

October 2025 Newsletter



PEAK NEWS!

The Road to SEN Reform: Meeting the people making change possible!

This month, PEAK has been on the road — partnering with the BBC to bring national attention to the urgent need for reform in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) system. Starting from our home base in Gloucestershire, the BBC Gloucestershire team has been travelling across the county, meeting families PEAK has supported and amplifying their voices to show the reality of a system that too often fails the children who need it most.

Through powerful stories shared by families like Gavin and Michelle — parents of three boys, two of whom are neurodiverse — the BBC series is revealing what life looks like behind closed doors for thousands of families across the country.

Nine-year-old James, a lover of art and animals, and his younger brother Joseph, cheeky, witty, and full of life, have both been out of school for years. Their parents have battled tirelessly for proper educational provision, but instead have faced missed deadlines, closed-door decisions, and threats of fines — all while simply trying to do what's best for their children.

Sadly, their story is not unique. Across England, more than 600,000 children have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) — and the number continues to rise. Yet fewer than half are processed within the statutory 20-week timeframe. In Gloucestershire, that figure drops to just 26%.

For many families, the emotional and financial strain is overwhelming. As one parent told the BBC, "Parents and families are at breaking point. It's just not fair — there needs to be action."

PEAK's founder, Marco, and PEAK's his incredible team have been working alongside families like these for over five years, leading over 1,000 case studies and direct interventions across the UK. His message is clear: reform must begin by listening to the lived experience of children and families.

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BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Our journey with the BBC is just the beginning. The powerful stories shared by families across Gloucestershire highlight a national issue that demands urgent attention — one where too many children are still falling through the cracks of a broken system.

At PEAK, we're committed to turning these voices into action. Over the coming months, we'll continue meeting with families, professionals, and policymakers to bridge the gap between lived experience and legislative change. Our mission is to make sure that every reform — from Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to local authority accountability — is guided by evidence, compassion, and inclusion.

Behind every statistic lies a child with dreams, a family fighting for them, and a community ready to help. That's why PEAK will keep pushing for reform that puts children first — not processes, politics, or paperwork.

“Meaningful change can only come
when provision is truly child-led –
not system-led.”
– Marco

[For the Full BBC Article see here:](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce3xzg6l5k5o)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce3xzg6l5k5o>

[For the Full BBC Radio Interview see here:](https://www.facebook.com/reel/1894202718175207)
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1894202718175207>



MORE NEWS



PEAK Partners with Golden Valley to Champion Neurodiversity!



We're excited to share that a new article featuring PEAK is now live on the Golden Valley website! After winning the charity giveaway hosted by Golden Valley Developments, PEAK's CEO and Founder, Marco, was invited to reflect on the charity's origins, mission and impact.

The article highlights how Marco founded PEAK in 2020 in response to the challenges his own family faced – bringing bespoke, tailored support to children on the spectrum and their families. Golden Valley describe PEAK's core belief "that every child has the right to develop and reach the highest possible potential they can."

The piece highlights one in 100 children around 700,000 people in the UK are diagnosed with Autism. It also emphasises how Golden Valley itself is working to adapt environments for neurodiversity — from sensory-aware lighting and quiet spaces to flexible accommodation of touch, sound and smell sensitivities — and why that meaningful change matters.

“It’s not about what the parent wants or the schools want, it’s who the child is, and helping that child understand, like I help my son. [...] Every child has the right to develop and reach the highest possible potential they can.”

- Marco

For the Full BBC Article see [here](#):

MORE NEWS



ecotricity

Powering Potential: Ecotricity's Dale Vince Joins PEAK as Patron



PEAK – Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids – is thrilled to announce that Dale Vince OBE, founder of Ecotricity and one of the UK's most passionate champions for change, has officially joined the charity as a Patron and supporter.

Dale's commitment to sustainability, equality, and community aligns perfectly with PEAK's mission to empower families and ensure every neurodivergent child reaches their full potential.

“I’m really pleased to be Patron of P.E.A.K – a small local charity doing incredibly big work. They step in when the system doesn’t... or won’t. Supporting the parents of children on the autistic spectrum, helping them reach their full potential – just like the name says. Most of all, they make sure families know they’re not in this alone. That matters more than anything.”

– Dale Vince OBE

PEAK extends its heartfelt thanks to Dale for his belief in the charity's work and his support for families navigating the challenges of the current SEND landscape. Together, we'll continue powering potential – creating a brighter, more inclusive future for all.



Empowering Families During ADHD Awareness Month!

A huge thank you to Ambassador Chris, who joined our latest community support session as today's guest speaker, in partnership with ADHD UK.

Together with our family consultants—Charlotte, Hayley, and Marco—Chris shared heartfelt stories of navigating challenges, recognising neurodivergent traits, and supporting children in meaningful ways. The session highlighted just how crucial awareness, understanding, and early support are in helping families thrive.

Parents left feeling empowered, informed, and hopeful, ready to face the future with confidence.

If you'd like to join our sessions, or know someone who would benefit, please like and share our page to help us continue ensuring all neurodivergent children reach their Peak Potential



Next Community Support Session
Friday 21st November
Hillview Church, Hucclecote,
10-12pm

To book your space email community@parentingempoweredautistickids.com



COMMUNITY!



PEAK and Bloodhound: Inspiring Limitless Potential This Half Term

This October half term, PEAK partnered with Bloodhound Education Ltd, a UK registered charity, to bring exciting STEM experiences to children aged 7 and up. Bloodhound Education provides hands-on science, technology, engineering, and maths activities, bringing the real-life engineering excitement of projects like the Bloodhound LSR (Land Speed Record) into schools and workshops across the country.

Through this special partnership, children attending PEAK's holiday programmes had the opportunity to explore engineering challenges, take part in interactive projects, and have fun while learning—all in a supportive, inclusive environment designed for SEN families.

A huge thank you to the fantastic team at Bloodhound for making this possible.



COMMUNITY!



Inspiring Futures: PEAK Joins Denmark Road High School's Careers Fair

This October, PEAK was proud to attend Denmark Road High School's Careers Fair, meeting with students eager to explore future pathways and passions.

Throughout the day, our team connected with groups of young people – sharing insights into PEAK's mission to empower neurodivergent children and families, as well as the vital work our charity does across Gloucestershire and beyond. Students had the chance to learn more about careers in education, advocacy, community support, and inclusive youth development, gaining a deeper understanding of how meaningful change begins with compassion and awareness.

Events like this are a wonderful opportunity to inspire the next generation, spark curiosity about neurodiversity, and show how careers in the charity and education sectors can make a lasting difference. "It was fantastic to speak with so many motivated students who wanted to understand more about what we do and how they could be part of creating a more inclusive world," said Marco, PEAK Founder. We'd like to thank Denmark Road High School for the warm welcome and for hosting such an inspiring event. PEAK looks forward to continuing to engage with schools, helping young people discover their potential – and maybe even inspiring a few future advocates along the way!

FUNDRAISING!



100 MILES
IN OCTOBER

One Small Step for PEAK, 100 Miles to Make a Difference!



This October, PEAK proudly took part in the National Autistic Society's 100 Mile Challenge—an extraordinary journey that was about far more than the miles walked. The challenge was a chance to raise awareness for autistic children, champion mental health, and highlight the urgent need for meaningful SEN reform. Every step taken was a step toward amplifying the voices of families and children navigating the challenges of neurodiversity.



Marco and Peak Parent and Volunteer, Karl set off at 4 a.m. on 21st October, starting their journey from Gloucester with determination, purpose, and PEAK's mission at heart. By the first evening, they had reached Oxford – an impressive 40 mile milestone – but with little time to rest, they set off again early the next morning. Karl completed half the distance, while Marco pressed on alone for the remaining 60 miles, driven by the goal of raising awareness, connecting with communities, and ensuring that the stories of families PEAK supports are heard.



Along the route, stop-off points were more than just breaks – they were opportunities. Marco and Karl met families, supporters, and local communities, listening to real experiences, answering questions, and sharing PEAK's message: every neurodivergent child deserves support, understanding, and the chance to reach their Peak Potential. The walk coincided with both ADHD Awareness Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, making every conversation, every mile, and every step even more meaningful.

FUNDRAISING!

Marco reached Western Super Mare on 22nd October and finally arrived at Parliament Square on 23rd October – a perfect location to finish while SEN Reform talks continue! He was greeted with warmth and celebration from his mum and concluded the challenge with a stop finish point at the National Autistic Society headquarters, marking the end of a journey that was as much about connection and advocacy as it was about endurance.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported Marco and Karl along the way –through messages, live social media streams, and generous donations. Special thanks go to BBC Gloucester Radio for their coverage, radio interviews, and for giving listeners the opportunity to follow and support the challenge in real time. Your encouragement, interest, and generosity helped to make this challenge an even greater success.

For those who would still like to contribute, donations are welcome via the QR code and link below. Every contribution helps PEAK continue providing bespoke support, advocacy, and empowerment for neurodivergent children and their families.



100 MILES
IN OCTOBER



NEWS

Dad helps 1,000 families with children who have additional needs - 'they have the right to thrive'

'We advocate for the child's rights within schools, local authority meetings, tribunals and has saved families hundreds of thousands of pounds'

SHARE      



Marco Cetera, 44, from Gloucester with his son. Marco set up the PEAK charity five years ago (Image: Marco Cetera/PEAK)



Give as you Live
Donate



SUPPORTERS



Community Champions! PEAK Wins Tesco's £1,500 Grant for the Second Year Running

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that PEAK has once again been awarded the top prize of £1,500 from the Tesco Community Grant Fund – for the second year in a row!

This back-to-back win is a huge honour and a wonderful reminder of how deeply our community believes in what we do. Each blue token dropped into the PEAK box at Tesco was more than a vote – it was a message of support, trust, and hope for neurodivergent children and their families.

Winning this grant for a second consecutive year means we can continue expanding our vital work – from inclusive family support sessions and parent advocacy to development and half term respite activities. Every penny helps us bring more opportunities, understanding, and joy to the families we serve.

"It's heartwarming to see how much our community believes in what we do," said one of our team members. "This grant means we can continue offering vital early intervention, inclusive education programmes, and respite activities for families who often feel overlooked by the system. We're incredibly grateful to Tesco, and everyone who voted for us."

A huge thank you to Tesco, and to all our supporters who voted for us in-store.



TESTIMONIALS

Continuing our Five Star Service!

Charleen Spencer recommends PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids. 6 October

Absolutely I would recommend. Had my first meeting with Marco today about my son Teddy and his struggles. I was emotional and feeling very overwhelmed but by the end of our meeting felt more positive, supported and empowered to get the support my son needs. Thank you Marco.. I look forward to our journey with you Charleen and Teddy

PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids 1 comment

Alison Morse recommends PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids. 10 October

We've just discovered PEAK and feel so relieved to have finally come across someone who understands our situation, and more than that is able to offer help! Until this point we have been trying to be subject experts in a field we really don't understand ourselves yet, and to say I've found this hard is a huge understatement. Thank you Marco for taking the time to understand our situation and for coming on board to support us

PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids 1 comment

Emma Harris recommends PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids. 20 October at 12:13

They are heroes without the cape. Just when I thought I couldn't take anymore or know where to turn, I was recommended Peak and it was the best decision I ever made reaching out to them. Not only have they been a voice for my daughter, they have been a huge support for me, because navigating ehcps is stressful and hard to understand if you don't know what you're looking at or for. They have read through endless emails, come to meetings, and g... See more

PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids 1 comment

Carly Dainty

Well done team PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids, it was great to attend today's session and see you in action! So many experiences shared and practical advice given! When communities are created we can achieve so much for our children - thank you for all your doing

3w Like Reply Edited 2

Charleen Spencer

Thank you for today! Was super helpful and everyone is so welcoming and friendly. Came away definitely feeling more positive and empowered

3w Like Reply 4

Verity Rivers
7 reviews

★★★★★ a month ago

I had a call with James this morning, and I can't thank you enough for your time. Your wisdom, guidance, and calm, informed approach provided exactly the kind of support and relief I've been searching for, and for the first time in a long while, I feel like I'm no longer facing this entirely on my own.

The past three years have been deeply challenging. I've felt helpless so often, navigating complex systems with little clarity, trying to advocate for my son in environments where understanding and support have been painfully lacking. The dismissiveness from schools and teachers, and the constant need to justify his needs, has left me emotionally exhausted and, at times, completely broken. My own mental health has taken a hit, and the toll this has taken on both of us has been heartbreaking.

To have someone not only understand the system, but also truly listen, empathise, and offer clear, actionable advice means more to me than I can fully express. Having this support, finally, feels like a lifeline. I am so deeply grateful to you and PEAK - Thank you for working with me and for being involved in this essential charity to support vulnerable children.

With love and deep gratitude. Verity x

Rachel Allard

We are so grateful to PEAK, thank you

3w Like Reply 2

Tim Mann

Love this! Massive Marco, Team PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids & everyone who supports your vital work changing so many young lives & families. Outstanding

4w Like Reply

Author
PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids
Tim Mann thank you

4w Like Reply

Dilys Aberdeen

You're doing a great job and service. Thankyou

5w Like Reply

Author
PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids
Dilys Aberdeen thank you we will keep going until we make things the way they need to be for our neurodivergent community

5w Like Reply

Dilys Aberdeen
PEAK Parenting Empowered Autistic Kids I know how helpful you are being which is much appreciated.

5w Like Reply

★★★★★
CUSTOMER FEEDBACK



You can leave us a review on Facebook too!



WIN'S FOR FAMILIES!



**Over 472
voluntary
hours**

OCTOBER'S RESULTS

TOTAL

Children Supported	124
EHCP Support and awarded	4
Documentational Support	27
School Support Meetings	20
SEN Appeals Supported	7
Direct Home Support Interventions	4
Educational Placements Awarded	3
Diagnosis Support	3
Community Session attendees	22

October has been an incredible month for PEAK – one filled with advocacy, action, and connection. From national campaigns to local conversations, our team has been out in the community doing what we do best: raising awareness, empowering families, and making sure every neurodivergent child has the opportunity to reach their Peak Potential.

This month, we've proudly continued our advocacy work around the BBC's coverage of the SEN reform, helping to ensure family voices are heard at every level. We joined Denmark Road High School's Careers Fair, reaching out to young people to inspire understanding and inclusion in the next generation.

Our 100-mile walk from Gloucester to London, in partnership with the National Autistic Society, was another huge highlight – spreading awareness, sparking conversations, and meeting families along the way who reminded us exactly why we do what we do.

Meanwhile, our community support sessions continued to thrive, bringing together parents and professionals to share stories, strategies, and strength. Between all these events, our team continued what matters most — working directly with families, some of whom we even met in person during the big walk!

As we move into November, PEAK remains here to walk alongside you — offering understanding, guidance, and practical support. Please do reach out to us if we can help support you contact@parentingempoweredautistickids.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



It's been an extraordinary month for PEAK!

Firstly, I wanted to express a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported, sponsored, or followed our 100-mile walk from Gloucester to London. Your messages, donations, and encouragement carried us through every mile.

We're also incredibly proud of our partnership with Bloodhound Education this half term. Their engineering workshops brought science, fun, and opportunity together in a way that truly lit up the room for so many children. Collaborations like this remind us just how limitless our young people are when given the space to explore and shine.

Another major celebration this month was our Tesco Community Grant win – for the second year in a row! This £1,500 award will make a real difference as we expand our support services and holiday programmes for neurodivergent families. To everyone who voted in-store: thank you for believing in our mission and standing with us once again.

Looking ahead, we're excited to share that PEAK is currently developing a brand-new website, designed to make our support more accessible, user-friendly, and reflective of our growing community. We can't wait for you to see it.

And... keep your eyes on our social media channels – we have some big announcements coming in November that we can't wait to reveal.

Finally, a warm invitation to join us at our next Community Support Session this November. Whether you're seeking guidance, connection, or simply a safe space to be heard, our team is here for you. These sessions continue to be the heart of our charity — a place where families come together, find strength, and know they're not alone.

Thank you for being part of PEAK. Together, we'll keep pushing boundaries, raising voices, and ensuring every neurodivergent child reaches their Peak Potential.

With gratitude,

Marco Cetara

A Few Dates To Remember

- Next Community Session Friday 21st November
- Exciting News coming soon - keep an eye out on our social media for updates!

Thank you for reading!