



Welcome to March's edition of the SENDIASS Spotlight!

SENDIASS UPDATE

We attended the Family Voice Norfolk Conference last weekend and it was lovely to see so many of you visiting our stands and speaking with us either on the SENDIASS stand or the SEND Youth Forum stand. We were incredibly busy all day across both stands, speaking to many parent/carers providing them with information advice and support. It was another great conference well done Family Voice Norfolk!



As some of you will have seen we have now introduced more appointment slots on our Helpline, these are getting booked up very quickly and although our wait times have dropped significantly, they are still higher than we would like. We will continue to work on reducing these wait times.

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.

Whilst we are busy on our helpline, please look at other ways you can get information, advice and support from us. We have a vast range of resources, booklets and bitesize training videos on our website:

[Video's, Information and links | Norfolk SENDIASS](#)

Equally our Engagement and Advice Workers are out and about across Norfolk doing drop ins, in Libraries. Have a look at our website for more information:

[Engagement and Advice Library drop in sessions | Norfolk SENDIASS](#)



Caselaw update

High Courts and Upper Tier Tribunals can make rulings on parts of the law that need clarifying (the grey areas), those rulings are called 'Case Law'.

Following a Case Law ruling all other Courts and Tribunals then have to follow this and it takes precedent over what the law says.

R (L, M, and P), v Devon County Council [2022]

The above ruling has been classed as a 'landmark case' to come through the High Court, it finally provides clarity in relation to Annual Review deadlines when amending an EHCP.

Before the ruling, the law stated that following an Annual Review meeting the Local Authority (LA) **must** send a decision letter within four weeks to the parent/carer or young person on what they propose to do; maintain, amend, or cease the EHCP. If the LA chose to amend the EHCP they would then have to issue an amended draft 'as soon as is practicable' but as there was no defined time frame this phrase would be open to interpretation and could result in lengthy delays.

The High Court in this ruling found that there is a timeframe in which LA's must complete the Annual Review. Following the ruling, if the LA decide to amend the EHCP following the Annual Review meeting they must send the decision letter and the draft EHCP to the parent/carer or young person within four weeks of

the meeting. Parent/carers and young people will then have 15 days to provide comments on the draft EHCP.

The ruling made clear that LA's must send the parent or young person the final amended EHCP within a maximum of 12 weeks of the annual review meeting.

Phase transfer with an EHCP

The phase transfer deadline for those children and young people with an EHCP that are moving from:

- (a) early years education to school
- (b) infant school to junior school
- (c) primary school to middle school
- (d) primary school to secondary school
- (e) middle school to secondary school

has now passed, if your child falls into one of the above categories and you have not received the information that contains the place of learning your child will be transitioning into for September 2025, please either contact your EHCP co-ordinator or call the dedicated EHCP phone line on **01603 679183**.

For those young people that are moving from:

- (f) secondary school to a post-16 institution.**

The deadline for phase transfer is the 31st March, this deadline is fast approaching so please keep an eye on emails/letters to see what has been named for post 16+ phase transfer.

If you are unhappy with the place of learning named in the phase transfer information you have a right to appeal this, **you only have two months in which to start this process**. We have a vast amount of information to help you do this on our website:

[Appealing to the SEND Tribunal | Norfolk SENDIASS](#)

Alternatively, you can book an appointment to discuss this with us on our helpline or visit us at one of the drop ins across Norfolk.

Staff Spotlight



Hi, my name is Kelly Drew, and I've worked at Norfolk SENDIASS for 10 years. In my role as Business Communication Co-ordinator I am responsible for our communications software, internal processing systems, our online resources and website and deal with incoming calls from parent/carers and young people. A large part of my role is collecting and managing our data to ensure that we continue to evidence the impact of our information, advice and support.

Before working at SENDIASS I have worked in other administration roles within the Local Authority, including Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service.

I am proud to be a part of this team that makes a difference to so many parent/carers and young people across Norfolk.

Norfolk SEND Youth Forum update

In this month's online meeting, we were delighted to welcome back researchers from the University of Hertfordshire, who are currently researching food in schools, and seeking the lived experiences, views and feedback from children

and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Our members were able to identify that for some young people, they will seek out “safe foods,” and that the support offered and the environment in which they eat are important. Here are two direct quotes from our members, from the discussion:

- ***But don't force us to eat if we can't, we will eat when we feel comfortable.***
- ***If the food hall is too busy and they don't feel like waiting that long, or they don't like it being too busy and being watched while eating. Noise can also be a problem too. Solutions could be to make it easier for students to get food and eat it in a comfortable situation.***

The researchers also provided feedback:

“Thank you so much for such a fantastic meeting with the Norfolk SEND Youth Forum last night. It was excellent and the group were so honest and thoughtful in their answers which we really appreciated. “

For further insight please view the minutes to our meetings, which you can access from the Norfolk SENDIASS website.

Other Youth Forum activities this month include attending the Annual Family Voice conference at the John Innes Centre on the 22nd of March. At the end of the month we will be meeting up in person, for a cooking workshop, where we will then sit down together and eat , and we will all be very mindful to ensure our young people can have choice and control in what they eat, when they eat and where they eat!

Bridget Robinson
Engagement & Advice Worker



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum

We are seeking experts by experience to have your voice heard

If you are you aged 11 – 25 years;

- and you have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- and you would like to meet up online and in person with other young people to share your views and experiences
- and you want to help other young people with SEND

We would love to hear from you and welcome you to our next meeting!!

Visit our website or contact us for more information and find out how to join

 www.norfolksendiass.org.uk
01603 704070
 email - norfolksendiass@norfolk.gov.uk

[CLICK TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Engagement and Outreach Update

What a busy month? Here's just a glimpse - Wellbeing Event, Library Drop ins, NCFC Community Support Hub and Watton Youth Group

Laura attended the **Wymondham Academy Wellbeing Event** which was organised by MAP. There were lots of amazing professional stands and each stand had fun wellbeing activities to engage the young people in Year 8. The young people were keen to fill up their stamp cards and were enthusiastic in their interactions with the professionals. Laura received lots of valuable feedback from the young people around the question 'What helps you to learn?' and this will be shared with the school's wellbeing team. The young people also had fun playing question Jenga and spinning the wheel of fortune to win prizes! If you know of an event that you would like the Engagement and Advice Team to attend, we would love to hear from you at nsendiassengagement@norfolk.gov.uk



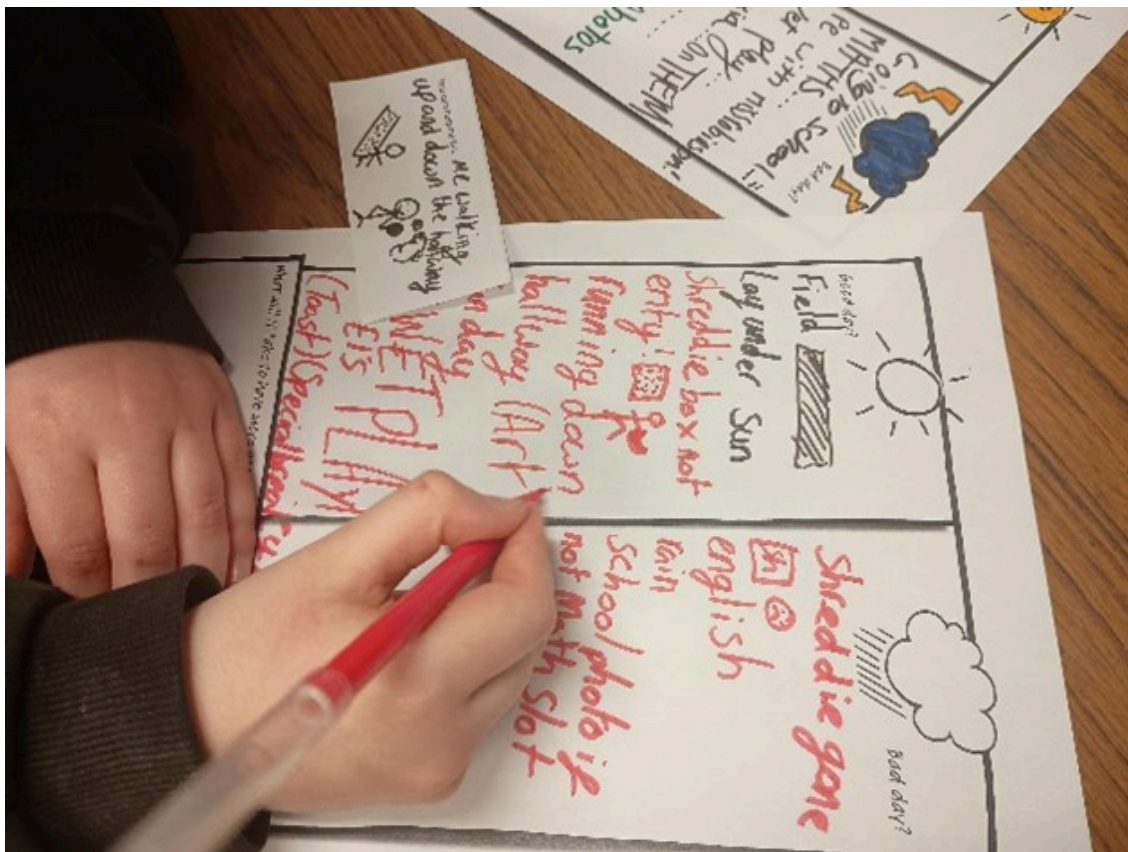
Library drop ins are proving increasingly popular. Our E & A Team are getting out and about all over the county and taking our service into the local community, answering questions and giving next steps advice. One parent said ' I just saw online that you were here today and thought I'd come along to ask a couple of questions. It's been really helpful'. Stuart, one of the Library managers said ' I'm thrilled that people are coming to see SENDIASS here and using the library in this way – its just what we're here for'.



Jo got to spend the evening at Norwich City Football Club's new **Support Hub** at a recent first team home game. Fans at the game, including parents and young people with SEN, came to find us to ask all about what we do and find out how we could help their family. It was a fab way to introduce new people to our service.



A recent **Watton Youth Group** session gave us the chance to talk to young people with additional needs about what can help them learn. We talked about what makes a good day and a bad day and how we can let people around us and at school know how best to help us when things aren't going so well. We also did activities to help the young people say what they feel. Who knew pipe cleaners could make great fidget toys? We had lots of laughs and of course, ate crisps!



Book Recommendations – Autism focus

Books are a great resource from local libraries in Norfolk. They can help and support children and young people with SEND, whilst creating a safe space for family communication. There are many books that can support this. Below are a few examples, and you can discover even more for free, from your local library.

Ages: 0+

See, touch, feel colours: A first sensory book to share with your baby

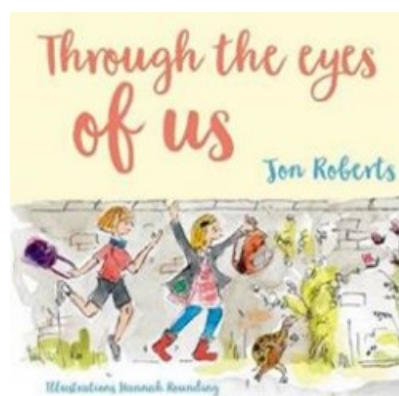
This book has embossed images and touchable textures. Tactile books engage multiple senses, aiding sensory skill development and enhancing the overall learning experience.



Ages: 3-6

Through the eyes of us – Jon Roberts

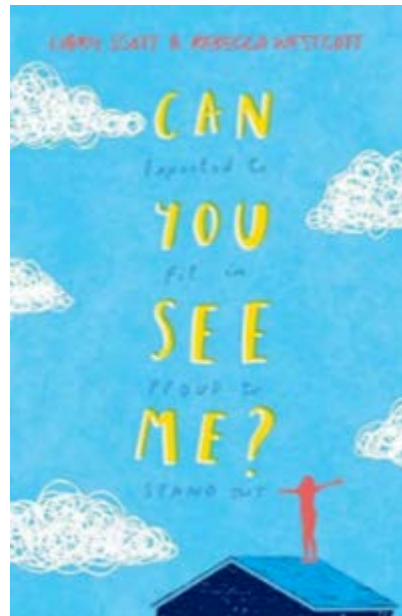
Kya and Martha are both on the autistic spectrum and together have wonderfully unique traits. This book offers insights into autism and celebrates childhood friendship.



Ages: 11+

Can you see me? – Libby Scott (Available as an E-Book)

Eleven-year-old Libby Scott's diary entries, based on her own autism experiences, inspire this book. Tally, the main character, is autistic and struggles with everyday life. This book offers an authentic and inspirational look at autism, helping readers understand what it's like to be autistic.



Teenagers and Young People (Available as an e-book)

The Awesome Autistic Go-To Guide: A Practical Handbook for Autistic Teens and Tweens – Yenn Purkis and Tanya Masterman

This book explores the experiences of young people on the autism spectrum, showcasing their incredible abilities. Filled with insights on embracing autism, it explores the unique strengths of seeing the world differently and celebrates being yourself. It also provides practical advice for managing challenging situations.



Have your say with wraparound care

Are you looking for a breakfast and/or after school club place with the right support for your child?

If you have a child aged between four and 11 and you're looking for termtime childcare to accommodate your working hours, we want to hear from you.

Norfolk County Council's wraparound project is working with schools, early years and childminders to create new breakfast and after school clubs or extend existing ones.

They are keen to hear from families with children with SEND to understand if the current offer in your area meets your child or children's needs.

You can help by completing this short anonymous survey

<https://forms.office.com/e/w5ipe7KvXv>.

Things to do for children and young people with SEND online calendar

The Norfolk SEND Local Offer have created an online calendar that details activities and events for children and young people with SEND during term time and holidays!

The link below details the listings:

[Things to do for children and young people with SEND - Norfolk County Council](#)



Local First Inclusion

SENDIASS

family hubs

Parent & Carer Café

Warm and welcoming atmosphere
where you can share experiences and
seek information & advice.

Information & Advice for:

- ❖ Supporting Positive Behaviour
- ❖ Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
- ❖ Family Relationships

Sprowston Library
26th March 2025
5 – 6.30pm

Speak to:
Education Psychology Team
SENDIASS
Family Hub



Complex Transition Information Event

We will be attending this event and look forward to seeing you there!

**Complex Transition
Information Event**
30 April 2025 10:30 - 1:30pm,
Ben Gooch Theatre, NNUH

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED
13 - 19 WITH COMPLEX
HEALTH NEEDS**
PARENTS AND CARERS WELCOME

**Moving to
adult services
in the future?**

TALKS ON..
Transition Pathway
Learning Disability and Autism Team
Deputyships/power of attorney
Decision making in adult hood

**Free Car Parking
Refreshments available
No need to book just turn up**

**Any questions contact:
Sarah Cassels, Lead transition Practitioner
Transition@nnuh.nhs.uk**

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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