



# SUPPORTIVE PARENTS

*The SENDIAS service for children, young people and their parents*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your Bristol bulletin for September 2020.

## **Supportive Parents News**

We hope that this bulletin finds you well and managing in this time of change. For children and young people with SEND, and their families and carers, return to education may be a particularly difficult and anxious time.

At the end of this bulletin we have tried to direct you to information which responds to frequently asked questions about returning to nursery, school and college and to resources which may help in managing anxiety.

Further information and up to date resources can also be accessed on our website our FB and twitter feeds. Please do check these for the most up to date information in this period of rapid change.

You might find our latest series of extracts from the Government guidance on schools reopening particularly helpful. [Click here to read.](#)

## **Supportive Parents News**

Supportive Parents is continuing with business as usual but because of restrictions during the Coronavirus pandemic we have changed how we are delivering some of our services. We are holding coffee mornings and other events virtually rather than in person. This may suit some people but we understand that it isn't for everyone. We cannot hold larger gatherings in person at the moment but if you have a particular need for an individual face to face meeting please let us know and we can try to arrange this.

---

As ever, we welcome any feedback or suggestions which you may have about our service offer.

## **New Staff**

We are delighted to welcome new members of staff to the team. We will be joined later this month by Anna Storm who will focus on work with Children and Young People and Jenna Hollywood has recently joined the IAS line team.

## **Training and Events**

### **We have an exciting programme of events planned for the autumn**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October - Moving on to School.** This coffee morning is aimed at parents of preschool children with additional needs who will be starting school in September 2021 onwards and who would like to find out more about how to choose a school, apply for a place and what to expect when a child starts school. For more information and to book your space, [click here](#).

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Bristol Local Offer Coffee Morning.** We are pleased to welcome the Local Offer Website Coordinator Marilyn Crofts who will explain how to get the most out of the local offer and seek your feedback on it. [Click here to book](#).

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November - SEND Support in schools** (the first in a series of three sessions, with subsequent sessions in 2021 covering EHCPs and Annual reviews. The sessions are free standing you can attend any or all of them.) [Click here to book](#).

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Bristol's new approach to EHC Needs Assessment: Engaging with Families.** With Dr Jenny Maxwell. [Click here to book](#).

### **Save the Dates for 2021:**

**Wednesday 20th January - EHCP Workshop**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Coffee Morning**

**Wednesday 3rd March - Annual review Workshop**

### **Daytime and Evening Surgery**

Speak to one of our team and receive one-to-one help and support with your query about your child's special educational needs. We offer a free bookable 30 minute zoom

---

or phone call. We're happy to look at paperwork (please email it to us in advance), give you guidance about filling in forms and discuss next steps with you. Our next surgeries will be on:-

**Wednesday 7th October 2020 - Daytime Surgery 10am-12pm**

[Click here to book.](#)

**Tuesday 10th November 2020 - Evening Surgery 6pm-8pm**

[Click here to book.](#)

**Wednesday 2nd December 2020 -Daytime Surgery 10am-12pm**

[Click here to book.](#)

## **Education and SEND**

### **Investment in Special schools**

The local authority has announced that it will take proposals to cabinet to seek major investment for special schools in Bristol with the aim of improving existing provision and expanding capacity. If the proposals are agreed by cabinet, consultation with stakeholders including children and young people with SEND and their families is due to take place this autumn. For more details see the open letter from councillor Anna Keen and Director for Education and Skills, Alison Hurley.

### **Bristol Autism Team Education Hub is changing**

The Bristol Autism Team (BAT) Education Hub has become an Autism Education Trust (AET) Training Hub and is changing the way it will deliver its services from September 2020. It will no longer undertake joint EHC Needs assessments for **new cases** ( it will continue to provide joint assessments for families it has already worked closely with). The team will focus on early intervention and training, with the aim of making specialist advice more widely available to a greater number of children and young people and their families.

### **The Future of Youth Services – proposals for development in South Bristol**

Ann James, Director Children and Families and Community Safety has set out a proposal to develop youth services, in particular in the south of the city. This proposal will go to cabinet in September. To read more about this, [see the paper to cabinet.](#)

### **Mental wealth**

Bristol City Council's Director of Public Health, Christina Gray, has published her first annual report, Investing in Bristol's Mental Wealth. It looks at the concept of mental

---

wealth, what it means for Bristol and sets out a series of recommendations for investing in mental wealth. It also considers how coronavirus has and will impact the city's residents and communities.

You can read the full report [here](#).

## Local Resources

[Families in Focus – Parenting Menu](#) - On-line City-wide Courses Term 1 2020-21 Co-ordinated by the Families in Focus Parenting Team (FIFPT) All courses are Free and available to Bristol Parent/Carers Courses in italics are delivered by other providers.

### **[Bristol City Council](#)**

Bristol City Council has launched a [new hub of resources](#) to support parents, carers and children as schools reopen to all students.

### **[BAS Bristol Autism Support](#)**

BAS Bristol Autism Support is running a number of events this autumn, including online support groups and courses. For further details see

## National Resources

### **[Barnardo's See, Hear, Respond project](#)**

The See, Hear, Respond Partnership has been created to help children and young people who are experiencing harm and increased adversity during coronavirus, by providing support to those who are not being seen by schools or other key agencies. There is no minimum threshold for referral. Support can be given to children from pre-birth up to 18 years of age and those with special educational needs under the age of 25.

### **[Time to Talk](#)**

Time to Talk is a new project offering young people free support at home to counter social isolation and provide help to make plans for the future. Young people with additional needs can request support from the project, which offers online group and one to one sessions.

### **Public Health England:**

PHE have developed a face covering exemption toolkit for individuals who are exempt from wearing a face covering. Read [here](#).

---

**The National Autistic Society:**

Back to school guide - a guide for parents preparing children for the return to school. Read [here](#).

**Beyond Words: Lenny and Lily:**

Wordless stories for primary school children. Read [here](#).

**Young Minds:**

Parents guide to support school anxiety and refusal - if your child is refusing to go to school, or is feeling anxious, here's a guide to help you support your child and work with the school. Read [here](#).

**Contact:**

Back to school information page. Read [here](#).

**[Royal College of Occupational Therapists.](#)**

Top Tips on Preparing Your child for Return to School.

## Children and Young People

**Mental health and wellbeing****Off the Record:-**

See weekly schedule [here](#).

**[Young Minds](#)**

Ideas for practical support

**[The Mix](#)**

Charity that provides free, confidential support for young people under 25 via online, social and mobile.

**Youth groups, courses, activities and more****[WECIL](#)**

Contact the service to find out more about their online offer.

**[Out & About Bristol](#)**

Activities and fun for children and young people with disabilities

**[Creative Youth Network](#)**

---

Programme of courses and events available online.

## School Admissions

The final date and time for making an on time application for secondary school is midnight on **31 October 2020**. [Click here to apply.](#)

The deadline for making an on time application for primary school is midnight on **15 January 2021**. [Click here to apply.](#)

## Trustee Recruitment

We are looking for volunteers to join our Board of Trustees. This role requires strong team work, independent judgement and ideally experience of working in special educational needs and / or disabilities. We are looking for someone to fulfil a fundamental role in the strategic development of the organisation; supporting the board to fulfil their responsibilities in the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity. You'll be working with a team of committed, enthusiastic trustees supporting the work of Supportive Parents.

A full Job Description is available on request.

**How to Apply:** Please send a CV and cover letter stating your interest in the role, how your skills and experience are relevant and how you can add value to the board. Please send your application to: [jane.franklin@supportiveparents.org.uk](mailto:jane.franklin@supportiveparents.org.uk)

Best Wishes

Supportive Parents



---

*Copyright © 2018 Supportive Parents. All rights reserved.*

Registered in England and Wales as Supportive Parents for Special Children. Charity No. 1079761. Company Limited by Guarantee No. 3905996.

**Our mailing address is:**

3rd Floor, Royal Oak House, Royal Oak Avenue, Bristol BS1 4GB

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

