



In Partnership e-bulletin

December 2015

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

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From the Manager's office

It's amazing to think that we're here again already, and another year has passed by. It's been a year dominated by the word "change" and this is a theme that is likely to continue through into 2016, hopefully building upon the work that has happened across SEND in 2015.

From January, there will also be a change to this bulletin, in that we are aiming to make the content even more wide-reaching across SEND and also, following feedback from parents at various events this year, producing it on a monthly basis.

We've been approached by the Local Authority to see if we can work with them to distribute this bulletin more widely, so from January 2016 the bulletin will not be delivered as an attachment, but as a link to a web version.

The main differences that you will notice will mainly be in the layout – however we will also be able to evaluate which parts of the bulletin are most read, which will be helpful in getting you the most relevant information.

The system we're using to create the bulletin is used by Coventry local authority to send out a variety of newsletters and updates – from information about trading

standards to the ward forums taking place across the city. Anybody can sign up to any of the updates, so if you've got a friend who would like to receive the bulletin, they can sign up directly at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCOVENTRY/subscriber/new>. Our bulletin is listed under "Coventry SEND News".

If you have any questions about this, or have any suggestions about the way you receive communications, then please let us know.

I hope that the holidays enable you to have some sort of rest(!) and you have an enjoyable start to 2016.

Chris Firth, SEND IASS manager

EVENTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Forthcoming Events

In the New Year there will be two big events from SEND IASS for you to come along to - look out for further details in the next Bulletin/Twitter/website. One will be around supporting Mental Health, and the other focussing on opportunities for Children & Young People around the "Local Offer" of activities and clubs.

For the latter, we are looking at inviting local groups/clubs/activities that children and young people might be interesting in attending, to come along and "display their wares". If your child or young person currently attends something which you think would be great for others to find out about, let us know and we'll invite them along!

Details will be emailed out to all parents/professionals when confirmed in the New Year..

HOPE Programme

Carers Trust Heart of England are running a HOPE Programme for parents/carers of children with ASD/ADHD/SPD. This is a free 6-week course running for 2.5 hours per week. There will be a taster day on Friday 18th December 11am-1pm at The Carers Centre in Coventry. The Course starts Monday 4th January 2016 – Monday 8th February 10.30-1.00pm. For more information please telephone 024 7663 2972 and ask for Gill or email gillfleckner@coventrycarers.org.uk





ZAP anti-bullying and assertiveness workshops (Birmingham)

Zap is a free one-day workshop for children and young people 9-16 who have experienced bullying, funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

It is a fun, interactive day that encourages the development of assertiveness skills and raises young people's confidence so that they are able to deal with bullying situations effectively.

Parents and carers also attend a separate workshop on the day where they are given expert knowledge of how to effectively support their child.

To find out more [take a look at their website here](#).

Together Like Me

Working in partnership with Portage delivery and Coventry SEND Early Years Support Service, "Together Like Me" groups are located at designated Children's Centres.



The groups provide specialist play and learning opportunities using the small steps approach to learning, encouraging child-led activities for children with Special Educational needs aged 0-5 years.

We also offer guidance and support to parents/carers to enable them to meet their child's developmental needs. Parents/carers have the opportunity to share experiences and receive emotional support.

The groups are currently held at

Flutterbies Children's Centre, 50-52 Hen Lane, Holbrooks, CV6 4LB - **Monday 1:00-2:30pm**

Hillfields Children's Centre, Clifton Street, CV1 5GR - **Tuesdays 1.15-2:30pm**

Radford Children's Centre, Radford Primary School, Lawrence Saunders Road, CV6 1HD **Tuesday 1:00-2:30pm**

Stoke Heath Children's Centre, Heath Crescent, CV2 4PR - **Tuesday 1:00-2:30pm**

Moathouse Children's Centre, Moat House Community Primary School, Deedmore Road, CV2 1EQ - **Thursday 9:30-11:00am**

If you would like to attend or need more information please contact Cheryl Heaphy on 024 7678 5646

INFORMATION FOR EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Your rights, your future: Making sense of the new law.



Your Rights Your Future is aimed at professionals working with young people. The tool kit offers a range of interactive activities for professionals to use with young people to support their understanding on the changes to their SEND support and how it affects them. To find out more about the resource, [download a copy here.](#)

NEW RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Special Educational Needs and Disability : The Vision for 2020

The Council For Disabled Children's national Conference "The Vision for 2020" took place recently and [all materials from the day are available to download](#) here. You can also [access the blog from Christine Lenehan](#), Director of the Council for Disabled Children.



Children and Young People - What are your rights?

The Information Advice and Support Services Network have launched [a new website](#) aimed at children and young people (under 25 years), supporting them to understand what their rights are and how they can access support via the Information Advice and Support Service.



On-line SEND learning for parents

IPSEA (Independent Parental Special Education Advice) have set up an on-line learning course for parents covering basic SEND law, including:

- The SEN legal framework
- The duties on local authorities
- The duties on schools and further education institutions
- Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments
- EHC plans
- Naming a school or FE institution in an EHC plan
- Personal budgets and direct payments
- Changing plans (annual review, transfer/ ceasing to maintain an EHC plan)
- Mediation and the SEND tribunal
- Education Act 1996 (parts remaining relevant during the transition period)



The course is chargeable. [Access the on-line resource here.](#)

Putting the Big Shout out

If you've had a really good experience why not tell other young people about it – they might find it enjoyable too! We're always looking for things that young people themselves have found helpful on their journey, so why not tell us about them?



It could be;

- A teacher in a school who did something that helped you succeed
- A new club or activity in the city which enabled you to hang out with your friends
- A really positive experience volunteering at a local farm
- Just something that made you feel AMAZING!

You can tell your story in any kind of way – writing, drawing, videoing etc. You don't have to say who you are if you don't want to, and there's no limit to how much detail you include. We will then publish your stories/recommendations in this e-bulletin, and we can also publish any videos onto our young person's section of the SEND IASS website.

If you think you can help inspire someone else to try something new, or just to let them know about something that's happening for young people, let us know.

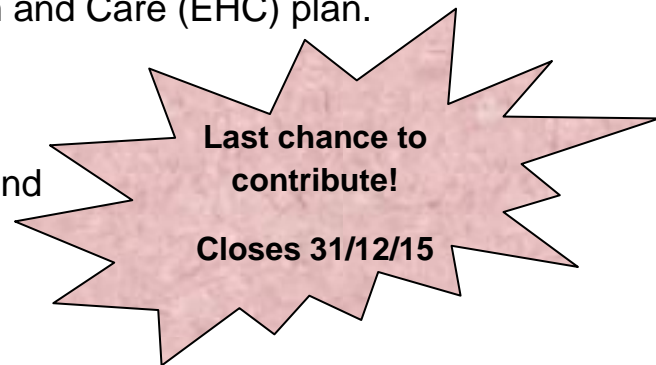
All contributors will receive an "In Partnership" reward pack – so get "shouting"!

OTHER INFORMATION

Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET) Research Survey

Last Chance to contribute! Coventry Local Authority are keen to get the views of children and young people, their parent/carers and practitioners who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

As such, they are working together with “In Control”, a national charity, to get this feedback, in order to help improve the use and impact of EHC’s in the future. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, and is completely anonymous.



The answers will be collated by both the LA and In Control to see the general feeling about EHC plans, but will not indicate who has completed it.

This is your opportunity to have your say and help the LA develop the EHC process and create better outcomes for children and young people with SEN and disabilities

To access the questionnaire, go to www.coventry.gov.uk/poet

OFSTED/Care Quality Commission Consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on how Ofsted and the CQC can inspect and evaluate how effectively local areas meet their responsibilities towards disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs.



The consultation is of particular relevance to disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs, their parents and carers, early years settings, schools, the further education sector, and other educational, social care and health services who provide services to these children and young people.



The closing date for the consultation is **4 January 2016** and [full details, including how to contribute](#), can be found here.

Sense Active Football

Sense, the national charity that works with people aged 12+ who experience sight and hearing impairments, is running a friendly football session.

When: 4:30pm – 5:30pm every Thursday during term time.

Where: Hereward College, Bramston Cresecent, Tile Hill, Coventry, CV4 9SQ.

To book: Contact Callan Barbara, telephone 07813 825 571 or email: callan.barber@sense.org.uk



Archies Smile

A charity inspired by Archie, who happens to have Downs Syndrome. Providing fundraising and support for children with Downs Syndrome and their families. The website is currently under construction, [but check it out for further information.](#)

Archies smile support group meet at Hereward College, Bramston Crescent, CV4 9SW in Coventry every Tuesday morning 10am - 12 pm.

Come along and join us!



Keeping in touch

As well as a number of resources, links and information through our website (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.



Get active Day Coventry

The National Deaf Childrens Society are holding a completely free action-packed day of sports in Coventry. Take part in :

- Learn lifesaving skills in the olympic pool
- Splash pool
- Zumba / dance
- Speak, sign or both.

When: 6th February 2016

Where: Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre,
Fairfax Street, Coventry

What age: 8-15 years

To find out more about the day or to book:

www.ndcs.org.uk/events

Email: events@ndcs.org.uk

Tel: 0121 234 9832



Would you like to volunteer for Kidscape? Two new positions are available



Volunteering for Kidscape offers a rewarding opportunity to help support bullied young people across the UK. We are currently seeking volunteers for two positions: a bid writer supporting our fundraising team in the office and a ZAP workshop support worker who will be volunteering directly with young people who have experienced bullying.

More information about each role and instructions on how to apply can be [found here](#). [Read the latest Kidscape e-news here](#).



Short Breaks Christmas 2015 activities

The booking hotline for Christmas Holiday Activities will open on Monday 7th December 2015 until 16th December 2015 from 09.00am until 4.00pm. Please call 024 76 787980 to book. Bookings can also be made online at www.coventry.gov.uk/shortbreaks during this period. **Bookings either online or by telephone requested outside of the dates stated will not be processed.** Please note places in sessions are limited; if you make a booking and your child or young person is not able to attend, please can you let us know as there maybe others who are on a waiting list.



Friday 18th December

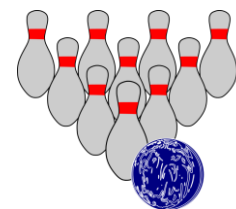
Celebration Disco at Broad Park House 4.30pm until 6.30pm (12-18)

Saturday 19th December

Bowling and Meal at Crosspoint Business Park 11.00am until 1.00pm (5-11)

Bowling and Meal at Crosspoint Business Park 1.00pm until 3.00pm (12-18)

Celebration Disco at Broad Park House 4.30pm until 6.30pm (5-11)



Sunday 20th December

Cooking Club Celebration Meal at Broad Park House 11.00am until 1.00pm (5-11)

Cooking Club Celebration Meal at Broad Park House 1.15pm – 3.15pm (12-18)

Monday 21st December

Play scheme at Broad Park House 09.30am until 11.30am (5-11)

Circus Skills with Custard Moon at On Target Youth Centre 1.00pm until 2.30pm (5-11)

Drama Workshop with Custard Moon at On Target Youth Centre 2.30pm until 4.00pm (12-18)

Tuesday 22nd December

Youth Club at Broad Park House 10.00am until 12.00pm (12-18)

Christmas Music Fun with Dave Claridge at On Target Youth Centre 1.00pm until 2.30pm (5-11)

Christmas Music Fun with Dave Claridge at On Target Youth Centre 2.30pm until 4.00pm (12-18)

Wednesday 23rd December

Arts and Crafts at Broad Park House 09.30am until 11.30am (5-11)

Arts and Crafts at Broad Park House 12.30pm until 2.30pm (12-18)



Important Addresses

Broad Park House, Logan Road, Coventry CV2 1AG

On Target Youth Centre, Doe Bank Lane, Spon End, Coventry, CV1 3AR

Tenpin Bowling, Crosspoint Business Park, Olivier Way, Coventry, Warwickshire CV2 2SH

Please note as the council closes on Christmas Eve, activities will only run for the first week of the holiday.

Term Time activities will commence again on Tuesday 5th January 2016.

If your child or young person has never attended a short break activity, we will require a completed short breaks passport and DLA letter. Please let us know at the point of booking if you require this information.

Events taking place of Christmas – Coventry Librarys

Are you looking for something to do over the Christmas break? All libraries have regular events and activities, from storytime to rhymetimes for children to readers' groups for adults. Most events and activities in libraries are free to attend.



Calendar of events for adults

http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/1177/calendar_of_events_in_libraries_for_adults

Calendar of events for children

http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/1178/calendar_of_events_in_libraries_for_children

Coffee Tots

Coffee Tots was set up and run by parents who understand the challenges of becoming a parent and raising children. At Coffee Tots you can meet other mums and dads with young children, share experiences and build support and friendships.

They offer a cafe drop-in based in Coventry city centre for parents and young children providing a relaxing cafe environment, offering affordable fair-trade drinks, snacks and lunches. There is also a play area and activities for children.

They also run a variety of courses to help improve family life; such as family cookery, money management and IT skills, as well as fun sessions for the children including messy play, baby sensory and story time. They can also signpost you to existing groups and services and have a Swap Shop for baby clothes and equipment

They are open **Monday to Friday, 9.30am till 3pm.**

www.coffeetots.co.uk





Fill in our survey

The Information Advice and Support Service 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.

The survey is located in a yellow box on the main page of the SENDIASS website. 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.



You have received this e-bulletin because your [email](#) address is held by the SEND Information Advice and Support Service. Please be assured that contact details will not be shared with other parties. Any views or opinions expressed in the content of this email are solely those of the individual organisation and not necessarily representative of SEND Information Advice and Support Service or Coventry City Council.

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