

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2015

Welcome to our new SEND IASS newsletter. We aim to produce a termly newsletter and distribute it to parents, schools, voluntary groups and professionals, please share with parents and colleagues.

What is SEND IASS?

If you're a parent/carer of a child or young person with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability, or a young person with a disability we can help you.

We provide free, confidential and impartial advice, information and support on all matters relating to SEN and disabilities including social care and health issues.

From September 2014 the Parent Partnership Service was extended and enhanced to offer a wider range of information to parents/carers and also young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN); the service is now known as SENDIASS—SEND Information Advice, and Support Service. Our contact details remain the same.

The Team

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If you would like to receive this newsletter in another language, large print or audio version please contact us.

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What is The Local Offer— every local authority must publish a Local Offer. The Local Offer tells you what support the local authority expects to be available for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN and/or disabilities). It must include information about education, health and care provision. It should also tell you about training, employment and independent living for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.



The Local Offer is for:

- * Children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities from birth to 25
 - * Their parents and carers
 - * Practitioners and professionals

The Local Offer should:

- * Make it easier to find out what you need to know
- * Give you information about what is available
- * Tell you where you can get further information

All families need extra help from time to time. For children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their differing needs mean varied levels of support are required at different times. Children and young people with the most complex needs and their parents and carers may need access to ongoing support and advice. We aim to provide a range of support so that children and young people with SEND can be educated and enjoy social opportunities alongside their peers, in their local community.

It is important to remember and acknowledge from the beginning that it is not just the professionals and specialist services that can help you and your family. For many people, it is the help of their family and friends, and the support of their community that is most useful.

Within the Local Offer website there are services that everybody can use, such as the Early Help Centres, schools, leisure centres and your doctor's surgery. There are also a range of services that can provide very specialist support at times when it is most needed e.g. drug and alcohol services, mental health etc.

It is a combination of informal and formal support that can provide your family with the help you need most and your child with the best opportunity to realise their potential.

**You can find the Local Offer for the Isle of Wight Council at
www.iwight.com/localoffer**

Changes to Speech and Language Therapy on the Isle of Wight

There have recently been some big changes to the way the Speech and Language Therapists and Assistants on the Isle of Wight work to support children with speech, language or communication difficulties. There will continue to be a single point of access with all referrals for support being sent to Children's SLT Department, St Mary's Hospital. The same referral form will be used when a need for support for the child, their family and setting or school, is identified. Referrals can also be emailed to slcn.cyp@iow.nhs.

The NHS Speech and Language Support Service will work with children with speech, language, communication or swallowing needs from birth to the end of their Reception Year of school. They will also work with children at Medina House School and with children with swallowing and complex needs in mainstream schools. Therapists, supported by Assistants, will work with children, directly and indirectly through their families and setting or school, supporting them to develop the child's skills within the wider context of their everyday life. They will also support those around the child to adjust and enrich the communication environment, ensuring it is accessible to the child so that they can develop.

The Schools' Speech and Language Support Team, based within the Isle of Wight Children's Services, will work with identified children and the staff in their school once they are in Year One or above and at St George's School. Therapists and Assistants will work collaboratively within the school setting to develop the child's skills and their access to learning through the language of the classroom. They will work closely with staff and parents to give specific therapy for children, individually or in groups, that is also reinforced throughout the school day. They will assist in adapting the communication environment and curriculum to best help the child to learn and progress.

The two Teams are continuing to work closely together on joint ways of working across the Island and this is being overseen by a new **Strategy Group** with Multi-Agency members as well as representatives of parents. One such initiative is a single Speech, Language and Communication website, through the Local Offer Portal, that will go live early in 2016. There will also be an advice line available most afternoons for quick access to help and information. It is hoped that this will begin before the end of the year. A joint training plan for staff and parents is being developed with some Elklan training for schools already in this year's Workforce Development brochure and an exciting Elklan 'Talking Matters' project beginning in September to give a cascaded training model for early Years settings. The Island is one of only 6 Local Authorities in the Country to be piloting this new model with funding from the Department for Education. There is further jointly planned training being developed for 2016. Both Teams are committed to developing high quality evidence based support for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs on the Isle of Wight.

For further information email slcn.cyp@iow.nhs.uk



Would you like to be involved in helping to develop the Isle of Wight Transitions Pathway from children's services to adult services?

As parents living on the Isle of Wight, we would like to invite you to join health, social care and education professionals at a workshop event to help develop the IOW Transitions Pathway



Development Workshop to be held on

28th September 2015

12pm until 4pm

Northwood House, West Cowes

Following the workshop event, The Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority will share the developed pathway and present options for improving the service for the future, which will manage the demand within the current allocated budget for the Island.

Your views would be appreciated

For further information and to register your attendance please click the link:

<https://eventbrite.co.uk/event/17367088429/>

or call 01983 822 099 ext 5457

(Please register to help us ensure we can accommodate everyone and supply refreshments)



Support for special educational needs (a guide for parents and carers)



The **Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2014)** gives guidance to all people who help to identify, assess and provide extra support for children/young people with special educational needs.

All early years settings, schools, academies and colleges are responsible for meeting special educational needs through teaching that is adapted and personalised for individual children/young people. Some children/young people will need support that is **additional to** or **different from** that which is provided for most of their peers. This kind of help is called **special educational provision** and all education settings must make every effort to ensure that this is in place for children/young people who need it.

You can download a free copy of the code of practice from the Department for Education: www.education.gov.uk



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Are you a good listener?
Do you have some free time?**

**Could you offer support to parents/carers
whose children have
Special Educational Needs?**

The SENDIASS service is looking for volunteers to act as Independent Advice Supporters. An IAS can support by helping parents/carers/young people talk through options and express their own views; help with form filling; help prepare for and support at meetings.

Could you be an Independent Advice Supporter?

The next training course starts in October 2015

If you are interested please complete the form below and return to **SEND IASS at 11 Orchard Street, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1JZ** or phone 01983 825548
email sendiass@iow.gov.uk for further information.

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I am interested in becoming a volunteer, my name is

My email address

My telephone number

JARGON BUSTER



Educational settings often use abbreviations and words that are hard to understand.

Listed below are a few explanations for commonly used terms.

Education Health and Care Plan (EHC plan)	An EHC Plan describes the special educational needs that a child or young person has and the help that they will be given to meet them. It also includes the health and care provision that is needed. It is a legal document written by the local authority and is used for children and young people who have high support needs.
Mediation	Mediation is a type of disagreement resolution. Every local authority must provide independent mediation to help parents and young people resolve disputes with local authorities.
Personal Budgets	A personal budget is money set aside to fund support as part of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) for a child or young person with special educational needs. It can include funds from Education, Health and Social Care. Parents of children with an EHC plan and young people with an EHC plan can choose whether or not they wish to have a Personal Budget.
Annual Review	<p>Under the Education Act 1996 local authorities had to carry out a review of every Statement of Special Educational Need at least once every 12 months.</p> <p>Under the Children and Families Act 2014 local authorities must carry out a review of every EHC plan at least once every 12 months.</p>
Statutory Assessment	A very detailed examination of a child's special educational needs. It may lead to an EHCP.
Transition Plan	A plan drawn up at Year 9 annual review of the EHC plan. It sets out the steps needed to move from school into adult life.
Transfer Review	A transfer review replaces the annual review in the academic year that the child or young person transfers to the new SEND system. A transfer review involves an EHC needs assessment to decide what outcomes and provision need to be included in the EHC plan. This should include education, health and social care needs.

The SEND IASS Service offers impartial information, support and advice to parents and carers of children who have special educational needs and disabilities on the Isle of Wight. This newsletter is produced termly by SEND IASS and distributed to parents, schools, voluntary groups and professionals—please share with parents and colleagues.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Isle of Wight SEND IASS Service.

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