



# SPDC Parent Carer Newsletter

## May-July 2026



**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Talking SENse- The White Paper

**Thursdays in May and June**

Cygnets Autism Course

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

SPDC Virtual Brew

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

Crafting with Mosaic

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

Coffee Stop Shop Blackheath

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

SPDC Fundraising Meeting

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Events Advisory Group

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Carers Week Big Celebration

**Friday 19 June**

Line Dancing with PJ

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Summer Walk Swan Pool

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

Virtual Brew

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Parents Picnic & Rounder-Weekday

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Parents Picnic & Rounder-Evening

### Welcome to SPDC Parent Carer Newsletter

Spring has finally arrived, bringing lighter nights, warmer days, and a welcome moment to reflect on what a brilliant start to 2026 we've had.

A few highlights include:

- Parent Carer involvement in Sandwell's Local Offer The work parent carers have contributed is really taking shape, and we are delighted to share that the brand new Local Offer website is expected to go live in June. This will become a one-stop shop for everything SEND in Sandwell.
- Parent carers have played a key role in shaping a clearer, more user-friendly Short Breaks statement to support families across the borough.
- SPDC has remained actively involved in regular 'You Said, We Did' meetings to raise your concerns and ensure parent carer voices lead to meaningful actions. We hope the updates and changes coming from these conversations are making a real difference.

All of this has been happening alongside the wonderful activities, workshops, and information sessions we've been planning, organising, and delivering.

*Kellie & Claire xx*

### How to book activities!

Email your bookings to  
[spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org](mailto:spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org)



Talking SENSE!

# Activities for parent carers

## Understanding the White Paper: An Impartial Guide for SEND Families

Wednesday 6th May

10.30-11:30am

Wood Lane community Centre, 157 Wood Lane, West Bromwich B70 9PT

Ken Upton from Talking SENSE!, a registered charity providing low-cost advocacy, advice and support to parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities, will be joining us for this important session.

The Talking SENSE team bring extensive experience across all areas of SEND, including SEN Support, EHC needs assessments, EHC plans, annual reviews, mediation and tribunal appeals.

Following SPDC's previous White Paper sessions delivered by the local authority, we have invited Ken to offer impartial, parent-focused information. He will be equipped with the latest details on the White Paper Consultation and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

## Cygnets Autism Course

Galton valley Childrens Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick B66 1DH

Cygnets is a seven-week support programme for parents and carers of autistic children and young people aged 5–18.

At SPDC, we recognise that parenting an autistic child can present unique challenges.

The Cygnets programme provides an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of autism and explore practical approaches to supporting your child across different settings.

The programme also offers a space to meet other parent carers, share experiences, and gain insight from others in a similar position, all within a supportive environment.

Although the course began in April, places remain available for the following sessions:



Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 10:00am-12:00pm

**BARNARD'S** Changing childhoods.  
Changing lives.

email [spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org](mailto:spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org) to book

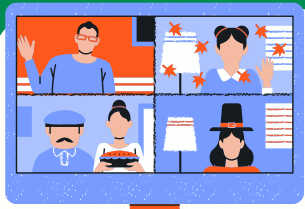
# Activities for parent carers

## May's Virtual Brew

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Online via Teams

7:00pm-8:00pm



You'll receive a link to join us on Microsoft Teams for an online get-together from the comfort of your own home. On the night, Claire and Kellie will be there, ready to chat and welcome you in. Get comfy, bring a cuppa, and settle into a safe, understanding, and completely judgement-free space where you can share, listen, or simply take a moment for yourself. There's no set agenda – we'll just see where the evening takes us.

We're really looking forward to reconnecting with you online and hope to see you there.

## Crafting with Mosaics

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

12:30-2:00pm

**Myra Harris Community Room, Brickhouse Lane, West Bromwich B70 0DZ**

Rachel from In2colour has been recommended to us by a fellow parent carer. She is an experienced artist and teacher, and with her support you'll have the chance to create your own coaster or hanging mosaic.

This session is suitable for all abilities, including complete beginners, no previous crafting experience needed.

We will also be offering refreshments, so even if crafting isn't really your thing, you're still very welcome to come along for a cuppa and a chat. It's a relaxed, friendly space where everyone is included.



email [spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org](mailto:spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org) to book

# Activities for parent carers



## Coffee Stop Shop

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

10:00-11:30

CAFFÈ Carluccio's, Halesowen Road, Blackheath, B65- 0HG

Why not join us this month at for a hot drink and piece of cake and an informal chance to meet up with other parent carers. Old and New faces are always welcome at SPDC and if you've never been before then this is an ideal opportunity to meet us and to have a chat! We love these meet ups as they often lead to sharing new ideas, new friendships and developing a sense of belonging!!  
Hope to see you all there.



## Fundraising Meeting

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

10:00am-11:30am

Galton Valley Children's Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick B66 1DH

If you fancy turning your hand to fundraising for SPDC, this is the group for you!

Fellow parent carers meet every other month to explore creative ways to raise funds for our charity. The money raised helps us deliver our much-loved Summer and Christmas activities, making a real difference to families across Sandwell. It's a relaxed, welcoming space to share ideas, plan opportunities, and support each other while helping SPDC grow.



## Events Advisory Group

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 10.00pm-11.30am

Galton Valley Children's Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick, B66 1DH

At SPDC, your voice truly matters!

If you'd like to share ideas for future activities (for parent carers or our family clubs), suggest possible venues, or offer feedback on what we already provide, this group is the perfect place to do it.

It's a relaxed and supportive space where parent carers can help shape and influence upcoming SPDC sessions, ensuring they reflect what our families really want and need.



# June Activities for parent carers

## Carers Celebration Event

Wednesday 10th June 11.00am - 2pm

Brasshouse Community Centre, Smethwick, West Midlands B66 1BA

### You're invited to our special Carers Celebration Event!

Join us for a relaxing and fun-filled day as we celebrate and appreciate you!

#### Expect:

- Delicious food
- Relaxation activities
- Pampering treats
- A warm, welcoming atmosphere
- And a few extra surprises along the way

Take a break, connect with other parent carers, and enjoy some well-deserved time for yourself.

There will also be a marketplace of support for all things SEND in Sandwell!



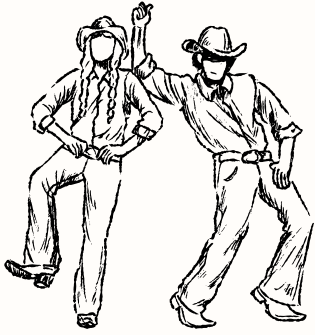
**Booking is essential!**

[spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org](mailto:spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org) to reserve your place.

We can't wait to celebrate you!

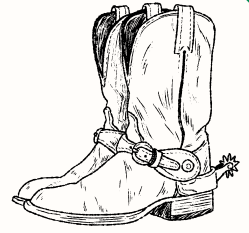
email [spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org](mailto:spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org) to book

# June Activities for parent carers



## Line Dancing with PJ

Friday 19th June 2026  
10am-11.30am  
Venue-To Be Confirmed



We're thrilled to welcome PJ from Body Mind CIC back for another fun and lively Line Dancing session!

Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned pro, PJ will guide you through easy-to-follow steps and simple routines. It's a fantastic way to move your body, learn something new, make friends, and most importantly, have loads of fun.

Hats and boots are welcome, but definitely not required, just bring your enthusiasm and get ready to dance.

## Summer Walk

Monday 22nd June 10:00-11:30am

Swan Pool, Sandwell Valley West Bromwich

Why not come and enjoy a gentle summer stroll around Swan pool while chatting with like-minded parent carers and SPDC staff.

Take a breather, stretch your legs, and connect with people who truly understand the journey.

This relaxed outdoor meet-up is a chance to:

- Share experiences with fellow parent carers
- Catch up with SPDC staff in an informal setting
- Enjoy some fresh air and a change of scenery
- Feel part of a supportive, friendly community

Whether you want a good chat, a quiet stroll, or simply some time outdoors, you're welcome just as you are.

Furry friends are welcome!

## June's Virtual Brew

25th June 7:00pm-8:00pm

Teams (Link to be sent upon booking)



You'll be sent a Microsoft Teams link so you can join us online from the comfort of your own home. When you log in, Claire and Kellie will be there to greet you and ease everyone into the conversation.

Make yourself cosy with a warm drink and settle into a space where you can talk openly, listen in, or simply unwind. There's no agenda to follow, the evening will unfold naturally based on what everyone needs.

We can't wait to catch up with you virtually and hope you'll join us for a relaxed and supportive evening together.

# July Activities for parent carers

## Parents Picnic & Rounders!

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 10:00-11:30am

West Smethwick Park Pavilion, West Park Road, Smethwick B67 7JJ

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 6:00pm-7:30pm

Victoria Park, Victoria Road, Tipton DY4 8SW



To make the most of the beautiful weather (fingers crossed!), we'd love to invite all parent carers to join the SPDC team for a good old-fashioned picnic.

You told us you'd enjoy a picnic where everyone brings something to share, so feel free to come along with a small offering. But truly, don't worry if you can't bring anything. Your company is what matters most. And for anyone feeling energetic, we'll also have a game of rounders to get those competitive juices flowing and add a bit of fun to your day.

Come for the food, stay for the laughs, and enjoy some relaxed time together outdoors.

Two sessions have been arranged for parent carers who are unable to join daytime events!

**Sandwell SEND E-bulletin**

Sign up NOW



Access made easy

**YOUR SEND FRONT DOOR**

SCAN HERE



**Sandwell**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children**

Galton Valley Childrens Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick, B66 1DH

Tel 0121 565 2410

Email [info@sp-dc.org](mailto:info@sp-dc.org)

Charity Number 1125576



SCAN ME