

SENDIASS West Northants Information Bulletin Issue 6

In our Information Bulletins we will focus on two topics and provide key information and useful links to services and documents. We will also share news stories from the team and highlight Parent Support Groups within West Northants.

Topic 1: Applying for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

An Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support. EHC plans identify Educational, Health and Social Needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs.

There are two different routes to Request for an EHC Plan – also known as Request for Statutory Assessment (RSA) or Parental Request for Statutory Assessment (PRSA). General information about how to apply, links for these forms and updates from the EHC team can be found [here](#).

Route 1: RSA

An RSA can be completed by Educational Professionals, with input from parents/carers using the RSA online form that can be found [here](#). You can upload your supporting evidence documents to the form, but if your file size is too large you may need to send it to the appropriate EHC team using a secure email and referencing your form ID number. If your home address is Daventry or South Northants then you would email to ehcdav.ncc@westnorthants.gov.uk. If your home address is Northampton then you would email ehcnorthampton.ncc@westnorthants.gov.uk.

Route 2: PRSA

A PRSA can be completed by parents/carers for their child if they are under 16 years old. If the Young Person is over 16, to conform to the SEND Code of Practice, applications must be completed by them. The PRSA form can be found [here](#). You may have supporting evidence to add to your request that you can attach within the online form. This evidence is likely to be letters and reports from medical and other professionals who have worked with or assessed your child. Once again in the file size is too large you can send an email to the appropriate EHC team as mentioned above. If you have any queries about this form or would like to talk this through, we can support you with this. So please feel free to contact us to arrange a call before you submit.

Useful links:

West Northants Council have created an 'at a glance' guide of the EHC Process that can be found [here](#).

We also have a document about the EHC Process that can be found [here](#). When it comes to writing parent views when completing a PRSA or RSA we have created a document of advice to support you which can be found [here](#).

Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (IPSEA) are always a great resource for support, they have further guidance about asking for an EHC needs assessment that can be found [here](#). They also have information about what happens during the EHC needs assessment this can be found [here](#). IPSEA have also created an EHC plan checklist that can be found [here](#).

Topic 2: Choosing a School

Choosing a setting for your child is an important decision to ensure that they get the best out of their education, and one that many parents find difficult. When choosing a school, there are different things to think about which may or may not have an impact on its suitability for your child. The best way to determine their suitability is by finding out as much information as possible about the school and making your own judgement about it.

One parent's idea of what makes a school ideal, can be very different to another parent. You wouldn't want to choose one setting because someone said you should, without having a look first! There will be things you might not be able to see in a physical visit to the setting. These could be seen in different reports (an Ofsted report, SEN Information report, exam results tables, or transport details etc) - it's all about what is important to you and your child.

The transfer from primary to secondary education is particularly important for children with an EHC Plan and it is necessary for parents to plan well ahead for secondary transfer.

The process of deciding on a school for your child, whether it be a mainstream or special school, can seem daunting, but starting your preparation and planning early can help you make a well-informed choice. There will usually be a discussion about school preference for Secondary school at the Annual Review in Year 5 with the plan having to be finalised by February 15th of Year 6.

Useful links:

SEND schools and SEND unit provisions can be found within the Local Offer's directory, which are regularly updated. SEND schools can be found [here](#). SEND units and resources provisions can be found [here](#).

Choosing a school for your child can be a difficult process for parents, especially if your child has special educational needs. We have created a document of questions to consider, this can be found [here](#).

When thinking about secondary schools we also have a checklist of things to consider, particularly if your child has Autism. This can be found [here](#).

You may wonder what to consider ahead of a school visit, we have created a list of what this could include this can be found [here](#).

We have a checklist when visiting a specialist provision that can be found [here](#).

SENDIASS News:

Our team:

We are now back to a fully staffed team; Eve joined us last month as one of our caseworkers. She has been shadowing the rest of the team on our adviceline and with some of our cases so far and will soon be on our adviceline supporting families. Our team now consists of our manager Nikki, our administrator Carmel, our Officer Zoe and our four caseworkers Caitlin, Eve, Claire and Sally.



Parent Support Group Highlight – The Down Syndrome Group Northamptonshire (DSGN):

Who Are We:

DSGN is a local charity that supports families and friends in the community who have a connection to people with Down Syndrome.

The purpose of the charity is to support families who have a connection with Down Syndrome, bringing these families together to offer advice, share experiences, and learn from each other. The charity is run by people with direct experience of Down Syndrome, in most cases parents. The charity:

- Encourages the sharing of experiences
- Provides information
- Offers support
- Organises a social calendar of events
- Fundraises

Baby Babble Group

This group is for children with Down Syndrome from birth to pre-school. This group meets monthly on a Friday from 12pm to 1:15pm, at Hardingstone Village Hall.

The occupational therapist and speech and language therapist chat with each parent and do a mini review of the child to provide input and advice. Feedback is aimed at promoting the child's development in motor, sensory processing, self-care, feeding, oral placement and speech and communication skills.

Targets are developed in collaboration with the parent and monitored by the therapists. These informal sessions also allow parents to have a coffee and chat with each other while their children play.

Portage workers, educators, teaching assistants and other professionals working with a child attending the group are welcome to come along and share their knowledge and targets for the child in order to ensure consistency and collaborative, multidisciplinary working.

For more information about the Baby Babble group, please phone Vanessa Jones on 07774 792276, or email NDSGN007@yahoo.co.uk.

To contact DSGN their phone number is 01604 786320. Their Facebook page can be found [here](#).



Down Syndrome Group Northamptonshire

✉ SENDIASS@westnorthants.gov.uk
f Sendiass West Northants
@sendiasswestnorthants
@SENDIASSWNC
0300 126 1039
www.lassnorthants.co.uk

SEND
IAS
West Northants
Information
Advice
Support
Service