

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Newsletter



July 2018 - Issue No. 22

The SEND e-newsletter gives information and news about what is new and being developed in the world of SEND and the Local Offer in Norfolk.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed ideas and news articles to this edition.

Norfolk SEND Partnership & IPS training

Norfolk SEND Partnership provides an information, advice and support service about special educational needs & disabilities (SEND). This includes health and social care where it is linked to education.

The service is free, confidential and impartial for children, young people, parents and carers.

You will find information booklets, SEND information and resources and information about how to contact the service on their **new website** www.norfolksendpartnershiass.org.uk



Become a volunteer with Norfolk SEND Partnership and make a real difference.

Can you

- Give information, advice & support
- Help with paperwork
- Explain procedures
- Support at school meetings

Find out more at the **Open Morning** at **Swaffham Assembly Rooms, Swaffham Market Place, PE37 7AB** on **Thursday 12th July 2018, 10am–12noon.**

Booking is essential. Call 01603 704070 or E-mail sendpartnership.iass@norfolk.gov.uk

SEND transport

Norfolk County Council **Proposals to change elements of the current travel offer for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** was in the news in June.

Norfolk County Council (NCC) wants to reassure to all parents that they are currently looking into these recommendations and will only implement these, if agreed by councillors, in a careful way and always based on individual needs.

At the recent meeting of the Children's Services Committee it was decided to visit other LA's who have implemented similar travel schemes and then prepare recommendations. However, if the SEND Sufficiency Strategy is implemented fully, the need for some of those recommendations may change, i.e. if we develop a greater range of specialist provision across the county, travel time and related travel costs, could reduce significantly as a result.

NCC takes seriously its responsibility to assist children and young people to gain independence as they grow older, and some elements of the recommendations do assist with this. **There are a number of independent travel elements already working in Norfolk, and in the right circumstances, these are hugely positive.** The council will always prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people first and foremost. You can find out more in the articles below.

Personalised Travel Payment Pilot

What is it?

At this time of year, decisions are made about transport for the next academic year. To broaden the range of options available to families, the local authority has introduced a pilot scheme called Personalised Travel Payments (PTP).

This is a sum of money available to families of children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) to enable them to make their own arrangements to take their child or young person to and from school.



This is an **optional alternative** to other Local Authority provided SEND transport such as taxis and minibuses.

What you've told us so far

"My son was relieved when I told him about the scheme"

"I can plan the journeys around college rather than plan college around the taxi."

Who can apply?

Any child or young person up to age 25 with SEND who is eligible to receive specialist transport under the [Home to School Transport Policy](#) may join the scheme, regardless of whether or not they have an EHCP.

How is the payment calculated?

The PTP considers the individual needs of the child and is based on the shortest distance by road from the main residence to school/college, measured using the council's measuring software. We will pay the PTP every month in arrears, based on the number of school days in that month. There is no payment for August.

What are the potential advantages?

- Increased flexibility for families
- Families will not be constrained by the taxi or mini bus pick up/drop off time
- Parents and carers could consider shared travel arrangements with other families going to the same school
- Families can spend more time together on the school journey
- Parents and carers may feel more involved or included in their school community
- Parents and carers may appreciate the peace of mind of supporting their child in the way they have found to be best so they arrive at school more ready to learn.
- Potentially shorter journey for those who were previously on shared travel arrangement

How do I find out more?

To get more information or to find out how much you might be eligible to receive, please visit the [Local Offer webpage](#) and fill out the online form.

TITAN



The **TITAN Buddy Service** is a Norfolk County Council **travel training scheme offered to post 16 students who require support travelling to and from their chosen college.**

Over the past few months we have recruited and trained over 60 enthusiastic and caring people as TITAN trainers, who are looking forward to making a difference to the lives of our students. Our trainers **work individually with their students** over the

summer, **practising the journey from home or an arranged pick up point to college to aid a smooth transition to public transport in September.**

The trainer's role is to encourage their student to achieve their full potential in terms of independent travel, supporting with any issues which may prevent them from accessing public transport. The programme provides opportunities for practical learning, **preparing students for the next stage of their personal development and their transition into adulthood.** The aim is to help students develop independence, which will improve their opportunities for further education, work and social activities and overall wellbeing.

A referral is required for all students leaving school who require additional support with post 16 transport, whether that be TITAN Travel Training or transport in smaller vehicles.

To apply, parent carers will need to **visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/titan and complete the online referral** form. The deadline for referrals has passed, but all applications will still be accepted. If you need advice or support in completing the application online, contact the NCC Customer Service Centre on 0344 800 8020 or **titan@norfolk.gov.uk.**

We are looking forward to another exciting and successful summer supporting our students to gain confidence, raise self-esteem and wherever possible to become independent travellers.

TITAN for adults has followed 12 years of success for TITAN in Children's Services. In late 2017 it was agreed that the support offered by TITAN would be extended to include Adult Services also.

We are currently coming to the end of a **successful one year pilot** of the programme. During this time we have had the pleasure of **working with Independence Matters, Icen Care and Autism Anglia** to embed our Red, Amber and Green programme into the services that they currently have on offer.

The Red, Amber and Green programme enables service users **to build on pedestrian and road safety skills, and increase confidence when accessing the community.** This is done by **working through a series of small tasks at an individuals own pace and level of ability.**

This spring we recruited and trained 20 highly skilled Travel Trainers to work across Norfolk on our **Adult Buddy Service**. In March 2018 the **online referral** at www.norfolk.gov.uk/titan went live. We have since worked with many individuals to promote their independence when using public transport and support them to engage in services within their local communities.

We hope to work with many more people in the future, and are excited to have the opportunity to make such a difference to individuals' lives.

Success for new travel training between home and school

Not only has the HCT Group travel training started to help [young people in Norfolk gain independence travelling](#) to and from school, it has also helped build their **confidence, enabling them to **overcome anxiety** and **build life skills** for the future.**



The **one-to-one** nature of the training takes place over a number of weeks allowing our travel trainers to support individual development covering **four modules** in training:

1. Learning the journey and foundation travel skills.
2. Personal safety and problem solving.
3. Journey practice and learning alternative routes.
4. Building confidence and becoming independent.

Over the next few months **once the young person has been signed off** as independent **we also observe them** on their home-to-school route **three and nine months after completing the programme** to ensure they are continuing to travel safely. We also **offer support if there is a change in the route or any other problems** that may arise when travelling.

Olivia's Journey to Independence*

Olivia, a Year 7 student with a hearing impairment and some anxiety about travelling independently, was travelling to school in Norwich every day in an individual taxi which she said was "boring". She **wanted to travel independently but had very low confidence** about her ability and particularly was **anxious about using the train** saying she could not do it. Sue, the Travel Trainer, then worked with her every day first catching the bus until Olivia reached the point where the confidence she had built meant she was ready to start using the train. **The first time she completed this**

she gave Sue a high five and said she felt brilliant. An added benefit was one of her friends also took this train increasing her social opportunities.

The distance she travelled independently was increased in stages until she was going the whole distance on her own with Sue calling her to check on her journey and make sure she got to school and home safely. Observations were completed of her travelling alone in which she showed excellent travel skills and behaviour including great patience while waiting for the Pelican crossings to turn green without being influenced by others crossing when not safe to do so.

Olivia was taught how to deal with unexpected situations, how to keep herself safe while travelling and who are safe strangers to ask for help. She was faced with real life challenges during training such as when she missed the train. Olivia calmly looked at the information board to find the next departure, checked this with train staff and then phoned her mum to let her know. Another time the display board on the train was showing the wrong destination which she recognised and asked the train guard who thanked her for being observant and reported this to an engineer to get fixed.

*** This case study has been kindly submitted by a young person and her family. Names have been changed to protect identity.**

Children's Services Committee considers SEND

On 10th July 2018 Children's Services Committee  **Norfolk** County Council considers **Meeting Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Quality, Sufficiency and Funding** in an agenda item put forward by Sara Tough, the Executive Director of Children's Services.

[You can find the papers here.](#)

Are you a disabled parent? Is your child currently in education?

Norfolk County Council would like your views on the barriers faced by disabled parents of school age children.

What is your experience of accessing:

- the school itself?
- any activities or services provided by the school?

- the information provided by the school?

NCC will be holding a **Focus Group for Disabled Parents** on **Monday 16th July, 10am – 1pm** at **Equal Lives, Framingham Pigot, NR14 7PZ** to gather your experiences on the accessibility of schools.

Travel expenses and tea and coffee are provided and each participant will be offered a £10 voucher to thank them for taking part.

If you are interested in taking part in the Focus Group or cannot make it but would like to give your views, please email: penny.parker@equallives.org.uk or call **01508 491210** (Option 4) to book a place.

Summer and short breaks for disabled children



The sun has arrived and **referrals into the short breaks team have quadrupled over the last couple of weeks.**

This may be due to the tremendous success of individual budgets and families being able to choose and control how they support themselves and their disabled child/ren. It is also reflected in our data showing that more children are accessing **short breaks** than ever before.

However, this comes with a downside. Unfortunately this has led to a three-month backlog of applications and renewals for short breaks. Because of this, if you have applied for short breaks in the last four weeks, it is unlikely this will be actioned until after the summer holidays. **If this will cause serious difficulty, parents need to call the short breaks duty line on 01603 692455.**

To prevent this happening again, the county council is urgently looking at staffing levels and the way applications and renewals are processed in the short breaks team.

Short breaks recommissioning

Norfolk Children's Services is starting to work on what short breaks services should look like for disabled children from 2020 onwards.



This is when the current arrangements with our framework of providers and contract for the commissioned residential short breaks units will end.

These are exciting times because there is a shared commitment between health services and local authority services to start working more closely together.

Representatives from health bodies, local authority services alongside Family Voice Norfolk (parent carer strategic forum) sit on the project board. **It is important to us that we capture as many views as possible and look to see how we can continue the fantastic progress that has been made through the introduction of individual budgets.**

We are particularly keen to share information and get the views of providers and parent carers in the west of Norfolk so that we can co-produce the short breaks offer with them. We plan to set up an initial session early autumn to work on how we can make better use of provision in King's Lynn and enhance the offer for families in and around Downham Market and Thetford.

In the next SEND e-newsletter we will publish information about how you can feedback your views. Due to the significance of this activity **we will also to write to families who are on the Disabled Children's Register** so that they can assist us to shape our commissioning activity and progress towards more children and parent carers accessing short breaks services in Norfolk.

Direct payments



As some families may be aware, **there have been some changes to how the county council administers direct payments**, with some functions being transferred from Equal Lives to Norfolk County Council's Financial Exchequer Services. In the next couple of weeks, the county council will communicate with all families in receipt of direct payments. This is because **the county council wants to gather feedback about these changes and whether they have caused any issues as well as your views on how they could**

improve the service that supports parent carers and young people 16+ in administering their direct payment.

Please make your Personal Assistant aware that Equal Lives and Norfolk County Council are also seeking the views of Personal Assistants.

The following session has been organised which is open to all personal assistants, whether they support a disabled adult or a disabled child and we hope this will be well attended.

Personal Assistant (PA) Consultation

Thursday 26th July, 2-4pm at Equal Lives, Fox Road, Framingham Pigot, NR14 7PZ.

Each participant will be offered a £10 voucher for taking part and refreshments will also be provided.

To book your place please email hazel.simons@equallives.org.uk or call 01508 491210 by Friday 20th July.

A new website for Family Voice Norfolk

Family Voice Norfolk are the parent carer forum for Norfolk. They work with (not for) the local authority, health and social services to improve services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families.



They are not a support or information service, but communication is key to what they do. **They listen to the experiences and wishes of families and make sure that those views are heard by those providing services, at every stage of planning and decision-making.** Wherever possible, they aim to work in co-production.

They are an independent, voluntary organisation, funded by the Department for Education, Norfolk County Council and the five Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Norfolk.

You can find out much more (who they are, what they do and the projects they are working on) **if you visit their new website www.familyvoice.org.uk**

Independent Support (IS)



Independent Support (IS) is a national government initiative launched in January 2014. It is designed to help parents and young people through the Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment and planning process.

In Norfolk the IS service has been delivered by Scope and Norfolk SEND Partnership. Although nationally the IS service is finishing in July 2018, we are fortunate

that the Norfolk SEND Partnership Independent Support (IS) service is able to continue until end of March 2019.

Niamh Keane is working as an Independent Supporter service on a part time basis, Wednesday to Friday. The role is independent of the Local Authority and the advice is impartial and confidential.

The role of an Independent Supporter is to help young people and parents of children with SEND to take part effectively in the EHC needs assessment and planning process.

Independent Supporters can provide information, advice and support with:

- Requesting a needs assessment for EHC plan.
- The EHC needs assessment and planning process.
- EHC plans and personal budgets.
- Identifying other organisations, support groups and services that may be helpful.
- Making a complaint, seeking disagreement resolution or mediation.

If you would like more information about Independent Support call 01603 704070.

Your Voice forum

There is now an active Your Voice forum, giving young people aged 10–25 the chance to have their say on how the Local Offer for children and young people develops.

Following a successful trial at Cromer Junior School during the winter months, the Your Voice forum has visited the City of Norwich School (CNS) this summer.

We asked the young people four questions:

1. What friendly website address (url) should we give to the Local Offer for children and young people?
2. What picture should we have on the My home button instead of a key?
3. What types of jobs should we add information about in the My job section?
4. What information is missing from the Local Offer for children and young people?



The answers we got from the young people were really helpful. We went away to think them over.

After a few weeks, we returned to the CNS to tell the young people what we would be doing as a result of their feedback:

1. We have made a shortlist of three web addresses (urls) and are using a survey to ask a wider group of young people to choose the best.
2. We created several designs for the My home button based on their ideas and asked them to vote on their favourite (a house & keys).
3. We are continuing to work on adding more information about jobs during the summer.
4. We are creating new pages of information on the areas that were identified as gaps. New pages will be created over the summer.

When asked what they thought of the Your Voice forum, the young people agreed that they "**liked being involved**" in the development of the website.

If your school, college or group would like to give their views and be a part of the Your Voice forum, we would love to hear from you!

As a thank you and in recognition of their contribution, all young people who take part receive a Certificate of Participation.

To express your interest, simply email send@norfolk.gov.uk

Calling all young people - we need you to vote!



The Local Offer team are asking **children and young people to vote for their favourite website address** for the Local Offer for children and young people.

They have already asked young people at the City of Norwich School (as part of the Your Voice forum) to give their ideas and the Norfolk County Council web content team have also said what would work best. This has left three options which are now being put to the vote.

The website address with the most votes will be the one that is used in the future.

This survey will close on **31st August 2018**.

Two requests for articles from young people with SEND

1) The Local Offer team is keen to hear from children and young people who want to **tell others about their interest or hobby.**

We already have articles from two local young people on the [Things I like to do](#) page but it would be great to have more!

Simply send your articles with a photo to send@norfolk.gov.uk



2) My Future Choices magazine is **looking for 16–25 year olds to submit articles for the next issue of My Future Choices.**

In previous issues, young people have written articles on a broad range of topics including: education, employment, health, positive activities, and politics. You can see the previous edition [here](#).

If you know a young person who would like to write an article or share a story, here's what they need to do:

1. Read the [latest issue](#) of My Future Choices to see the type of articles that they include.
2. E-mail My Future Choices on tin@ncb.org.uk to say you are interested in writing.
3. E-mail your article to tin@ncb.org.uk **by 30th August 2018.**

In your e-mail please say:

- What you would like to write about.
- How many words you think your article will be (most articles are between 250 and 500 words).

They can't wait to receive the articles!

Summer holiday fun



Check out the [Local Offer Things to do](#) page for events and activities specifically aimed at children and young people with SEND during the summer holidays.

Here is a little taster:

Therapeutic Day Camp at Dandelion Nursery – 30 July to 31 August

ASD Helping Hands Teen Activity Week – 13–17 August

Suffolk Owl Sanctuary free open day for deaf visitors

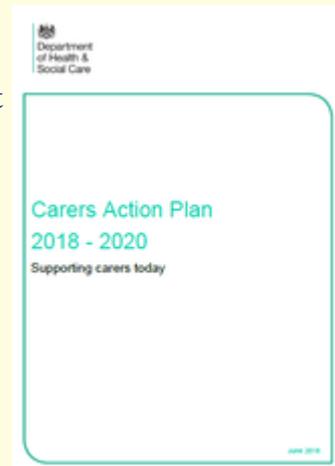
– 30 August

You can also search for [Things to do on the Norfolk Community Directory](#).

New Carers Action Plan 2018–2020

The [Carers Action Plan 2018-2020](#) that was published in June 2018 demonstrates the Government's commitment to carers. It has been signed by Ministers from six Government offices:

- Department of Health and Social Care
- Government Equalities Office
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Department for Education



The Action Plan sets out practical actions they plan to take over the next two years working together across government and with partners beyond government across five themes:

1. Services and systems that work for carers.
2. Employment and financial wellbeing.
3. Supporting young carers.
4. Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society.
5. Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers.

Actions of particular note are:

1.12 to 1.14 which support carers to benefit fully from the support, information and advice they are entitled to under the requirements of the 2014 Care Act and the 2014 Children and Families Act.

3.5 focuses on young carers' educational opportunities & outcomes.

3.9 which is about support for young adult carers to enable positive transitions between the ages of 16 and 24.

4.7 is concerned with improving provision of Changing Places toilets in healthcare settings.

4.12 confirms DfE grant support for Parent Carer Forums will continue up until March 2020.

4.13 a public mental health campaign to help people become better informed about mental health using a series of videos to support and encourage self-help and support of others.

Able2B - disability fitness/boxercise classes



Able2B has received funding from local business Clearwater Anglia Ltd to developing a series of fitness/boxercise and motivational classes **for children and adults with physical disabilities** run by Jon Thaxton and Rachael Hutchinson. The initiative **aims to help people with a physical disability optimise their aerobic fitness and**

muscle strength and improve their concentration and self confidence in a fun way.

The classes are unique in that they offer the opportunity for all levels of physical disability to participate (including wheelchair users) alongside their able-bodied peer group.

Jon Thaxton has many years of experience as both a boxer and trainer. Jon understands how to get the most out of training and also how to motivate people to reach their goals and believe in their abilities.

Rachael Hutchinson was an Orthopaedic Surgeon in Norwich for nearly 10 years, treating children and adults with physical disability and neuromuscular problems. Rachael can identify how an individual can benefit most from the classes; identifying the areas to work on and the challenges that may arise for each individual.

How would the initiative work?

Able2B is offering **free lunchtime or afterschool classes to Norfolk secondary schools**, building to further classes if successful and adequate further funding can be achieved. **Each participating school would be asked to identify pupils at the school with a physical disability.** They would also be asked to invite their feeder primary schools or associated high schools to bring along their children with physical disability too.

Each child would bring a friend or other school member to participate in the session. The class would be run as an exercise session, incorporating boxercise and adapted circuit techniques whilst also acting as a motivational class session to help build self-esteem and confidence for all involved.

The sessions can also be used to assess each child individually and help advise at school the best ways to make physical activities work for that child past the class that we do.

What are the benefits?

- The child with disability sees what they can achieve and what their full potential might be.
- The able-bodied peer group sees that a person with a disability is no different to them but just sometimes needs to do things in a different way.
- Teachers and support helpers at schools learn how to include their children with disability in sessions by providing practical advice and on-going practical support if required to be sure the child's full potential is being reached.
- Able2B is able to promote their wider activities so that children and families can choose to participate regularly if they wish.

When does the initiative start?

The initiative will run for the school year Sept 2018 to July 2019.

How can I find out more?

If your school and pupils are interested in arranging a session and discussing the proposal in more detail and how it may work for your school, please contact Rachael Hutchinson, Founder and Director at info@Able2B.co.uk

Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers speech and language therapy in Norfolk

The local authority and NHS Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Groups, together with East Coast Community Healthcare (ECCH), the Service provider of Norfolk's Speech and Language Therapy Service for children and young people, have been invited back

to the Norfolk Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) meeting on 12th July to provide an update on previous Reports (of 7th September 2017 and 5th April 2018).

Both commissioners and ECCH want to ensure the best service possible for Norfolk for the funding available. Therefore the commissioners of the integrated service have authorised **an independent review of the current need and provision for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs in Norfolk**. This has been led by **Better Communication CIC**, a not-for-profit community interest company who support change for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs and **the HOSC Report also outlines the emerging themes from the independent review**.

Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG separately commissioned the Speech and Language Therapy Health Service for children and young people in Great Yarmouth and Waveney and will attend HOSC with ECCH to provide an update on their Service.

The HOSC Report is contained within the published agenda document pack available [here](#).

New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network update



On 21st June the New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network hosted a visit from Nadhim Zahawi, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families at The Wherry School in Norwich.

The specialist school for children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders also falls within the Norwich Opportunity Area – a Department for Education-led network of local partners collaborating on activities to increase social mobility in Norwich.

The Minister visited to find out the impact that the work of the New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network is having on the school and the Norwich Opportunity Area, as well as how local employers are engaging with schools in the region.

Mr Zahawi met the senior leadership team from the school before meeting representatives from the Careers and Enterprise Company and Norfolk County Council, key partners of the New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network. He also met representatives from Adecco, one of the six ‘Cornerstone Employers’ in the Norwich Opportunity Area.

Students gave a presentation to the Minister about autism and talked about what they had learnt from the employers who had visited the school. These included the **RAF**, their Enterprise Adviser Tom Barber of **Spicule Data**, **Adecco** and **Norwich City Football Club**. The students then got the chance to tell Mr Zahawi their own ambitions for the future before asking him some questions about his role.

Principal Rachel Quick said *“The children found the whole experience daunting, challenging and exciting in equal measure. Our over-riding desire is to allow our children to leave school confident about their own abilities and able to live successful independent lives. The support we are receiving from local Opportunity Area officers and advisers, even so early into the story of our school, will strengthen our children and young people’s confidence about their own futures.”*

The New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network recruits senior business leaders to work voluntarily with schools, supporting them to develop and enhance their business engagement plans. [Find out more about the Enterprise Adviser Network](#)

Annual health checks

The Annual Health Check scheme aims to prevent people with learning disabilities having poorer physical and mental health than other people.

The scheme is available for young people aged 14+ and all adults who have a learning disability.

The [Annual Health Check](#) scheme gives the GP an opportunity to check:

- if more health support is needed.
- for treatable health conditions.

People with learning difficulties should automatically be invited by their GP practice to come for an Annual Health Check.

During the health check, the GP or practice nurse will carry out the following for the patient:

- a general physical examination, including checking their weight, heart rate, blood pressure and taking blood and urine samples.
- assessing the patient's behaviour, including asking questions about their lifestyle, and mental health.
- a check for epilepsy.
- a check on any prescribed medicines the patient is currently taking.
- a check on whether any chronic illnesses, such as asthma or diabetes, are being well managed.

- a review of any arrangements with other health professionals, such as physiotherapists or speech therapists.

If the person's learning disability has a specific cause, the GP or practice nurse will often do extra tests for particular health risks.

The Annual Health Check may also be a good opportunity to review any transitional arrangements that take place when the patient turns 18.

The GP or practice nurse will also provide the patient with any relevant health information, such as advice on healthy eating, exercise, contraception or stop smoking support.

If you would like to submit an article for this newsletter, please get in touch send@norfolk.gov.uk