



Welcome to May's edition of the SENDIASS Spotlight!
Updates from SENDIASS, Transport article, Engagement and Outreach information



SENDIASS UPDATE

We are taking some time over the coming weeks to look at ways we can make some of the service's we offer more efficient and work better for the

parent/carers and professionals that access it, keep an eye over the coming months for further updates.

We are currently very busy, if you no longer need your appointment, please cancel with **at least 24 hours' notice** so that the appointment can be booked by other parent/carers that need to speak with us.

We have a great deal of resources and booklets on our website to support you with answering any questions you might have, whilst we are currently busy please do look at our website to see if it is able to help you move forward.

We are in the process of updating our website to make it more accessible and currently have a parent/carer consultation survey out. Please take some time to fill this in, this is a great help to us:

[Website parent/carer consultation \(office.com\)](#)

We are excited to be at both days of SENDFest on the 1st and 2nd of June, if you are visiting please come and find SENDIASS and the SEND Youth Forum in the Marketplace.

Parent/carer website feedback



PARENT/CARER SENDIASS TRAINING

We offer a variety of free SEND training for parent/carers. You can book your place via our website. More training and dates will become available throughout the year.

Upcoming Events

MAY 2024

22nd May 2024 - 10:30 - 13:30

Appealing a final EHCP - ONLINE

This training is for parent/carers to give an understanding of how to appeal a final EHCP to the SEND Tribunal including looking at what can be appealed, what forms need to be completed, timescales and the processes, what evidence needs to be submitted and what a hearing is like.

JUNE 2024.

6th June 2024 - 11:00 - 12:30

Who are Norfolk SENDIASS

Find out more about Norfolk SENDIASS and how we can help.

14th June 2024 - 10:30 - 13:00

EHCP Annual Review

This training is for parent/carers to help in understanding the processes and legal framework of Education, Health and Care Plan Annual Reviews.

BOOK YOUR PLACE



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Niamh Keane, Norfolk SENDIASS Manager

My name is Niamh, and I am the Service Manager for Norfolk SENDIASS, I have been the Service Manager since October 2021, but I've worked for the Service since March 2017 in various roles, including Independent Supporter, Training and Development Officer and Adviser/Caseworker.

Before working at Norfolk SENDIASS, I worked in a mainstream high school and as a short break's worker, at University I did a degree in 'Childhood and Family Studies with Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Disability' and I am currently the Vice-Chair of Governors of a SEND College. Supporting children and young people with SEND and their families has been a passion for me since I was very young.

As the Service Manager I have responsibility for strategic planning, service management and delivery, and quality assurance as well as working with partners to inform and influence local policy and practice. Alongside this I also write and present legally based training to parent/carers and professionals, write and create booklets and resources for the service website and will sometimes hold a small caseload representing parent/carers with processes such as tribunal.



PROFESSIONALS

We are offering online training for professionals. You can book your place via the professional section of the website.

Duty of a Governor - 20th June 16:00 - 18:00

Appealing a final EHCP - 4th July - 15:30 - 18:30

As a professional you can book an appointment to speak with an advisor using the booking link on our [website](#).



Transport article for those of compulsory school age

Section 508B of the Education Act 1996 states that Local authorities are required to arrange free, suitable, home to school transport for children of compulsory school age who are eligible, to their nearest suitable qualifying school.

There are four categories for Eligible Children:

- Children with SEN, a disability or a mobility difficulty
- Children whose route to school is unsafe
- Children who live beyond the statutory walking distance
- Children from low-income families

A qualifying school is a:

- Maintained (publicly funded) school or nursery
- Non-maintained special school
- Pupil referral unit

- University Technical College
- An Academy

An independent school can also be a qualifying school if it is in Section I of the EHC plan and there are no comments saying parents will provide transport.

Home to school travel arrangements, in relation to an eligible child, are travel arrangements in both directions between the child's home and the relevant educational establishment.

The Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance (paras 34 and 35) defines suitable travel arrangements. In particular:

- They must enable an eligible child to reach school without such stress, strain or difficulty that they would be prevented from benefiting from the education provided.
- They must enable the child to travel in reasonable safety and comfort although this does not necessarily mean a door-to-door service.
- The home to school travel guidance suggests a maximum reasonable journey times of 45 minutes for primary school children, and 75 minutes for secondary school children

If a child has special educational needs (SEN), a disability or mobility problems which means they cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school, then they are an 'eligible child' and are entitled to home to school transport. This is only if the LA has made no suitable arrangements for attendance at a nearer school.

The legal definition for what walking distance is defined as two miles for under eights and three miles for those eight and over. This is measured by the nearest and safest route for the child to walk accompanied.

If your child has SEN, a disability or a mobility problem then walking them to school may not be safe or manageable. If this is the case, then your child may be eligible for free home to school transport even if the school is within the statutory walking distance.

If a school is named in Section I of the EHCP and the Local Authority have agreed that this school can meet the child's needs, they should provide the transport to that school unless stated otherwise.

If you would like to discuss transport in greater detail, please book an appointment to speak with an Adviser via our website.



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum Update

In this month's on-line meeting, we had x8 young people attend with one apology!

The session began with Laura (Advice & Engagement Worker – Norfolk SENDIASS) leading on a game of “Scavenger,” where she invited everyone to share something they love on their screens!! This included vintage consoles and pets including a living tortoise!!

Laura also shared a poster made to promote engagement opportunities and sought feedback from the group!

We were joined this month by Paul Webb, (Norfolk County Council - Strategic Lead for Youth & Participation Partnerships, Inclusion and Practice), who came along to discuss the Flourish awards and to seek up volunteers to join him and other young people from a variety of participation groups in Norfolk, to be part of the Flourish Awards Judging panel.

We can confirm that one of our members, Charlotte has volunteered, and we are confident she will be great at considering all the nominations, fairly, and putting her views forward.

We were also pleased to share with the group, that we have nominated the Norfolk SEND Youth Forum for a Flourish Award , to acknowledge and recognise the brilliant work which they do throughout the year; in working together to improve services and experiences for young people with Special Educational needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Our members spoke about how they are looking forward to SENDFEST 24, and we hope to see them all during this two-day event in June! We will have a Youth Forum stall in the SENDFEST Marketplace, please do come and see us, if you are there over the weekend of 1st & 2nd June!!

Bridget Robinson, Engagement and Advice Worker

REGISTER ONLINE

Engagement and Outreach Update

It's been another busy month for the Engagement and Advice Team, travelling across Norfolk to attend various outreach events. We've been setting up our stand and the wheel of fortune has been making appearances in schools, libraries and other venues across the county.

Laura says "It has been wonderful to meet lots of different people, to talk to them about their families and offer them support. It is great to get out into the community and engage with some of our seldom heard groups, to let them know about our service and how we can help them through, what are sometimes difficult, processes."

Some of the highlights have been the Level up Gaming Festival, organised by MAP, where we were able to engage with young people and talk to them about the Norfolk SEND Youth Forum. The young people loved taking part in the interactive activities that were available that day.

We also visited Hellesdon High School's Wellbeing event, a great event where young people and their families were able to take part in all kinds of wellbeing activities and engage with different services. We had some good conversations with parent carers, enabling them to move forward with SEN processes. We even visited an army barracks in Swanton Morley, where we attended a

Health and Wellbeing event organised by the Family Hubs Team. Parental feedback from this event was that it was good to have all the organisations under one roof and to find out about the support that was available to them.

Laura attended the Making Sense of SEND event in Kings Lynn, it was a very busy day and she was able to give advice and information to lots of parent carers. It was lovely to speak to so many people.

We are keen to get involved in lots of community outreach events that are happening in the region, so if you work for another service and would like us to attend an event you are running please get in touch through our engagement email address: nsendiassengagement@norfolk.gov.uk. For more information about our service and how we can support you, please visit our website: www.norfolksendiass.org.uk

You can catch us at the following outreach events coming up:

- Diss Library Drop-in Session on 23rd May (1:30 – 3:30pm)
- Stay and Play at Gorleston Library on 28th May (1:15 – 2:45pm)
- SENDfest on 1st and 2nd June (10am – 1pm)
- Messy Tots Baby and Toddler Group at The Magdalen Way Methodist Church, Gorleston on 6th June (10-12pm)
- Teddy Bears Picnic at Loddon and Chedgrave Playing Field on 7th June (12:30 – 3:30pm)



contact *For families with disabled children*

Contact are a national service that offer 1-1 telephone appointments with a family support adviser for parent/carers looking for a listening ear, reassurance, practical and emotional support.

They can also offer support with benefits and sources of financial help including a Family Finances call back service.

[Visit website](#)



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