

SEND Newsletter

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Newsletter

October 2024

In this month's edition:

- Welcome from Pip Hesketh - Assistant Director - Education Partnerships
- Events
- News from North Somerset
- A Day of SEND
- NSPCWT update
- Good news from Backwell Sixth Form
- SEND Children and Young People's Council
- SAY - Send And You
- News from SENDCAS
- SENDCAS family passes
- Mind of My Own
- The Poetry Basket
- Surround Support Discos and Christmas Party
- Springboard Charity Ball
- Useful contacts

Introduction

Pip Hesketh

Assistant Director - Education Partnerships



Dear SEND Community,

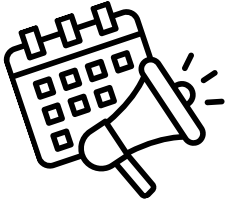
As we start the new education year, there is a lot to be excited about in the world of SEND. The first is the incredible achievements of some of our children and young people over the last year. In this edition we hear from two young people, Jamie and Daniel, who went back into mainstream education in Year 12 and who have both done exceptionally well and are now starting university life at Warwick and Cardiff universities. Too often we hear reports of what children and young people can't do instead of encouraging and supporting them to excel. We are changing that way of thinking in North Somerset and we would encourage everyone to have high ambitions for children and young people with SEND and to support them to achieve their dreams.

We'll be hearing more about the remarkable young people amongst us at the Day of SEND on 23rd October, organised by our parents/carers organisation North Somerset Parents and Carers Working Together (NSPCWT) which I would encourage everyone to attend and participate in. If last year's event was anything to go by, it will be another fantastic event, but this year, bigger and better (though we can't guarantee less rain than last year).

Also in this edition, there is more information about activities for children, young people and their families. Having SEND needs or being the parent or carer of a child with SEND needs can be an isolating experience. Participating in some of the activities that are arranged can help access support and build relationships of trust with people in a similar situation with very similar concerns and challenges. The children and young people we speak to regularly invariably tell us how important having friends and a social life is to them. If what you want is not within the very detailed calendar, do try using the local offer online ([the SEND Hub local offer](#)) to see if there's something that fits the bill. Let's try to make this a year when no child, young person, parent or carer feels alone and isolated.

With very best wishes, Pip.





EVENTS



October 2024

11th October: Surround Support Disco from 1pm - 3pm at the Proud Bar, Weston-s-Mare (support must stay with the individual)

14th October: [SEND and You in person appointments for SEND advice](#)

14th October: [SEND and You EBSA support sessions](#)

23rd October: A Day of SEND at Priory Community School Academy

25th October: Surround Support Disco from 1pm - 3pm at the Proud Bar, Weston-s-Mare (support must stay with the individual)

November 2024

7th November: Understanding Anxiety NSPCWT training - see page 7 for booking

7th November: Allyship for your Neurodivergent, LGBTQ+ child - see page 7 for booking

8th November: Surround Support Disco from 1pm - 3pm at the Proud Bar, Weston-s-Mare (support must stay with the individual)

9th November: Springboard Opportunity Charity Ball at The Grand Pier. More details can be found on page 19.

18th November: [Checking your school SEN Plan advice](#)

18th November: [SEND and You in person appointments for SEND advice](#)

19th November: Dyspraxia training from the NSPCWT - see page 7 for booking

20th November: 'How to Guide' Disability Living Allowance (DLA) - see page 7 for booking

21st November: Sensory and Sleep - NSPCWT training - see page 7 for booking

22nd November: Surround Support Disco from 1pm - 3pm at the Proud Bar, Weston-s-Mare (support must stay with the individual)

26th November: Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) and Sleep training - see page 7

27th November: Intro to Attachment and Trauma training - see page 7

December 2024

12th December: What is SEND? Training - see page 7

13th December: Surround Support Christmas Party from 1pm - 3pm at the Proud Bar, Weston-s-Mare (support must stay with the individual)



This will be an ongoing feature on the SEND Partnership Newsletter, so please do send me details of your forthcoming events.

tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk



News from North Somerset - SEND improvements in the local area

Guy Clayton

Principal Educational Psychologist

The Educational Psychology Service have added to their online training library. They have added free, bitesize training videos for education staff on autism and learning support. For each phase of education, from the early years to post-16, there are three short and highly practical training videos. These are for support teaching and support staff to adapt learning environments and provide specific learning experiences for autistic children and young people. All videos are available at the [Educational Psychology Service Training Library](#) page.

The next series of training videos, due for release this month, are focused on Emotionally Based School Avoidance/Non-Attendance (EBSA/EBSNA). They will support school and college staff to use the EBSA Pathway process. This is a step-by-step approach to meeting the underlying needs of young people for whom school or college attendance has declined due to emotional wellbeing or mental health needs.



Free event for parent carers and professionals across North Somerset!



A Day of SEND



23rd October 2024. 9am-8pm. Priory Community School, BS22 6BP

- **This is the second & largest SEND* Event of its kind that we have held in North Somerset!**
- **A fantastic opportunity to gain access to support!**

*Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

What makes this day different from our other events?

What can you expect to see at the event?

- **Keynote speeches from the well known Carrie Grant MBE and the fantastic Andrew Lewis MBE, Paralympic, World & European Triathlon Champion.**
- **A stage performance from the phenomenal Misfits plus a Q&A session 🎤**
- **Over 100 exhibitors from organisations, charities & services that offer SEND support. Marketplace opens at 10am to start browsing those stalls!**
- **Informative training sessions**
- **Drop in clinics with professionals to get specific 1-1 support such as Financial Planning, DLA/PIP and more...**

Drop in anytime, as many times as you want, so you don't have to miss a thing!

Book in advance for quicker entry on the day

Travel Section providing information on accessible transport in our local area & beyond...



Have a question around education? Speak to the SEN team from North Somerset Council, or SEND & YOU!

Further details will be shared on our social media, @NSPCWT

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together NSPCWT

Francesca Betts (she/her)

Senior Business Lead

Media and Resource Lead



North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together are the local parent carer forum, there to support parents & carers of children/young people between the ages of 0-25 who have an emerging need, additional need and/or disability.



Contact details:

Our resource base is at The Firs, 89a Drove Road, BS23 3NX Tel: 01934 440844

www.nspcwt.org You can email us at admin@nspcwt.org



North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together NSPCWT (cont) 'A Day of SEND'



When: Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Where: Priory Community School, BS22 6BP

Parents, carers, family members and professionals are all welcome to attend and benefit from the many exhibitors, training workshops, keynote speakers, performances, drop-in clinics and activities.

Please browse the Event Programme and get your tickets booked here:

<https://www.nspcwt.org/a-day-of-send-2024>



Our Peer Support Coffees:

We offer a broad range of safe, supportive meet-ups for our community, some within settings, others at our base at The Firs in Weston-super-Mare or at locations suitable to those living further north. Often these coffees are attended by informative services such as SEND and You (the local SENDIAS team).

If you would like a peer support session arranged at your school / setting or if you would like to attend to discuss how you could support our community, please contact us at admin@nspcwt.org
Head [here](#) to find out what is coming up:

Our Upcoming Training

Parent Carers and Professionals are welcome to access our training offers.

07.11.2024 - Understanding Anxiety

07.11.2024 - Allyship for your Neurodivergent, LGBTQ+ child

19.11.2024 - Dyspraxia

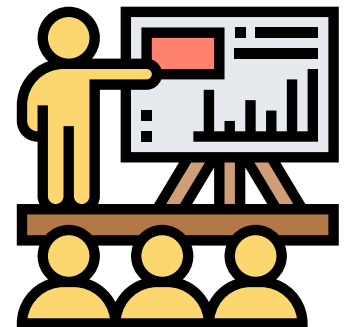
20.11.2024 - 'How to Guide' Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

21.11.2024 - Sensory and Sleep

26.11.2024 - Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) and Sleep

27.11.2024 - Intro to Attachment and Trauma

12.12.2024 - What is SEND?



[More information & booking can be accessed here.](#)

[Check out our 2023/24 Annual Survey, Annual Report and Impact Reports here.](#)

Free Online Resource: Sensory Processing Difficulties (SPD) Video, which was created by professionals with Debbie Meintjes, Occupational Therapist. This supportive video covers the 8 senses and provides information and tips. [You can access it here.](#)



Good News story from Backwell Sixth Form

Mike Feven

Head of Year (Sixth Form)



Jamie M and Daniel W both joined the Sixth Form at Backwell School in September 2022, having both attended a specialist school for young people with SEND for their secondary education. They thrived at Backwell School with both receiving remarkable A-Level results in August 2024 (some of the strongest in the cohort).

Jamie has ASD and came to us with an EHCP. He studied A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics (a rare thing to be doing four full subjects), achieving A*A*A*A. He leaves us to study Maths at the University of Warwick.

Daniel also has ASD and came with an EHCP. He studied A Levels in History, Sociology and English Language, plus an Extended Project, achieving A*AB (plus A* in the Extended Project). He leaves us to study Sociology at Cardiff University.

Dan has provided the following quote:

“Once, my parents were told that I would never sit an exam. Fourteen years later, I have ended up becoming the first student in my family to go to university through striving for grades that I am truly proud of. Nothing's impossible if you put your mind to it; if others say you'll underachieve because of your particular needs, prove them wrong!”

Both are hugely talented young men who made a full and extensive contribution to life in the Sixth Form at Backwell. We are so proud of them and of their excellent achievements.



SEND Children and Young People's Council

Shelly Smith, SEND Engagement and Participation Officer



The Buzz

Written in Co-production with the voice of The SEND Children and Young



The new student council for 2024 met for the first time this school year. Some of the students from last year have been joined by students from different schools and colleges for 2024.

The meeting was well attended. The students started the meeting by taking part in a icebreaking activity – they described how they were feeling by choosing a colour that they felt represented them, who knew that chartreuse was a colour? (sickly green, described by the student).

The students have set ground rules for meetings and also talked about what they would like to discuss and talk about. One being the language and words which are used to describe them as people and their SEND needs. A dictionary of ulterior words will be created by them this year which they hope will be used in their meetings and environments. We also discussed some of the services that they use and of which they would like to ask some questions themselves to the managers.



We have a busy school year ahead – my color today is emerald green, fresh bright and sparkly, a reflection of the SEND children and young persons Council.



SEND and You

Jenna Hollywood
Media Officer/ IAS Advisor



SAY
SEND AND YOU
SENDIAS

SEND and You are pleased to be able to offer the following support, please click on the links to book:

[North Somerset 1:1 in-person appointments @The Firs- Monday 14th October](#)

[North Somerset 1:1 in-person appointments @The Firs- Monday 18th November](#)

We're holding free face-to-face appointments for parents and carers living in North Somerset who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). This is an opportunity to speak to one of our trained North Somerset SENDIAS practitioners on a confidential, one-to-one basis and receive help and support with your query about your child's special educational needs or disability.

[North Somerset 1:1 EBSA support sessions @The Firs- Monday 14th October](#)

We're holding a free face to face Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) support session for parents and carers living in North Somerset who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) but do not have an EHCP.

[North Somerset- checking your school SEN Plan advice-18th November 2024](#)

These sessions are an opportunity to discuss your child's SEN support plan, receive support in checking it is clear and that it follows the 'Graduated Approach' to SEN support.

FAQ?

Here is a link to the SEND and You new resource on [Emotionally Based School Avoidance: EBSA- Frequently Asked Questions](#)



SENDCAS

SEND Clubs & Activities Service

Lenna Harris - SENDCAS Team Leader
Children with Disabilities Team



Over the summer holidays, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Clubs and Activities Service (SENDCAS) ran a 4-week programme that was a great success! It featured 5 days packed with clubs, activities, and trips for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This program included taster sessions that welcomed new young people and their families to SENDCAS.

Highlights of the programme included:

- Enriching activities such as Forest School during Fun Days and fused glass-making workshops on Independence Days, which were both highly enjoyed by the young people.
- Engaging sensory experiences tailored to young people on Complex Needs Days, facilitated by our enthusiastic team.

A variety of exciting trips were offered on Independence Days, including:

- Rides on open-top buses
- Games and ice cream on the beach
- Ten pin bowling
- Archery
- Tobogganing
- Axe throwing
- A daytrip to Brean Leisure Park



Stay and Play Sessions were held at Kidsville in Weston-Super-Mare and Jungle Run Soft Play in Congresbury, who offer an exclusive venue hire for families.

These events provided a relaxed atmosphere where parents and carers could enjoy coffee and connect with other families, whilst their young people had the freedom to play and unwind in a safe, non-judgmental environment.



SENDCAS (Cont)

SEND Clubs & Activities Service

These activities let young people explore new experiences, develop skills, and enjoy social interactions in a supportive environment.

SENDCAS collaborated with NHS Talking Therapies by welcoming Emma and Greg from the Vita Health Group to two of our Stay and Play sessions. During these sessions, Emma and Greg engaged with parents, providing a listening ear, support, and information to those who found the school holiday period challenging or isolating.

If you would like to receive information about SENDCAS clubs and holiday activities, please register your child(ren) on the Disabled Children's Register via the North Somerset Council website:

[Disabled Children's Register - register your child.](#)

For any enquiries, please feel free to email SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk.



SENDCAS

SEND Clubs & Activities Service

Laurina Brewer - SENDCAS Team Leader
Children with Disabilities Team



Family Time

We are delighted to share that we have successfully been awarded the Supporting Families Fund. With this funding we will be able to continue to offer families of young people with additional needs, living in North Somerset, passes to visit the various attractions on offer. If you wish to find out more about our Family Passes, please see the poster which follows on the next page.

Our passes are currently supporting 370 Families to enjoy special days out. Since July 2024 we have issued in the region of 500 passes to a variety of venues.

We would like to say thank you to all the families, who have kindly given consent to share their special memories and experiences.

"I would like to say a really big thank you for the passes for family day outs. Being a mum two autistic children it is really hard to access days out as need carers etc, as well these days out mean we can enjoy a great day out. My son loves animals and we've actually managed to go out as a family. It's been truly wonderful many thanks."

"Thank you for our tickets to Westonbirt. It was a wonderful day and we are so very grateful."

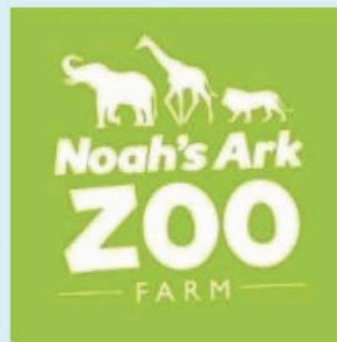
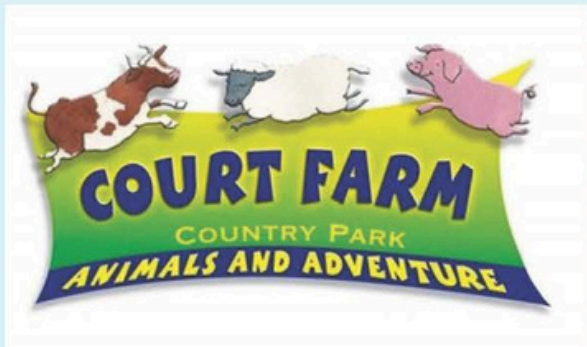
"Thank you so much, we had a fantastic day and the new adventure playground helped our daughter to regulate. It's the longest we have managed to stay, brilliant."



Family time passes

The SENDCAS team understand the importance of spending quality time as a family.

In collaboration with the Supporting Families Fund, we are excited to offer families of young people with additional needs, living in North Somerset, passes to visit the attractions below.





Booking process

1. Choose a place to visit.
2. Choose a date when you'd like to go.
3. Email: **SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk** with your request.
4. We will check our calendar for pass availability.
5. SENDCAS will confirm your booking by email.

Important information

- Passes are available for families who have registered their young person with additional needs on the North Somerset Disabled Children's Register (DCR). To register please visit: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/dcr.
- Passes are available on a first come, first served basis. Please note you may not get your first choice.
- Please allow **10 working days** to process your request.
- The venue may ask you to show proof of carer status.
- We can only offer one pass per week to a family of a child with additional needs.
- Please check access arrangements directly with the venue before arrival.



Mind of My Own

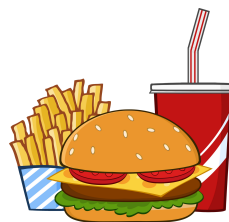
Ella Bunting
Participation Officer



This Summer saw the second annual 'Thank you' event for care experienced children and young people. This was done through our forums, panels, and core groups to review strategies, policies and more.

Last year's event was held on the pier with fish and chips and unlimited rides wristbands. Our young people told us that this year they wanted to go to All Stars bowling so that is what we did!

With further discussions with the Leaving Care Team we worked together to put together an even bigger Summer celebration for our young people. So, on 14th August, we took over the top floor of All Stars and enjoyed bowling, smart darts, pool, shuffleboard and lots of delicious food and drinks. It was really great day, and we all had lots of fun. A huge thank you to our young people and the Leaving Care Team for their work around planning and organising the day!



Mind of My Own Top User in North Somerset Council

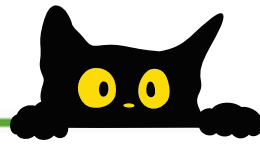
Congratulations to **Becca Nicholas** for being North Somerset's Mind of My Own top user and using the app with children and young people to hear their voice. Well done!

Becca works as a Family Support Worker in the Family Wellbeing Team. Here is what Becca says about using Mind of My Own: "I have found the app really good and helpful to hear a young person's voice, particularly when the young person finds it difficult to voice their feelings in person. The app has allowed that person to be open and honest about how they are feeling and the reports I received following them using the app, have been what was needed to start a conversation around that particular feeling."

"Feedback from the young person at the time of using the app:

- Easy sign-up process
- Easy to use
- Helps with conversation starting when completing 1:1s"





'Five Little Pumpkins', the Early Years Poetry Basket Poem for October

THE
Early
Years
TEAM

The Poetry Basket is a project which aims to develop children's language, learning and development in a fun and effective way. The Poetry Basket scheme was launched by the Early Years Team in partnership with [MakeBelieveArts](#) in 2020. Each month children in early years settings across North Somerset learn a new poem and how to sign it in Makaton.



Five Little Pumpkins

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate.
The first one said, 'Oo, it's getting late.'
The second one said, 'There are witches in the air.'
The third one said, 'Well I don't care.'
The fourth one said, 'Let's run, run, run.'
The fifth one said, 'Let's have some fun.'
But ooh went the wind, and out went the light,
And five little pumpkins tumbled out of sight.



[Access this link to watch 'Five Little Pumpkins', signed using Makaton language.](#)

This video of the **Five Little Pumpkins**, our poem from the Poetry Basket for October, was made as part of a series for the Early Years Team to publish on Facebook.

If you publish the poems, please acknowledge their source: The Poetry Basket was created by MakeBelieve Arts and can be found at www.helicopterstories.co.uk.



Surround Support
Sophie Mager



Surround Support

£5 entry
18+ only
Support must stay
with individuals

COMMUNITY HUB
PROUD BAR
WESTON - SUPER - MARE



**2ND & 4TH FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH 1PM - 3PM**

D - I - S - C - O

2024

13th & 27th September

11th & 25th October

8th & 22nd November

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Fri 13th December

For individuals who need additional support
in association with surround support



Springboard Opportunity Group

Rebecca Bromley
Fundraising Manager



Springboard Opportunity Group will be holding their bi-annual Charity Ball on The Grand Pier, Weston-super-Mare on Saturday 9th November 2024. This event is a vital part of our efforts to raise funds to continue our work in supporting SEN and disabled children aged 0 to 5 years, and their families across North Somerset.

Springboard Charity Ball

Indulge in an evening of elegance and impact as we gather for our charity ball.

Saturday 9th November 2024
19:00 - Midnight
The Grand Pier
Weston-Super-Mare.

Arrive in style with chauffeured cars guiding guests up the boards. Delight in a delectable three-course meal, partake in thrilling auctions and raffles, and revel in captivating entertainment throughout the night.

Come together for a cause. Your presence makes a difference. Let's make this night unforgettable.

Book your tickets here



01275 341 113
info@springboardweb.org.uk
www.springboardweb.org.uk
Reg Charity Number: 1025787
Company Limited Guarantee: 02844191

A full page advert can be found on the next page



Springboard Charity

Your paragraph text

Ball

Indulge in an evening of elegance and impact as we gather for our charity ball.

Saturday 9th November 2024

19:00 - Midnight

The Grand Pier

Weston-Super-Mare.

Arrive in style with chauffeured cars guiding guests up the boards. Delight in a delectable three-course meal, partake in thrilling auctions and raffles, and revel in captivating entertainment throughout the night.

Come together for a cause. Your presence makes a difference. Let's make this night unforgettable.

Book your
tickets here





Key SEND Partnership Contacts

SEND and You

SEND and You provides the statutory Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) in South Gloucestershire, Bristol and North Somerset.

Our role is to help parents carers, children, and young people build their knowledge, understanding, and confidence in SEND procedures, policies, practices, and law. We work to enable people to communicate their own needs, wishes, aims, and rights. This means people playing an active and informed role in making decisions about their education, health and social care.

SAY SENDIAS service is free, confidential, impartial, and independent from the local authority and health services. We work with professionals, organisations and services in delivering our function as a SENDIAS service with a team of trained practitioners, based on and within the legal SEND framework.

Contact SEND and You in the following ways:

- New or first-time users can use our [web-contact form](#).
- Call on 0117 9897725 (24-hour answerphone)
- Email - support@sendandyou.org.uk

Please be aware that young people aged 16 and older will need to give consent and permission for their parent carer to speak to SAY on their behalf.

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together: NSPCWT

We are here to support parents & carers with children between the ages of 0-25 that have an emerging need, additional need and/or disability. We signpost families to relevant organisations, host regular coffee mornings, training sessions & events plus we previously organised free wellbeing days out for parent carers to enjoy.

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together aim to improve the service, provision and the quality of life for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs by being the collective voice of parent carers and a strategic partner for the Local Authority, Education and Health.

The Firs, Parent Carer Resource Hub, 89a Drove Rd, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, BS23 3NX
01934 440844

admin@nspcwt.org

www.NSPCWT.org

Please note this list will remain on the SEND newsletter. Please send any additions or amendments to this list to tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk



We are continually developing the SEND Partnership Newsletter. If you have any feedback or would like to contribute, please email: tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk

