



# SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

## SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

### SEND IASS volunteers



Due to an increase in demand for our service we recently advertised for more volunteers.

We have had a really positive response and will shortly be organising training and anticipate a more accessible service later in the year.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact the SEND IASS office (01983) 825548.

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#### SEND IASS quick read guides

We have a new supply of quick read guides which include;

- SEN Support
- Personal Budgets and Direct Payments
- Education, health & care assessments
- What is an EHCP?

Please call the SEND IASS office if you would like a copy of one of these guides.



23 January 2018

### **Important update for families relating to the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism**

In December 2017 we explained that the NHS Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group, (CCG), and the Isle of Wight NHS Trust were working together to implement a plan to ensure that those waiting for an Autism assessment are seen at the earliest opportunity possible.

We advised that following the closure of the Autism Research and Diagnostic Centre (ADRC), patient records had been received by the Isle of Wight Trust and suitably trained staff were in the process of reviewing each of these referrals with the intention of writing to each family with an update and to explain the 'next steps'.

We are commissioning a new service from the Isle of Wight NHS Trust that complies with the recommendations put forward by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, (NICE). Once this service has been commissioned and staff are recruited, the service will be in contact with you directly. We are currently working to ensure that the new service starts by the end of February 2018.

We apologise that it is taking time to set up this new service and that you may have not been kept informed about progress and we recognise that this may cause distress or uncertainty. However, it is important that the new service that we set up is as safe and effective as possible. The additional steps we are taking at this stage will help us ensure that this is the case.

We would like to assure you that the offer of support from Barnardo's, remains in place if it would be helpful to have someone to talk to or receive support or advice from in the short term.

Their Family Centres can be contacted as follows:-

- West and Central Family Centre: 01983 529208
- South Wight Family Centre: 01983 408718
- North East Family Centre: 01983 617617

Again, please accept our sincere apologies for the delay and our sincerest thanks for your patience and understanding. We will endeavour to keep everyone updated on our progress through the CCG, Trust and Council websites as well as through schools and our special educational needs colleagues.

If you do need to contact us then please send an email to :-

[iowmhchildrenscommissioning@nhs.net](mailto:iowmhchildrenscommissioning@nhs.net)



People Matter  
Independent Support Team  
7 High Street  
Newport

## People Matter Independent Support team update.

It is with great sadness that we have been informed that our Independent support (IS) contract will end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, so we will no longer be able to offer our support to families and young people on their EHCP journey. Please be reassured that this support will continue to be offered by the SENDIASS team, and any families currently being supported by the People Matter IS team will be welcomed by them, if they so wish.

Since the IS service started in 2014, we have supported over 200 families and young people both with the EHCP, and by signposting to other services when needed.

Martin Bull, programme manager for the Council for Disabled Children gave feedback from the Independent Support programme nationally.

*'The Independent Support programme has had a massive impact on the lives of families and young people, where Independent Supporters have been a catalyst for change which has helped to embed the culture of the SEND reforms with families and young people'*

We have enjoyed working in partnership with the SENDIASS team, and would like to thank all our families for the wonderful feedback we have received over the past 4 years.

*Sally Gaeta and Kathryn Romero*

8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED  
YOUNG PEOPLE TO  
SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT  
SERVICES**

9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**CARERS' RIGHTS,  
SOCIAL CARE  
PERSONAL BUDGETS AND  
DIRECT PAYMENTS**

**This training will delivered by  
Luke Clements**

**Cerebra Professor of Law, Solicitor and Special  
Adviser to the Joint Parliamentary Select  
Committee that scrutinised the draft Care Bill  
(the Care & Support Bill 2013).**

This training is primarily aimed at parent carers  
of young people with SEND (special educational  
need/disability) aged 14 – 25, but may also be of  
interest to those with parental responsibility for  
any child/young adult with a disability.

**Places are strictly limited,  
so please book early**

To book your place or if you would like to find out more  
please contact Jo on 01983 823898 ext 2838 or email:

Joanne@peoplematteriw.org

Website: [www.parentsvoice-iw.co.uk](http://www.parentsvoice-iw.co.uk)



**Free  
Training  
for  
Parent  
Carers**

**Registration  
9.30am**

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**Finish  
3.30pm**

**Light lunch  
included**

**Riverside Centre  
Newport  
PO30 2QR**

## The child at the centre .....



## Person-centred planning meetings explained

Education Health and Care Plans for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are supposed to have the young person at the centre of the assessment. The process for agreeing the plan is also supposed to be collaborative. It is with these two points in mind that Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Psychology introduced the use of person-centred planning meetings, which are based on the PATH (Promoting Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) approach. The meeting is for the young person and about them, with the aim of finding out what their strengths are, what they are finding difficult and possible ways to move forward. It is a collaborative, holistic process, intended to involve all those who relate with the young person at home and at school. It focuses on the individual and gives them an opportunity to give their views and for these to be valued alongside the views of supporting adults.

### Process

The young person and all those who support them, are invited to the meeting. The young person can bring a friend or other important person in their life, as well as toys or activities to help them feel comfortable in the meeting. The meeting is led by an educational psychologist (EP), who asks questions under the following headings:

#### Strengths

One year from now (positive and possible)

Now (including barriers)

What is already helping

What needs to happen

The answers given are summarised and recorded by a second EP on a large piece of paper for everyone to see, in a colourful and visual way (through pictures as well as words). This forms the basis of the EP's report with the psychological perspective and further reflection added. The EP has a chance to interact with the young person and observe them in a new and challenging situation and in their interactions with parents and other adults.

### Feedback

Those taking part in the meetings find them to be very positive, useful, constructive, informative and visual. The young person usually chooses to stay the whole time, as they feel involved and consulted. Some young people like to join in with the drawing on the big sheet and are encouraged to do so. One parent said, 'Everything I had in my head is now down on that piece of paper'. What is acknowledged time and again is that the process is not just a paper information-gathering exercise, but it is an aid to problem-solving and people develop new insights and find ways forward, where previously they might have felt stuck. Themes emerge which help planning ahead for the young person.

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## **Positive Psychology**

Positive psychology emphasises the importance of:

- Engagement through strengths
- Experiencing comfortable emotions
- Positive relationships
- Social and emotional competence
- Sense of meaning and purpose

Instead of witnessing the recording of a list of deficits or disabilities in the meeting with the EP, parents are relieved that their child's strengths are acknowledged. They also appreciate hearing about what helps their child already and contributing to this, as they know their child well and often have helpful strategies to share. They still have an opportunity to share the barriers to their child's progress under the 'Now' section, which tends to focus on the young person's needs in detail, rather than labels.

The young person and the adults attending the meeting usually feel a range of comfortable emotions, including pride, relief and feeling heard, and this enhances the positive relationships between all concerned. The young person is helped to manage a social situation and express their feelings verbally, visually or through an adult advocate. They are helped to understand the meaning and purpose of the process and invited to share their hopes and dreams. The plan can then be personalised to take these into account, thereby making learning tasks and education more relevant.

**Jacqueline Batchelor**

**Lead Educational Psychologist (Isle of Wight)**

# OUR SERVICE



**We are a Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Service (SEND IASS) supporting parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (0-25 years) on the Isle of Wight.**

**The service offers a free, impartial, confidential service to parents and carers of children and young people with SEN and disability and to young people and children who wish to receive information advice and support themselves, on all matters relating to SEN and disabilities including social care and health concerns.**

**The service seeks to enhance and develop partnership between parents/carers/young people, the local authority, schools, early years, voluntary organisations, health and social care services in the field of identifying, assessing and making provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disability.**

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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Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1JZ**

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**Facebook: [@iowsendiass.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/iowsendiass.co.uk)**

