**Autism West Midlands Professionals Update Shropshire January 2021**

**Here we are in 2021 (and another lockdown) and the AWM Shropshire team are continuing to offer remote support services for parents, carers and professionals throughout the county.  Please ensure you share the following opportunities with any families and colleagues you feel would benefit from some autism-specific guidance. Please note : no diagnosis is necessary for families to access the service.**

**NEW We are excited to announce that we have adapted our popular Rising to the Challenge workshop programme to suit the needs of families with younger children (under 5s) – scroll down for more details!**

* **Advice and support on request**

Our small, knowledgeable team are only a call or email away for families and practitioners, just contact us directly. To arrange an appointment please call:

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri - **Wendy Cowton 07900784186**

Weds, Thu, Fri - **Emma Hegenbarth 07881109480**

Or Email - shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk

**Helpline** - 0121 450 7575

* **Regular weekly virtual Support Groups for Shropshire Parents - daytime and evening options!**

Weekly online support groups via the Zoom platform. This is an opportunity to talk with other parents, share ideas, and offer support. Groups are held on **Tuesday mornings** from 11am-12pm and **Wednesday evenings** from 8pm-9pm and are facilitated by AWM staff.

If you would like to join either of the support groups, please email Gemma at gemmae@autismwestmidlands.org.uk

* **Dad’s Group**

We welcome Dads to come and join our dedicated online group.  Come together to share ideas and advice with a member of AWM present. For more information on this group and to register please visit [this website.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDEyMTYuMzIxMDc1MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5hdXRpc213ZXN0bWlkbGFuZHMub3JnLnVrL2V2ZW50cy92aXJ0dWFsLWRhZHMtc3VwcG9ydC1ncm91cC13ZXN0LW1pZGxhbmRzLTI0c2VwLyJ9.dCsmOmojUKESWOt7AvbcgAlEMNlrFGMJpuGILgkFy5w/s/556198886/br/91975947019-l)

* **NEW Zoom Advice slots for parents, carers and professionals – next date = Wed 3th February**

For those who prefer face-to-face contact we are offering this virtually via video appointments. Zoom works well on mobile phones. To book a 45 min advice appointment with a specialist autism advisor please book via [this link.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDEyMTYuMzIxMDc1MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3Nob3AuYXV0aXNtd2VzdG1pZGxhbmRzLm9yZy51ay8ifQ.Wnjxa3_ZkJ71FkVD79nOsGjlVV9SbN0YwDyTW8Xbhms/s/556198886/br/91975947019-l)

* **Online webinars and courses**

**“An introduction to autism for parents, carers and professionals” Thursday 21st January 9.30-10.30am**

**For more information/how to book follow the link below:**

<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/an-introduction-to-autism-webinar-for-parents-and-carers-professionals-west-midlands-jan21/>

**NEW “Under 5s Rising to the Challenge” Fridays starting 5th February 9.30-10.30am**

**For more information/how to book follow the link below:**

<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/rising-to-the-challenge-2021-west-midlands-parents-and-carers-workshops/>