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**July 2023 - Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) articles, information, news and updates on our service**

**We provide free and impartial information, advice and support about special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) for children, young people, parents and carers.**

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It's been a busy year and we have spoken to over 1700 parent/carers on our helpline. We will remain open throughout the school holidays and we are looking forward to relaunching our newsletter for the Autumn term which will include regular Caselaw updates, SEND articles, resources and news.

We thank you for your patience over the last year, we understand the wait times have increased and where possible we have worked hard to ensure those with deadlines were called before their deadline date. Our website has a huge deal

of resources and booklets that may be able to answer questions without having to book a telephone call with an advisor, over the summer we are looking to create more resources and webinars so please keep an eye on our website.

We have some changes coming to our team over the next year and will be sharing these with you over the next few months. We look forward to supporting parent/carers, children and young people during the upcoming academic year.

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## PEaSS guidance updated for schools and parent/carers

Guidance which sets out how children and young people with SEND should be supported in mainstream schools and settings has been updated with some useful interactive features and colour coding.

Known as [Provision Expected at SEN Support or \(PEaSS\)](#), it is produced by Norfolk County Council working in partnership with other organisations.

The guidance contains links to key legislation, information about co-production, inclusive practice, information about high quality teaching, the graduated approach, equipment and SEND training and the responsibilities of teachers, school leaders and governors.

Needs are now divided into five categories. Each category is colour coded with interactive tick lists about how to identify need, suggested whole setting approaches, suggested SEN Support strategies in the classroom, suggestions for SENDCos, plus 'questions to consider' and 'training for staff' sections.

The categories of need are:

- Communication and Interaction: Speech, language and communication needs
- Communication and Interaction: Social communication and interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Physical and/or Sensory Needs which includes: Deafness, Vision Impairment, Multi-Sensory Impairment and Physical Needs.

You can find out more including the full guidance at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/peass](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/peass). PEaSS is useful to know about to support you in conversations with your child's

teachers.



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## Things to do with children and young people with SEND



If your looking for things to do the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun activity programme provides holiday activities for children and young people aged 5-16 (or 4 if your child is slightly younger but in school) throughout the holidays.

**Find out more about Big Norfolk Holiday Fun**

The Norfolk Local Offer shares information about [activities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities](#). Search the Norfolk Community Directory for activities, services and groups to help all Norfolk residents live healthy, active and fulfilling lives.

**Norfolk Community Directory**



## Norfolk SEND Youth Forum



We have had a busy month !! We held our monthly on-line meeting and X7 young people attended. We were joined by Alison Toombs (SEND Adviser, NCC) who had come along to consult with our members about a new NCC initiative called Local First Inclusion SEND Improvement programme.

To read more about this, please click on the link below:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/education-and-learning-policies/send-policies/send-transformation-programme>

As it was our last on-line meeting before the summer break we had a relaxed time, and all enjoyed a game of “Treasure Hunt”.

We have also just had a meet up in person with some of our members at County Hall, Norwich, where we reviewed the work of the group over the last twelve months, and planned ahead for the coming year!



We will continue to have one on-line meeting every month, but thanks to some funding from NCC and also a financial contribution from Health services we are now also able to organise more get togethers in person, and have a long list of suggestions and ideas to choose from!!

We enjoyed an excellent lunch and awarded certificates and gift vouchers to thank our children and young people for their contributions, and commitment to making things better for other young people with SEND in Norfolk!

We will meet up again in September, and as always, we are keen to welcome new members!

Bridget Robinson, CYP Supporter



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum members 2023

**Register for the Norfolk SEND Youth Forum**

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**Support for professionals**

We offer advice and support to professionals as well as parent/carers, children and young people. As a professional you can complete our online professional referral form and request a call back. Please be aware as we are a confidential service we cannot discuss personal details or whether we have spoken to specific parent/carers without written consent.

## Professional Referral Form

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# Short Breaks Consultation

Norfolk County Council provides Short Breaks for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND). Short Breaks offer an opportunity for children with SEND to take part in out of school activities and can provide respite for families.

In the last five years, there has been a 75% increase in applications. To make sure they can continue providing Short Breaks against a significant increase in demand, they have been considering ways to improve and modernise our processes to ensure the Short Breaks service is sustainable and able to support all the children with SEND and their families who need it. This is in line with an ongoing plan to move to a more inclusive care approach for children and families.

They want to improve the range of activities on offer in all localities across the county as well as give more flexibility for families, if they so wish, to use their Short Breaks funding for activities they can enjoy together as a whole family unit. They have recruited Short Breaks inclusion co-ordinators to help take this approach and also want to better use the budget to support more children and young people with SEND closer to their homes in the face of growing demand.

## Consultation

They are consulting because they want to find out what families who use Short Breaks think about the proposal to change the way they assess the support the children and families need through Short Breaks; the potential impact of any changes to the support and associated budget families receive as a result; and feedback on plans to increase support for Short Breaks suppliers within the community. They welcome your feedback to our consultation

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/shortbreaks>

The consultation will run from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023. If you would like to receive the consultation as paper copy or in a different format or language, please email:

[HaveYourSay@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:HaveYourSay@norfolk.gov.uk)

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## SENDIASS staff spotlight



Our advisor, Leah talks about the role of a SENDIASS Advisor and how we can help



*Contact us*

Visit our website to [book an appointment](#) with an advisor, or contact us by telephone. If we are unable to answer please leave a voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We apologise as we are currently extremely busy on our telephone helpline with extended wait times.

Please cancel any unwanted appointments for other people to access.

If you have a deadline you can book the next available appointment, complete the online consultation form and then send an email to [norfolksendiass@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:norfolksendiass@norfolk.gov.uk) to request a cancellation appointment. Please be aware we cannot guarantee to meet your deadline.

If you are a professional looking for advice you can complete a Professional Referral Form via our website and we will contact you as soon as possible.

<https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/professional-resources/book/>



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.

**Find out more about Contact**



Facebook





Twitter



Instagram



Email

**Contact telephone number: 01603 704070**

**Our mailing address is:**

Norfolk SENDIASS

Bowthorpe Community Hub, Bowthorpe Hall Road, Norwich NR5 9AA

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