



# In Partnership e-bulletin

## Christmas 2014

A round up of the latest news and information from the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (formerly Parent Partnership Service).

The SEND Information, Advice and Support Service is a statutory, impartial, confidential service for children and young people with special educational needs and their parents and carers, and other disabilities or additional needs.

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### From the Manager's Office

It's hard to believe that we're almost at the end of 2014, a year which has seen some big changes in the world of SEND. Whilst we are very much at the start of the journey towards fully implementing the reforms - and there is lots of work to do to make them successful for all involved - I think it's important to establish the principals of the changes from the outset; namely to enable parents/carers, children and young people to be at the heart of informed decision making. That will certainly continue to be the motto of all of us at IASS.

I'm delighted to be welcoming two new colleagues to join us in the team in the new year, which will enable us to meet the demands of the new reforms. This was after a

successful recruitment process, which included having a parent on the interview panel. This is one small example of how you can be involved in shaping the services you use, and I would encourage you to take part in anything you can – there's lots of consultations and surveys taking place currently which need your expertise and views on.

On behalf of everyone here at SENDIASS, I hope you have a peaceful festive season and here's to a healthy and prosperous 2015.

**CHRIS FIRTH, Manager**

## **Recent Events**

### **Anti-bullying Alliance (SEN and Disability)**



The Anti-bullying Alliance is a coalition of organisations committed to developing effective anti-bullying practice. Representatives from 'Contact a Family' (a voluntary organisation that is part of the alliance) presented an interactive session to parents and carers. Feedback from parents included how they found this session extremely helpful regarding:

- Recognising the signs and effects of bullying
- How to approach the school
- How to broach the subject with children and support them
- Information, advice and resources
- School duties e.g. a behaviour/anti-bullying policy on their website
- Sharing experiences and views with other parents in the group

For further information, follow the link below to find useful resources for both schools and parents:

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/send-resources/>

Or for information and advice including any aspect of caring for a disabled child, parents can call Contact a Family on their freephone helpline, tel 0808 808 3555.

### **Empowering Families - 25<sup>th</sup> November**

This event was held at the Welcome Centre, with input from a number of services, with a focus of encouraging engagement by families in decision making and how they can be supported to do that. This included presentations around ourselves (SENDIASS) and "Independent Support", as well as an interactive activity focussing on getting the most out of meetings with professionals.



The Local Authority also took the opportunity to gather parents' views on communications and the transport consultation and also provided a multi-agency panel to answer questions on a number of subjects. More [details on the day](#) are available from the website.

## “How your child with autism thinks” – 9<sup>th</sup> December

Communication & Interaction (including Autism) Support Service delivered a session for parents on “how your child with autism thinks”.

They discussed the differences that a child with autism has around their understanding of themselves, understanding of other people, seeing the bigger picture and being able to organise themselves and act appropriately. Parents were given opportunities to think about how these differences affect their child and to share experiences.

There were activities for the parents, including a sensory experience, where parents had to close their eyes to listen to someone speak with interruptions and water being splashed at them! This tried to show parents how their child with autism can be distracted. There were also opportunities to ask questions.

The feedback from the parents who attended the session was very positive. They reported that they had gained more understanding of how their child with autism thinks, and it was a good opportunity to meet and share with other parents with similar experiences.

## Upcoming Events

### “I Need to Know!” – Contact a Family



If you weren't able to attend the “Empowering Families” event in November, or you want to know more, Contact a Family are running an event focussing on what the reforms mean for you, including workshops on “thinking about outcomes for children and young people” and “person centred approaches”.

Come to this free event and:

- find out more about the new SEND reforms
- explore how these changes might affect you and your family
- attend workshops to help you take part and participate in your child's assessment and planning
- enjoy a free lunch

Date: **Wednesday 28th January 2015**

Time: 10am - 2pm (free lunch served at 12pm)

Venue: The Welcome Centre, 47 Parkside,  
Coventry CV1 2HG

[www.thewelcomecentre.co.uk](http://www.thewelcomecentre.co.uk)



### **BOOK NOW – LIMITED PLACES!!!**

All bookings must go through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

If you need help with this or have any questions contact Rachel King on 07920 654863, [rachel.king@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:rachel.king@cafamily.org.uk)

Please include details of any special access and dietary requirements you may have.

## Having Difficult Conversations – Coventry City Council

Research shows young people whose parents/carers talk to them about sex, relationships, alcohol and drugs are more likely to adopt safer relationships and substance use.

Some parent/carers are too embarrassed to have these conversations or just don't know where to start. If you feel you would benefit from support with this, there are 3 opportunities to attend a 1-day course;

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015: Diamond Room 1, Council House – 9.30am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015: Diamond Room 1, Council House – 9.30am – 2.30pm
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015: Social Care Development Centre, 1b Lamb St – 9.30am – 2.30pm

To book a place at any of the above contact [jane.craig@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:jane.craig@coventry.gov.uk)

## News/Information

### Anti-bullying SEND information hub

The Anti-Bullying Alliance has launched a new look SEND information hub which holds information and resources about reducing the bullying of children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Visit their website for further information: [Anti-bullying SEND information hub](#)

### The Underwear Rule for Children with Autism

NSPCC has published a guide for parents and carers of children with autism on the underwear rule. The Underwear Rule is a campaign by NSPCC with simple conversations for parents to have with their children to keep them safe from abuse. To view the guide visit their website: [The Underwear Rule for Children with Autism](#)



### Getting to know your health visiting and school nursing service

An information sharing leaflet for the health visiting and school nursing services has been developed by the Department of Health. The leaflet is aimed at parents and includes sections on: What your local service does; Who are health visitors and school nurses?; How can health visitors support you and your child? To view the leaflet follow this link: [information sharing leaflet](#)

### “Staying safe on social media and online” and “Staying safe out and about”

These easy read guides by the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities include tips on how to stay safe in social media and online and tips on how to keep safe when out and about. To view the guides follow these links: [Staying safe on social media and online](#) and [Staying safe out and about](#).



## “Getting it right for people with learning disabilities”

This booklet is for parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, good friends – anyone who cares about and is close to a person with learning disabilities. It will help you to protect their interests if they are admitted to hospital because of mental health difficulties or because they present behaviours that are challenging. To view the leaflet follow this link: [Getting it right for people with learning disabilities](#). (Going into hospital because of mental health difficulties or challenging behaviours: what families need to know).

## **Consultations**

### **Consultation on changes to travel assistance policy for pupils in Coventry with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

Young people in education who require travel assistance, their parents/ carers and other people with an interest in this issue are being invited to comment on the proposal. Full details of the proposed changes are detailed in the [full consultation document](#). People will be able to give their feedback during the consultation period which runs from **24th November 2014 until 23rd January 2015**. To comment on the consultation follow this link: [Consultation on changes to travel assistance policy for pupils in Coventry with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\)](#)



**NB** Although it has been announced that these changes will not come into effect for the next budget year (2015/16) as originally proposed, the consultation and associated meetings will continue to happen...your voice is important!

### **Funding for children and young people with SEND**

The DfE is consulting on better ways to distribute special educational needs and disability (SEND) funding. To help with this, it has produced a data pack about children and young people with SEND, and is interested in conclusions that are drawn from this data. The DfE is also interested in any local knowledge that could inform the national debate on how best to allocate this funding in the longer term. To complete this survey follow this link: [Funding for children and young people with SEND](#) **Closing date: 27 February 2015**

### **Want to share your views about post-16 options info for 16-25s with learning disabilities?**

Following the introduction of the Children and Families Act, National Star College ([www.natstar.ac.uk](http://www.natstar.ac.uk)) has launched a survey to find out how much information parents

of children aged 11 to 16 have about post-16 options, and which organisations/public bodies, if any, are making the information available.

The findings the survey generates will be used to lobby government and local authorities for better access to information. If you want to contribute to the survey and have a child with learning disabilities aged 11-16, here's a link to the questionnaire - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NationalStarSEN>

The deadline for responses is **3 January 2015**.

#### Keeping in touch

As well as a number of resources, links and information through our website ([www.coventry.gov.uk/iass](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/iass)), we are also trying our hand at other ways of keeping you informed. If you are signed up to Twitter, why not follow us @coventry\_IAS.



## **Free Parent Information Sessions**

The Information Advice and Support Service have arranged the following free session for parents/carers of children who have SEN and Disabilities.

<b>Date/Time of sessions</b>	<b>Title of session</b>	<b>Provider</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2015, 9.30 for 10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Brothers and sisters – juggling the needs of the whole family	Contact a Family
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2015, 9.30 for 10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Concerned about the health or social care provision for your child?	Healthwatch
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2015, 9.30 for 10.00 am - 12.00 pm	Common Assessment Framework	Coventry CAF Co-ordinator

If you would like to book a place or for further information please contact Lorraine at the Information Advice and Support Service Tel: 024 7669 4307 or Email:

[IASS@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:IASS@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unable to attend but want to find out more, we will be putting a review of all events on the website after they happen. You can also ask any subject related questions either by email or twitter (@coventry\_IAS) prior to the event.

## Fill in our survey

The Information Advice and Support Service now have an on-line feedback form which is available for you to tell us about your experiences of the Service. If you have used the Service it would be helpful if you could spare 10 minutes to complete the survey which can be found at [www.coventry.gov.uk/iass](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/iass).

The survey is located in a yellow box on the main page of the SENDIASS website: <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/iass> All surveys can be completed anonymously or you can complete your contact details if you wish



## And Finally...

Staff at SEND Information Advice and Support Service would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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We hope you find this information helpful. If you are a School, organisation or other professional, please help us to share this information with parents and carers.

If you no longer wish to receive information from SEND Information Advice and Support Service please email: [IASS@Coventry.gov.uk](mailto:IASS@Coventry.gov.uk)