

May 2026 Newsletter



PEAK News!

Growing Our Team, Strengthening Our Support

May has been another busy and productive month for PEAK. While we said a temporary farewell to two valued volunteers, who remain very much part of the PEAK family, we were delighted to welcome two new members to our team.

Chevon Jarju joins us as a Trustee, bringing valuable experience and insight to help guide the charity's future. We also welcomed Freya Lloyd as our new Administrator, supporting the day-to-day work that keeps our services running smoothly for families.

Most importantly, throughout a period of transition, our team has continued to deliver consistent, high-quality support to the families who rely on us.

Mental Health Week: Why Professional Accountability Matters

During Mental Health Awareness Week, PEAK highlighted the importance of ensuring neurodivergent children and young people receive the high-quality support and care they deserve. Families place enormous trust in the professionals and services supporting their children, making accountability and consistent standards essential.



This was a week that PEAK highlighted the importance of ensuring neurodivergent children and young people receive the high-quality support and care they deserve. Families place enormous trust in the professionals and services supporting their children, making accountability and consistent standards essential.

This message was reinforced through conversations with the family of Chanté Lloyd-Buckingham, whose tragic story has prompted calls for improved standards and greater accountability across support services. PEAK remains committed to advocating for children and families, while working towards a future where every child receives the care, understanding and opportunities they need to thrive.

Follow our Facebook page (click the button below) to learn more about the issues affecting neurodivergent families and the work PEAK continues to champion.

PEAK Day Preparations Well Underway

Behind the scenes, planning for PEAK Day is gathering momentum.

Our volunteer team has been working hard to create a fun, inclusive and accessible event for families. Activities, food stalls, demonstrations, games, a petting zoo and raffle are all coming together to make what promises to be a fantastic community day. We cannot wait to welcome families, supporters and partners for what is becoming one of the highlights of the PEAK calendar.

Stay connected through our Facebook page for the latest updates, announcements and PEAK Day news.

Follow PEAK on Facebook



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COMMUNITY!



Families Supporting Families

This month's online community session once again demonstrated the power of bringing families together.

Parents and carers joined us in a welcoming and supportive space where experiences were shared openly and honestly. It was particularly encouraging to see families who are further along in their journeys offering practical advice, reassurance and strategies to those facing new challenges.

The strength of our community lies in people understanding that they are not facing these struggles alone. Every conversation, shared experience and piece of advice helps build confidence and connection.

More online community sessions are already being planned, with dates to be announced soon on our [Facebook page](#).

Podcast Update

Our podcast continues to provide valuable information, discussion and lived experiences for families navigating neurodivergent journeys. If you have a question you'd like answered (anonymously if you prefer) email: media@parentingempoweredautistickids.com

The next epic-sode will be coming soon!

Whether you join us for a community session or listen to the podcast, PEAK remains committed to creating spaces where families feel understood, informed and supported.

To join our next upcoming session and connect with families who truly understand your journey, email: community@parentingempoweredautistickids.com



Follow for updates of the next community session and epic-sode



SUPPORTERS

Rotary Club Gloucester Supports PEAK's Growing Impact

This month we were incredibly grateful to receive £500 of funding support from Rotary Club Gloucester. Their contribution will directly help PEAK continue delivering vital services including monthly community sessions, family support consultations, short breaks and preparations for this year's PEAK Day. Support from community organisations allows us to continue reaching families who often feel overwhelmed, isolated and unsure where to turn.



When organisations invest in PEAK, they invest in local families.

Gloucestershire Disability Fund Invests in Families

We would also like to thank Gloucestershire Disability Fund for their awarding PEAK a generous £5,000 grant. Their funding helps strengthen our ability to provide practical support, advocacy and opportunities for neurodivergent children and their families. Funding partnerships like these allow us to continue expanding our reach while ensuring services remain accessible to those who need them most.



Inspiring Future Generations at Denmark Road High School

Marco was pleased to attend the Denmark Road High School Business Breakfast this month. The event provided an opportunity to speak with young people about neurodivergent pathways, career opportunities and the importance of creating inclusive environments where individuals can thrive. These conversations help challenge perceptions, increase understanding and may even inspire future PEAK volunteers, advocates and employees. Every opportunity to educate and raise awareness contributes to a more inclusive future for neurodivergent young people.



If your organisation, school or community group would like to work with PEAK, we would love to hear from you. Together, we can create meaningful change for families.

Get in touch



DONATE TODAY

PEAK is a registered charity run by dedicated volunteers supporting the community. If you'd like to contribute to the work we do, please **visit our donation page:**

Donate here



Every donation helps support families who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Give as you Live
Donate



PEAK DAY

Our Biggest Community Celebration Is Almost Here

The countdown is on for PEAK Day 2026, and excitement is building across the PEAK community. Taking place on 11th July 2026, PEAK Day is much more than a family event. It's a celebration of inclusion, community and the incredible achievements of neurodivergent children, young people and their families. Months of planning are now coming together, with volunteers, supporters, local organisations and businesses all helping to create a day packed with activities, entertainment and opportunities for families to connect.

What to Expect

- Inclusive family activities
- Petting zoo experiences
- Group demonstrations and performances
- Games and activities
- Food stalls and refreshments
- Raffle and tombola prizes
- Opportunities to meet community organisations and support services

Every aspect of the day is being planned with accessibility and inclusion at its heart, ensuring families can relax, have fun and enjoy spending time together.

Why PEAK Day Matters

For many families, opportunities to attend events where they feel understood, welcomed and supported can be rare. PEAK Day creates a space where children can be themselves, parents can connect with others who understand their journey, and communities can come together to celebrate differences rather than focus on challenges. It's also an opportunity to raise awareness of the ongoing work PEAK delivers throughout the year, supporting families through advocacy, education, community sessions and practical guidance.

How You Can Help

As the event approaches, we are still looking for support from our wonderful community and are currently seeking:

- Volunteers to help on the day
- Raffle and tombola prize donations
- Businesses and organisations interested in supporting the event
- Community groups who would like to get involved

Every contribution helps us create an unforgettable experience for local families.

Join Us This July

Whether you are a family who has received support from PEAK, a local business, a volunteer or someone who simply wants to support a fantastic community event, we would love to see you there.

Find out more about PEAK Day and how to get involved:

parentingempoweredautistickids.com/peak-day



TESTIMONIALS

Continuing our Five Star Service!

The Difference Support Can Make

Families often come to PEAK during some of the most difficult periods of their lives. Navigating education systems, assessments and support services can feel overwhelming, particularly when progress seems impossible.

One parent recently shared:

"To say they have been brilliant would be an understatement. I cannot thank Marco and Hayley enough for all the support and help. Without them we definitely would not be where we are today. He is now in the right environment he needs to be to finally start his education."

Feedback like this reminds us why PEAK exists. Behind every case is a child who deserves the opportunity to thrive and a family who deserves to feel supported throughout the process.

More Feedback From Families



Really helpful when dealing with mediation guidance. Also helped my son gain a spot in the SEN setting we desired by being present at an emergency review.

Helen



Such a fantastic charity. Their advice and support has been invaluable over the past two years. Slowly we are moving forward to where we need to be. Thank you to Hayley especially. We are so grateful for all you have done to help us.

Emma Hopton

To every family who shares their experiences with us, thank you. Your stories inspire hope for others who may be at the beginning of their own journey.

You are not alone. Support, guidance and understanding are only a conversation away.

Have we helped your family?

Leave a Google or Facebook review to help others find PEAK.



WINS FOR FAMILIES!

Turning Challenges Into Positive Outcomes

Demand for support remains high, with many families continuing to face barriers around EHCP assessments, specialist placements and tribunal processes.

Despite these challenges, May brought some remarkable outcomes.

Highlights included:

- Specialist setting secured alongside Section B and F amendments following a tribunal process.
- Another tribunal victory resulting in a specialist educational placement being awarded.
- A long-running family case achieving further success, with EHCPs secured, local authority appeals withdrawn and educational provision protected across multiple children.
- An Education, Health and Care assessment awarded following successful mediation after years of delay.
- Alternative Provision secured for a child requiring urgent support.
- Successful transition into a specialist educational setting.
- College placement secured to support continued qualifications and future opportunities.

Family Stories

One family came to PEAK feeling exhausted after years of unsuccessful attempts to secure the support their child needed. Following mediation and sustained advocacy, an EHC assessment was finally agreed, creating a pathway towards appropriate educational support.

Another family faced repeated tribunal challenges and appeals. Through persistent advocacy and collaborative working, PEAK helped secure educational provision that now allows their child to access learning in an environment suited to their needs.

Every successful outcome represents a child accessing the support they deserve and a family gaining renewed hope for the future.

If you are struggling with EHCPs, placements, assessments or tribunals, PEAK is here to help.

Request PEAK support



**Over 528
voluntary
hours**

MAY RESULTS

TOTAL

Children Supported	84
EHCP Support and Awarded	2
EHC Assessment Awarded	1
Documentational Support	5
School Support Meetings	12
SEN Appeals Supported	7
Direct Home Support Interventions	x
Educational Placements Awarded	8
Diagnosis Support	1
Community Session attendees	13
Podcasts released	1

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



As I reflect on May, I'm incredibly proud of what our team, volunteers and families have achieved together.

This month has seen an exceptional number of positive outcomes for families. We have secured EHC assessments, won tribunal cases, achieved amendments to EHCPs, obtained Alternative Provision and helped children access specialist educational settings where they can finally thrive.

Every one of those outcomes represents determination, collaboration and a refusal to give up on children who deserve the right support.

We have also continued to grow as an organisation, welcoming new volunteers who will help strengthen our ability to support even more families in the future.

Mental Health Awareness Week also reminded us why accountability matters. Families place enormous trust in the professionals and services supporting their children. We must continue working towards a future where every child receives the quality of care, understanding and support they deserve.

Looking ahead, I'm excited by the plans taking shape for PEAK Day. Seeing volunteers, supporters and community partners come together to create something special for families is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when communities unite behind a common purpose.

Thank you to every family, volunteer, supporter and partner who continues to believe in PEAK and our mission.

Together, we are creating change, building stronger futures and ensuring families know they never have to face these challenges alone.

With gratitude,

Marco Cetara

Dates for the Diary

Upcoming Community Sessions

- 19th June 2026 [in person]

Awareness Days

- 10th - 14th June Carers Week
- 10th - 17th June Neurodiversity Pride Week
- 18th June Autistic Pride Day
- 15th - 21st June Learning Disability Week