



Welcome to our 2018 Summer Term Newsletter

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Future Newsletters

Welcome to the Summer 2018 edition of the SEND newsletter.

Some of you may have heard that West Sussex had an Ofsted/CQC SEND Local Area Inspection during late February/early March.

Thank you to all those families that gave feedback about the SENDIAS service and the Local Offer to the inspectors. With your help it led the inspectors to mention us in their outcome letter that was published on Friday 11th May. They highlighted that the SENDIAS along with other services that provide support to families (including the Independent Supporter Service):

- "is highly regarded by those parents who have used them".
- "know the issues that parents are facing well".
- "provide very useful support, prioritising the needs of families".

Inspectors also said of the Local Offer "The local offer website is well designed and contains a lot of useful information"... "However, although a large number of parents were aware of the website, many said they preferred to access information from other sources".

We are currently working with the website developers on improving the ability to search for the information, services and events that you need within the Local Offer, to ensure that it is the most helpful place to find the information that you need. If you would like to be part of giving feedback on this vital piece of work, then please copy and paste this link into your internet URL and complete the survey: <https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/children-adults-families-health-and-education/special-educational-needs-and-or-disabilities-send/>



Heather McIntosh
Team Manager
SENDIAS

Local Offer Calendar of Events

Looking for activities and events you can attend to entertain your children?

According to our online survey 12% of you said you had not used the Local Offer calendar of events for finding activities during the Easter break. However, the calendar will keep you up to date with lots of things that are happening, why not check it out?

All organisations and voluntary groups that are on the calendar of events either cater specifically for children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities, or have taken extra measures to ensure their

activities and events are inclusive to all.

If you are a provider and are running activities contact localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk and we will let you know how you can get listed.

The link to the calendar of events on the Local offer is: goo.gl/zxtAE1



Airport Special Assistance

Traveling abroad this summer? Gatwick and Heathrow Airports both offer special assistance for those who may find using the airport a challenge. They are also both part of the Hidden Disability Sunflower Lanyards Scheme. By wearing one of the Sunflower Lanyards, it will discreetly indicate to staff that you have a hidden disability and would like additional support. Check out their information pages on the links below:

Gatwick: goo.gl/14J3FW

Heathrow: goo.gl/FmC8CY



Could you support a child with a disability?

We're looking for more foster carers to provide short breaks for children with additional needs including autism.

If you would like to find out more please call us on 0330 222 7775 or email fostering.adoption@westsussex.gov.uk



FOSTERING
— Give a local child a family —

0330 222 7775 www.westsussex.gov.uk/fostering

SEND Tribunal National Trial - Single Route of Redress

The Government are extending the powers of the First-tier Tribunal (SEND), sometimes referred to as the 'SEND Tribunal', to make non-binding recommendations about the health and social care aspects of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans as part of a two-year trial. The trial will apply to decisions made or EHC plans issued/amended from 3 April 2018.

To date, you have only been able to appeal the educational aspects of EHC plans. The trial gives you new rights to request recommendations about the health and social care needs and provision specified, as long as you are already making an appeal in relation to the educational aspects

of the EHC Plan under the previous grounds (ie LA's refusal to re-assess, amend, issue a Plan, LA's decision to cease to maintain, description of needs, specified provision, or named placement. This gives you the opportunity to raise all your concerns about an EHC plan in one place.

There will be an independent evaluation of the trial to inform a decision on whether the new tribunal recommendation powers should be continued after the trial.

For more detailed information check the Local Offer: goo.gl/tfDYmf

Wikis

Wikis are simple, accessible, secure and easy to build personal websites.

- They can be used to create multimedia person-centred plans that use pictures, words, video and sound to capture the voice, skills, aspirations and needs of the individual.
- Wiki's allow individuals and families to share their story in their own way.
- Wiki's are owned by the individual/family they are private and secure and password protected, the owner of the Wiki decides what information from the Wiki they want to share and with whom to share it.

West Sussex are currently piloting a number of personal Wikis across the county and

individuals and their families are already telling us about the benefits to them. We are also developing 6 Public Wikis, 4 of which can be viewed on the website. If you would like more information or to talk to someone about getting a Wiki as part of the West Sussex pilot scheme please email the SEND Commissioning Team - SENDCommissioningTeam@westsussex.gov.uk

You can find out more about Wiki's through the Local Offer website at goo.gl/NBnD52 or come along to a Wiki Wednesday, where you can learn from each other, share and build the BEST Wiki. Email Wiki Buddies - wikibuddies@wspcf.org.uk for more information on these events or to talk to other parent carers who are using Wikis.

Reaching Families

Empowering families of children with disabilities

Parent carers require a range of skills above and beyond the normal parenting experience and access to training is vital to helping parents develop these skills.

Reaching Families delivers a series of training workshops across a wide variety of subjects that we know are challenges for parents and families.

To book on any of our workshops please go to Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> and search for Reaching Families or look on our Events Page on Facebook goo.gl/aZqogb

If you have any difficulties booking please email us admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk or call our outreach workers:

07704 037664 (Rosemary) or 07470 005734 (Michele)

Making Sense of Sensory Processing Difficulties	18th June 2018 6.45 pm – 9 pm Chichester Baptist Church
Making Sense of Support at School	26th June 2018 6.45 pm – 9 pm HAMSVVA, Church Road, Burgess Hill
Making Sense of Anxiety (11+)	3rd July 2018 9.45 am – 12.30 pm Felpham Methodist Church



Coffee, Cake, Info and Networking Events (CCIN) - save the dates!

Wed 11th July 2018

(10.30am - 1pm) – Billingshurst Community Centre

Wed 17th October 2018

(10.30am - 1pm) – Worthing Rugby Club

Keep up to date at

<https://westsussex.local-offer.org/>

Future Newsletters

We are currently reviewing the way we produce and distribute our newsletter and are considering reducing the number of printed copies to a minimum.

Many parent carers, voluntary groups and professionals now receive our newsletter by email. We understand that we still need some hard copies to reach individuals through Schools, Children and Family Centres, Libraries, etc. However, if you are an individual or service/voluntary group that currently receives a hard copy of our newsletter and would be happy to receive future editions by email, then please let us know at: send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk



West Sussex
SENDIAS Service

St James Campus, St James Road, Chichester, PO19 7HA
Helpline: 0330 222 8555 Email: send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk
Email for children and young people: cyp.sendias@westsussex.gov.uk

