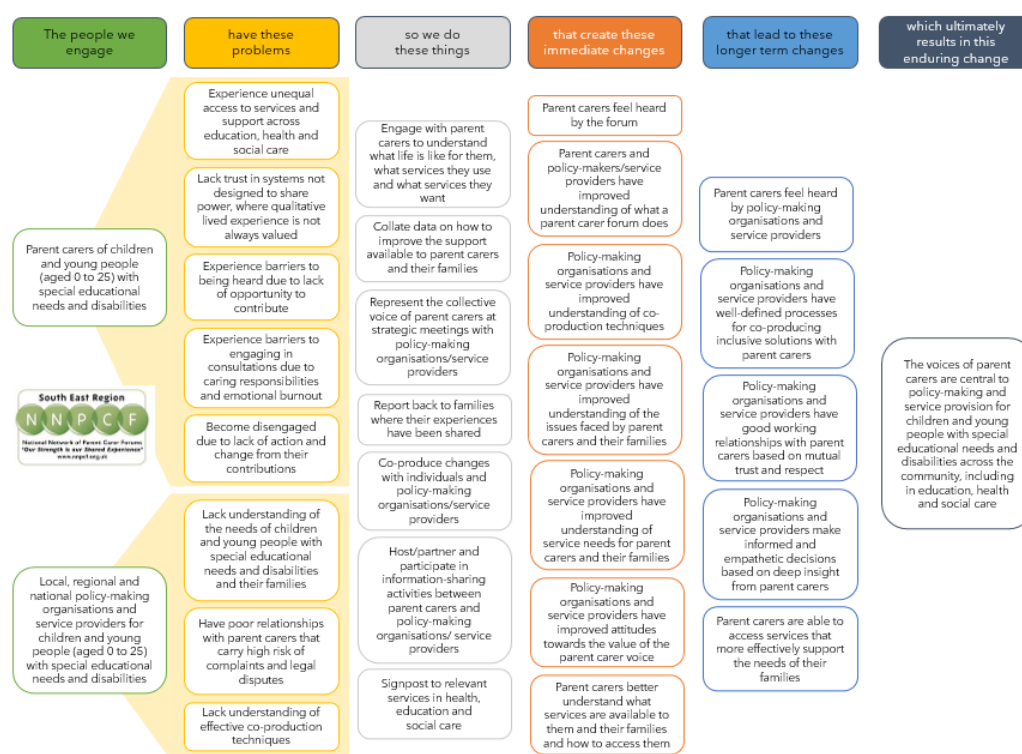
South East Parent Carer Forum's Theory of Change – September 2025 to January 2026

The South East region of Parent Carer Forum's (PCFs) commissioned Data Orchard to support the development of a regional Theory of Change model. This collaborative project focused specifically on the core grant-funded work undertaken by PCFs and aimed to improve

understanding among stakeholders of the breadth, impact and value of PCF activity. The process provided a valuable opportunity to reflect collectively on the role PCFs play locally, regionally and nationally, while strengthening shared understanding across partners.

A Theory of Change explains how the work an organisation does is expected to lead to better outcomes. It connects the activities PCFs undertake; such as listening to families, gathering evidence, sharing collective feedback, working in partnership and providing constructive challenge with the changes we want to see in services and, ultimately, better experiences and outcomes for children, young people and their families.

For SVW, the Theory of Change reflects how our day-to-day work contributes to wider SEND improvement. We create opportunities for Wokingham families to share their experiences, identify common themes and priorities, and take this collective evidence into strategic meetings, workstreams and discussions with Education, Health and Social Care leaders. We then continue to engage with families and partners to understand whether changes are making a difference. SVW cannot deliver system change alone, but our role is to help ensure that improvement is informed by lived experience, shaped with families and focused on the issues that matter most to them.



Summary of Time Invested 2025-2026 - Across all areas of our work, SVW recorded more than **2,772 hours** of activity during 2025/26. This included family engagement, strategic representation, project work, information and support, and demonstrates the significant resource invested in representing Wokingham families.



Our Plans for 2026 - 27

- Continue to engage with parent carers to explain the **National SEND Reforms** and ensure the lived experiences and views of Wokingham families inform the national consultation.
- Continued involvement with all aspects of the **SEND Improvement and SEND Reform Programmes** for Wokingham Borough to ensure family views are included & heard and inform developments.
- Support the **SEND Reform Experts at Hand** programme by building on the success of the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project. This will expand parent engagement sessions to all Wokingham Borough schools, helping to create more inclusive and supportive mainstream schools while enabling families to access support earlier.
- Continued involvement with Health and other **strategic boards** across WBC and the NHS to ensure family views are included & heard.
- Allow parent carers to **feedback** their experiences and on specific workstreams via various engagement opportunities both in person and online.
- Host **SENDIASS Training courses** to ensure families feel empowered and can participate individually.
- Support the **SENDIASS drop-ins with a SEND Coffee Drop-in**
- Regular **drop-in events** with the Local Authority, Health partners and other support organisations, increasing the opportunity for parents to engage directly with Education Health and Social Care leaders.
- **Local Offer Live day** - October 2026.
- Repeat the Wokingham Area **Annual SEND survey** and other relevant surveys to track how things are going and help set priority work focus going forward.



Full Name	SEND Voices Wokingham
Also know by	SVW
Charity Number	1201621
Charity Activity	SEND Voices Wokingham is the independent Parent Carer Forum, Wokingham Borough, who give a voice to families who have a child or young person aged 0-25 years with any Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND). Working in partnership with education, health, social care, and other service providers to ensure the services commissioned meet the needs of children and young people with SEND in Wokingham.
Charitable Objective	To relieve the needs of children and young people, including their parents, carers and families, who have disabilities and/or special educational needs in Wokingham and the surrounding areas, in order to improve their quality of life, promote their inclusion in their Local communities and to help and support them to reach their full potential.
Public Benefit	We declare that we have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in exercising our power and duties.
Financial Reserves	The Board of Trustees have resolved that a balance of £23,000 being the equivalent of 6 months expenditure should be held in reserve since the payment of income grants is subject to an annual application process that delays receipt of funds. The remainder of the General Reserve is available to support the work of the Charity.
Trustees	Matthew Booth – Chair of Trustees Tim Bharucha Lynn Boba Jenny Hooper Sarah Allen joined 29 th July 2025
Employees	Terri Walsh Joint CEO Sarah Clarke Joint CEO Debbie Jacobs - Participation Lead – left Aug 2025 Hannah Graham and Cathy Dearlove – PINS Engagement Officers
Membership	1,374 registered parent carers living in Wokingham Borough, representing more than 2,000 children and young people aged 0–25 with SEND. Membership increased by more than 40% during the year.
Social Media Reach	1572 Facebook & Instagram followers +9%
Contact Information	Email: info@sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk Website: www.sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk

Financial Statement for SEND Voices Wokingham					
April 2025 to March 2026					
Receipts and Payments	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds (Other)	Restricted Funds (Contact)	Restricted Funds (WBC)	Total
Receipts					
SVW - Contact DfE Grant	0	0	17,500	0	17,500
SVW - WBC grant	0	0	0	17,500	17,500
Unrestricted Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Other Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Other Restricted Funds	0	30,000	0	0	30,000
Total Receipts	0	30,000	17,500	17,500	65,000
Payments					
Infrastructure	0	0	4,197	1,837	6,034
Develop Info & Resources	0	0	0	112	112
Meetings, Events and Staffing costs	0	19,048	2,045	14,256	35,349
Training (internal)	0	0	817	0	817
Out of pocket expenses & mileage	0	0	0	750	750
Operational Staffing Costs	1,164	83	10,407	3,945	15,598
Misc	0	0	34	0	34
Total Payments	1,164	19,131	17,500	20,900	58,694
Surplus (Deficit)	1,178	10,869	0	3,834	15,881

Note: Underspend 25/26 - Our figures show an underspend for 25/26.

Due to running accrual accounting; March hours are paid in April each year, resulting in variations. The DfE Contact Grant does not allow for this variation; therefore, we require an underspend in the WBC Grant of £3,000 each year to ensure salary payments can be made.

Other restricted funding, deferred into 26/27 due to the finalising of some of the project work.

Net Movement in Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds (Other)	Restricted Funds (Contact)	Restricted Funds (WBC)	Total
Bought forward at 1/1/25	2,341	0	0	7,234	9,575
Transfer between Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Carried forward at 31/3/26	1,178	10,870	0	3,834	15,881
Statement of Assets and Liabilities					
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds (Other)	Restricted Funds (Contact)	Restricted Funds (WBC)	Total
Cash at bank and in hand	26,590	0	0	0	26,590
Reserves (6 months)	23,000	0	0	0	23,000
Assets retained for charity's use	0	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets less Liabilities	49,590	0	0	0	49,590

Approved by the Board of Trustees

15th SEPTEMBER 2026

Sarah Clarke & Terri Walsh
Joint CEOs

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

At the request of the Trustees of SEND Voices Wokingham, I have examined the receipts and payments account for the year ending 31st March 2026, along with the related paperwork.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in.

Gisela Sharp
Date 07/05/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES		Independent examiner's report on the accounts	
Section A		Independent Examiner's Report	
Report to the trustees	SEND VOICES WOKINGHAM		
On accounts for the year ended	31 March 2026	Charity no (if any)	1201621
Set out on pages	1 - 2		
Responsibilities and basis of report	<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2026.</p> <p>As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; orthe accounts did not accord with the accounting records; orthe accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. <p>I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p> <p><small>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</small></p>		
Signed:	<i>Gisela Sharp</i>	Date:	7/5/2026
Name:	Gisela Sharpe FCCA		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FCCA		
IER	1	Oct 2018	

Section B	
Disclosure	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

Address: 16 Lincoln Gardens, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire RG10 9HU

IER 2 Oct 2018