



SUPPORTIVE PARENTS

The SENDIAS service for children, young people and their parents

We hope that you are all well and have been managing in the current lockdown.

Supportive Parents News

With face to face delivery continuing to be restricted we have extended our virtual offer. You may have spotted the launch of our **Wellbeing Hub** in January. For those of you who missed it, click [here](#) to view.

We welcome a new member of staff, Joanne Dean, to our Information Advice and Support (IAS) team.

The whole of the Supportive Parents team is working from home and we continue to offer a full IAS Line service. Our current arrangements to provide information, advice and support by telephone, email, Text and virtually remain in place. We have a new phone system in place which allows us to answer live calls. If your call is not answered immediately, please leave a message. When you leave a message, we will do our best to call you back during the next IAS line session. We return all calls in the order that they were made, but please bear in mind that during the lockdown period, if demand is high, this might take us a little longer. The majority of our staff are balancing work and home life whilst delivering our service. If you have any access needs or would prefer to book a video call please let us know.

Training and Events

Please see our [handy flyer](#) with a list of events. All Supportive Parents events are **FREE** to attend, click on the links to book.

Coffee Mornings:

Wednesday 3rd March: [Annual Review Coffee Morning](#), 10am- 11am

Wednesday 21st April: [Mediation Coffee Morning](#), 10.30am - 12pm

Wednesday 28th April: [Social Communication Coffee Morning](#) 10.30am - 12pm

Wednesday 19th May: [Tribunal Coffee Morning](#) 10.30am - 12pm

Save the date:

Wednesday 23 June 2021: The **EHCP portal** for families with guest speakers Chloe Robinson and Mary Taylor.

Wednesday 14 July 2021: **Social Emotional Mental Health** –the second in our series of coffee mornings on the four broad areas of need.

Surgeries

Come and meet one of our team and receive one-to-one help and support with your query about your child's special educational needs. Bookable 30-minute time slots available.

We're happy to look at paperwork, give you guidance about filling in forms and discuss next steps with you. Click on the surgery event date for more info and to book your slot. Please note this is not a 'drop-in' event.

Evening

[Tuesday 9th March](#): Evening SEND Surgery, bookable 1:1 appointments, 6-8pm
Save the date: Tuesday 11 May and Tuesday 6th July: Evening SEND Surgery, 6-8pm

Daytime

[Wednesday 21st April](#): Daytime SEND Surgery, bookable 1:1 appointments 1.30-2.30pm
Save the date: Daytime SEND Surgery: Wednesday 16th June 2021

Other Local Events and Support

Families in Focus. You can download or read the latest bulletin [here](#). Lots of ideas and sources of support for the whole family.

Full Circle Parents & Carers Speak. Docklands Parent and Carers support meeting has successfully moved online and renamed Parents & Carers Speak. Parents and Carers Speak is an informal group run by parents and carers for parents and carers with support from Full Circle Youth services and Bristol City Council Safer Options staff team. They meet monthly on first Wednesday the month, their next meeting is March 4th 3-5pm. For further details see [here](#).

Bristol Parent Carer Forum are hosting a free virtual coffee morning to bring parent carers together to offer support, suggestions and encouragement.
When: On Thursday 25 February 2021 at 10.30am.
For more information or to book your free place, click [here](#).

Children's Scrapstore: [Craft Ideas — Children's Scrapstore](#) – lots of ideas for crafting with children of all ages and abilities.

Consultation and Feedback

Your views matter! We really want to know how our service can be of most use to you. As the roll out of COVID vaccines starts we look forward to meeting in person again.

While we will be glad to put the difficulties of this period behind us, we are keen to embrace the positives. Delivering our services remotely has some advantages. Some people find it easier to attend virtual events and they can be organised more readily and offered across the whole of the city. **We would like to hear your views so that we can develop our service offer.** Please spend just a

minute responding to our survey about our future virtual service offer [here](#).

The local authority is consulting on how it can improve SEND services in Bristol. There are two surveys; one for parents and carers and one for children and young people.

To take part in our SEND surveys, click on the following links:

- [Parents and carers SEND survey](#)
- [Children and young people survey](#)

Both surveys are open until 5 March.

UK Disability Survey. The Cabinet Office Disability Unit want to hear from you. All views will be used to shape the delivery of the plans they set out in the forthcoming Strategy. The survey is available in Easy Read and BSL. Written responses can be sent to: [DUCitizenspace@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:DUcitizenspace@cabinetoffice.gov.uk). A braille version is available on request and blind or partially sighted people who are having difficulty filling in the online survey can email RNIB for advice or support at: campaigns@rnib.org.uk. You can complete the survey [here](#).

Social Care Review. An [independent review of children's social care](#) has been announced by the government (15 January 2021). To find out more about the terms of reference and how to take part click [here](#).

Mental Health Act Consultation. Following a review of the Mental Health Act (2017), it concluded that the law is not always working as well as it should for patients, their families and carers. You can take part in a [consultation](#) on ideas to make the law work better for people being looked after.

Covid 19 Consultation Opportunity. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to all children and young people, and these can be particularly hard for those young people with a special educational need and/or a disability (SEND). NCB is currently doing a national consultation to hear from children and young people with SEND, aged between 5-25, about the impact of the pandemic on them - how lockdown has impacted their support network, academic goals, and social and emotional wellbeing and what can be learned from this. To find out more and to give your feedback please click [here](#).

Education and SEND

Resources

NEW Resource! Our latest resource is called [Specifying provision in an EHCP](#). We receive lots of enquiries about how specific wording in EHCP's should be. This is a guide for parents and carers to learn about the requirements of support written in an education health and care plan.

SEN Support in Schools. Another area we always receive lots of enquiries about is SEN support in schools, which our [infographic series](#) this month is based on. Further

resources such as our Guide to SEN Support can also be found on our [website](#).

National Resources

Contact. Currently are offering virtual information and advice workshops on a wide range of topics on SEND. For more information on these and to book please click [HERE](#).

Young Minds. Tips, advice and where you can get support for your mental health during the coronavirus pandemic. Please click [HERE](#).

National Autistic Society. Latest guidance, updates and resources on coronavirus for autistic people, their families and professionals. Please find this [HERE](#).

Mental health and wellbeing advice. [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#) has lots of helpful resources for families which may be of particular help at the moment. They provide advice and guidance for parents and carers to help support a child or young person experiences poor mental health or wellbeing.

Local News

The local authority & CCG have published an update on their progress against the **Written Statement of Action**. The next meeting of [Bristol Schools Forum](#) is due to take place on 30 March 2021 by zoom. The meeting is open to all. The agenda will be available a week before the meeting. To find out more about the forum, see [here](#).

National News

Great news for SEND funding. Over £42 Million has been made available to help raise educational standards, improve services and provide practical support to children with special educational needs and disabilities. Click [here](#) to find out more.

IPSEA – Update on Covid-19, school reopening and SEN provision. Updated information regarding school closures, who is eligible to attend school and the support to be given whether in school, post 16 education or accessing remote learning. Please click [here](#).

Government Guidance: Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools. A link to the most recent government guidance around attendance in schools can be found [here](#).

High-quality remote education. The [DfE has set out requirements](#) for schools to provide high-quality remote education when children are unable to attend school. Ofsted has announced that it will look at how well schools are educating pupils in the current circumstances. Parents and carers should first raise their concerns with the teacher or head teacher. If issues are not resolved, parents can [report the matter to Ofsted](#).

Council for Disabled Children – Learning module – Holistic Outcomes in Education, Health and Care plans. This free e-learning course contains a series of online modules, covering:

- Aspirations
- Outcomes from children, young people and family perspectives
- Outcomes from professional perspectives, including writing SMART outcomes
- Legal considerations
- Annual reviews

This training is open and available to anyone who has a personal or professional interest in understanding the EHC plan process. To find out more and to complete the e-learning course please click [here](#).

With best wishes for a successful term,

Supportive Parents

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