

newsletter May 2025



The Short Breaks service is undergoing changes and rolling out the new Circle of Support model. Family Voice Norfolk have been working together with the High Needs commissioners to host two webinars on the changes, these were still being worked on but were finalised and brought forward to alleviate concerns that families were raising.

With 80 families attending over the two sessions, lots of information was shared, and discussions around what the changes would mean for families who are receiving Short Breaks was had. The commissioners stated that although changes were being made, it was not about cutting the level of support a child was receiving.

Members of the Family Voice Norfolk Parent Carer Reps team meet regularly with the high needs commissioners and members from the Short Breaks team to feedback about any issues families have on applying for Short Breaks and using the service. We always welcome your <u>feedback</u> as your voice does really matter and can help to influence change.

Please see below for more details.



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To read an article that interests you click on the blue writing of the title (under 'In this issue' above) and it will take you straight to the article.





Norfolk County Council Short Breaks

Presentation on the Circle of Support





Norfolk County Council Short Breaks- presentation on the Circle of Support and list of approved Short Breaks providers

During the webinars a PowerPoint presentation on the new Circle of Support model was shared, click here if you would like to view it.

The list of approved Short Break providers on the new framework has been published please click <u>here.</u>

As always, the High needs commissioners would like to hear from you if you have any specific queries after you have watched the presentation their email is highneedscommissioning@norfolk.gov.uk

Click here if you would like to know more about Short Breaks





NNPCF Responds to Media Reports on EHCP Reductions and SEND Reforms

The National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) is aware of recent media coverage concerning potential reductions in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

As the national voice of parent carer forums in England, the NNPCF has been actively engaged in a range of roundtable discussions and informal conversations with partners across Education, Health, and Social Care regarding the ongoing SEND challenges.

We fully acknowledge the current challenges within the SEND system. Too often, families are forced to fight for an EHCP in order to access support and targeted provision that should be available without the need for a statutory plan. This has a profound and lasting impact on families — from the ability of parents to work due to low attendance or part-time timetables, to high exclusion rates, increased medical appointments, and the compounded pressures of the rising cost of living.

We also recognise the concerns families have around proposed welfare benefit reforms, which could further impact their financial and emotional well-being.

The NNPCF supports the government's ambition for a more inclusive mainstream education system — one where children and young people with SEND receive the support they need without having to navigate a complex and adversarial process. However, we firmly believe that any system MUST include strong mechanisms for accountability and redress to ensure it delivers for all children and young people with SEND.

While reforms aim to build a better system for future generations, it is essential that the new system also addresses the needs of those currently navigating it — many of whom have already been let down or traumatised by the existing framework. Rebuilding trust must be a priority.

Any changes MUST be supported by a robust implementation plan, underpinned by sufficient funding and a skilled, well-trained workforce.

The NNPCF continues to advocate strongly for meaningful and wide-ranging engagement with families. Families must be central to shaping and implementing reforms — their voices must be heard, and their lived experiences must guide the development of a system that works for all.



NAVIGATING PARENTHOOD



An examination of Psychological Flexibility and Quality of Life in parents of autistic children.

I am a Trainee Clinical Psychologist at the University of Leicester looking to hear from parents of autistic children. (Without a co-occurring learning disability)



Win one of 15 £20 vouchers! Enter your email at the end of the questionnaires to be entered into the prize draw.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED



WHAT'S INVOLVED?

If you choose to take part, you will be asked to complete a few short surveys surrounding parenting, stressors, your coping styles, flexibility of thinking and your quality of life. It is estimated this will take around 25 minutes to complete.

DO YOU....



Identify as a primary caregiver of an autistic child (between 3 – 17) then we would love to hear from you!

If you have any questions or would like to hear more information about this project, please contact Emily Hancox (Trainee Clinical Psychologist).

Eh347@leicester.ac.uk

The link for the survey is:

The link for the survey is: https://tinyurl.com/mr267p2y



Navigating parenthood- an examination of psychological flexibility and quality of life in parents of autistic children

Are you a parent of an autistic child between the ages of 3 and 17 (without a co-occurring learning disability). We invite you to take part in a research project aimed at understanding and improving quality of life for parents like you.

This project is being conducted by a Trainee Clinical Psychologist at the University of Leicester; this study focuses on the unique challenges faced by parents of autistic children.

The study involves completing a 25-minute online survey where you will be asked questions about your experiences, challenges, and coping mechanisms as a parent of an autistic child.

At the end of the questionnaires, you will be asked if you would like to take part in a prize draw. If you wish to be entered, you will be prompted to enter an email address. This

information will be kept separate from your data. The prize draw is to win one of the 15 youchers at £20 each.

If you are interested, follow the <u>link</u>, or scan the QR code to learn more about and complete the survey. Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions or would like to hear more information about this project, please click <u>here</u> to contact Emily Hancox (Trainee Clinical Psychologist).





Speech and Language Service Family Feedback Survey

As part of our commitment to delivering high-quality services, we are reviewing the provision of Speech and Language Therapy.

As families - we value your feedback and would love to hear about your experience of the Local Authority commissioned Speech and Language Service through Cambridgeshire Community Service (CCS). Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey. Your responses will help us improve the support for families like yours. If you require this survey in another language, please contact emily.lown@norfolk.gov.uk

To access the survey click <u>here</u>, and we would appreciate receiving your response no later than **Monday 2nd June**.





Norfolk Parent Carer Needs Assessment Service

Kids will be offering the following support to families:

- Bespoke workshops providing information on behaviour, sleep, resilience, Intro to Lego therapy and Sensory needs.
- The 'Healthy Parent Carer' programme, designed to reinforce parent carers' resilience. This programme aims to improve health and wellbeing among parents of children with additional needs and disabilities through:
 - Promoting greater empowerment, resilience and confidence of parent carers;
 - Taking small steps that are associated with better health and wellbeing;
 - Encouraging setting achievable goals and taking a problem-solving approach.
- 'Riding the Rapids' programme to support parent carers' understanding of behaviour and implement support strategies. The course enables parents to understand their child's behaviour in the context of their additional needs, and apply strategies to support positive behaviours. It also helps parents to develop stress management strategies and confidence in managing their child's behaviour. The course is collaborative, so that parents develop tools they can take with them and continue to apply once the intervention is complete. Riding the Rapids differs from other parenting groups as it is applicable to children with a range of disabilities, and has been adapted to meet the needs of particular groups of children with additional needs.
- · Coffee mornings and drop-in sessions
- · One-to-one support



KIDS- New parent carer needs assessment service

Introducing Kids Norfolk.

Kids have been successful in being commissioned to deliver the parent carer needs assessment service in Norfolk.

The service was previously delivered by Norfolk Carers Matter.

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Coffee mornings and drop-in sessions

One-to-one support

This service is available to parents looking after children under 18 who have disabilities or additional needs.

How to ask for a Parent Carer Needs Assessment

Contact Norfolk County Council to ask for a Parent Carer Needs Assessment. You can:

Call 0344 800 8020 or

<u>Visit the Early help for children and families</u> webpage and select "Request early help" to fill out the online form or

Speak to your child's allocated worker, if they have one.

For further information about KIDS click here



Healthy Parent Carers

Improving parent carers' health and wellbeing

Are you a parent carer of a child with additional needs or disabilty?

'Healthy Parent Carers' is a 6 week online group-based, programme. Each session lasts 2 hours.

Course Information

Wed 4th June 2025 (Potential start date) 10am - 12pm online for 6 weeks

Contact us for more information and to book your place: sally.macgregor@kids.org.uk















Contact us for more information and to book your place:

sally.macgregor@kids.org.uk

Kids.org.uk









Healthy parent carers course and behaviour workshop hosted by Kids

Healthy parent carers is a resilience-based program to help improve parent carers wellbeing. The online programme is a brilliant opportunity to meet other parent carers, make connections and get support from parents with lived experience. On Wednesday 4th June (potential start date) 10am -12pm for 6 weeks.

Kids Behaviour workshop is a chance to learn about Autism, ADHD, Demand Avoidance and Behaviour that Challenges. The online workshop has been created to be supportive to

parents and carers whilst providing strategies to help support their children and young people. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers with similar experiences. On Monday 23rd June 10-12pm.

For more details and to book click here to email Sally



CARE FOR CARERS

Carers Group Support Association

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG



"Carers Information Day"

Organised by Care for Carers with

Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

at

The Norwich Forum

Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1TF

Monday June 9th - 9.00am - 3.00pm

Come along and meet people who will offer Help, Information, and Advice for:
Carers, Young Carers, Ex-Carers,
Older People, the Lonely,
and anyone with a problem

For more information call: Care for Carers - 0300 777 8880

Or

Email: info@careforcarers.org.uk www.careforcarers.org.uk

People requiring Norwich Door to Door community transport services, call 01603 776735, or email bookings@norwichdoortodoor.org.uk to book transport in advance of the event

Care for Carers- Carers information day June 9th at the Forum in Norwich

One of our Family Voice Norfolk Ambassadors Kirsty, will be attending this useful event. Please go and have a chat with her and tell her what's working well for you and your family at the moment and whats not working so well. Your voice really does matter to us!

Care for carers information day is back again at the Forum in Norwich, Millenium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1TF on Monday June 9th 9am till 3pm.

Come along and meet people who will offer

Help, information, and advice for:

Carers, Young carers, Ex carers, Older people, the lonely, and anyone with a problem.

For more information call:03007778880

or email: info@careforcarers.org.uk

People requiring Norwich door to door community transport services, call 01603776735 or email bookings@norwichdoortodoor.org.uk to book transport in advance of the day.

Click here to go to the Care for Carers website



Kooth Talks- How to support your child to manage change when moving up to secondary school webinar on June 9th and June 11th

Congratulations on your child starting secondary school! Join us on this 30 minute webinar where we'll look at the strengths, challenges and why providing adequate support during this period is crucial.

The webinar will cover:

- Coming to the end of primary school
- Common thoughts and feelings young people may have
- Ways to help them cope
- Information about the Kooth platform for ongoing support

Monday 9th June, 6pm-6:30pm

Wednesday 11th June, 6pm- 6:30pm

Can't attend? We can share guidance on this topic and will include you in the follow up just click the green button below to register your interest.

Click here for more details about the managing change when moving up to secondary school and to book a place on the webinar

Kooth Talks- Helping young people stay safe on smartphones and online- webinar on July 23rd and July 24th

In light of the recent series shown on Netflix - Adolescence and the need to educate young people about the pressures and the content they can view online, Kooth are offering parents and carers this 30 minute webinar covering how you can encourage them to think about how they spend their time on social media platforms and how they can get help to deal with similar situations that they may find themselves in.

The webinar will cover:

- Young people online
- Social media, the law, the pros and cons
- Smartphone safety
- What parents can do to support their children
- How our platforms can help

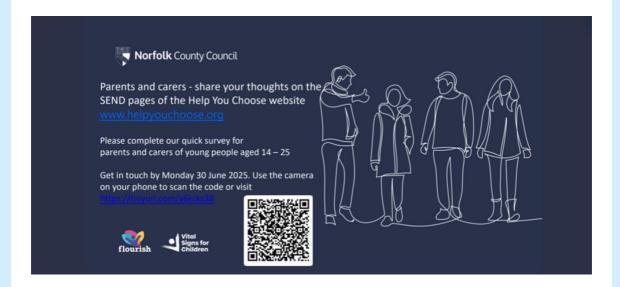
Wednesday 23rd July, 6pm-6:30pm

Thursday 24th July, 6pm- 6:30pm

Can't attend? We can share guidance on this topic and will include you in the follow up just click the green button below to register your interest.

Click here for more details about The staying safe online webinar and to book a place





Help You Choose - please share your thoughts on the SEND pages of the website

Help You Choose is Norfolk County Council's information, advice and opportunities website for young people in Norfolk aged 14 to 19 (25 with SEND). The website also has lots of information and resources for parents/carers and professionals supporting young people as they consider their next steps in education, employment or training. We are seeking the views of parents/carers about the SEND pages of the website and would love to hear your thoughts. Please see the flyer to scan the QR code, or click the green button below to access the quick survey.

The closing date has been extended to the 30th of June 2025.

To access the quick survey for parent carers click here

To access the survey for young people click here

Click here to go to the Help You Choose website







Working Well Norfolk



Working Well Norfolk - supporting Norfolk residents age 16+ to get into work

Working Well Norfolk is an employment support service for people with a long term physical or mild to moderate mental health condition (such as anxiety, low mood, or depression).

It can help you on your journey to move into and stay in work. So, whether you are out of work and want to find a job, or are already employed but struggling in the workplace, or are off long term sick but wanting to return, our dedicated employment specialists are here to support you through one to one advice and coaching.

You can refer yourself into the service (you don't need any formal diagnosis of your health condition).

Click here for a PowerPoint on Working Well Norfolk where you can find out more information and refer someone





A statutory, free, confidential and impartial service. Our staff are independently trained to provide legally based, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) advice around education, as well as health and social care where it impacts on education for children and young people 0-25 and their parent/carers.



CONTACT US

- 0
- 01603 704070

norfolksendiass@norfolk.gov.uk



www.norfolksendiass.org.uk







What do we offer?

- Telephone appointments
- One off face to face support
- Casework
- · Information booklets and resources
- · Bitesize video training resources
- Monthly e-newsletter
- Norfolk SEND Youth Forum
- Information and advice for professionals
- · Outreach at local events
- Library drop-ins across the County

What do we help with?

- SEN support
- Tribunal process
- EHCP process
- EHCP Annual Review
- Suspensions and exclusions
- Complaints
- Early years provison
- · POST 16 provision
- Disability Discrimination
- · Home to school transport
- Finding a school
- · Preparing for a meeting

Visit our website to book an appointment and subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter

Norfolk SENDIASS- Who are we?

A statutory, free, confidential and impartial service. Our staff are independently trained to provide legally based, special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) advice around education, as well as health and social care where it impacts on education for children, young people 0-25 and their parents and carers.

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- Preparing for a meeting

Contact us on 01603 704070 or email

Visit the SENDIASS website by clicking here to book an appointment and subscribe to their monthly newsletter



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum-have your voice heard!

Norfolk SEND Youth Forum is an opportunity for young people to share their experiences and work together to improve services for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

You can join the Youth Forum and participate in regular online and in person meetings, take part in outreach events and social outings.

The SEND Youth Forum invites all young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND), in Norfolk, to register and join. If you are 11 – 25 years, and have something to say, we would like to hear from you to share your views and experiences and create change!

For more information click here.

Click here to register your interest in joining the Youth Forum



Norfolk SENDIASS Spotlight May 2025

In this months edition:

- SENDIASS update
- Signposting
- Educational Setting not providing the provision detailed in an EHCP
- SENDIASS Team Spotlight
- Norfolk SEND Youth Forum update
- Engagement and Advice workers
- Book Recommendations Speech and language
- Help You Choose SEND survey for parents & carers of young people aged 14 25
- LPA and Deputyship Information session

Click here to read the SENDIASS May Spotlight

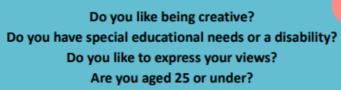






Voices Through Art





Come join us for these FREE and FUN sessions.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Timings</u>	
Friday 25th July	Kings Lynn Library	10am-11.30am	
Friday 25th July	Dereham Library	2pm-3.30pm	
Thursday 31st July	Diss Library	10am-11.30am	
Tuesday 29th July	Cromer Library	10.30am-12pm	
Thursday 31st July	Long Stratton Library	1.30pm-3pm	
Monday 11th August	Millenium Library	2pm-3.30pm	
Wednesday 13th August	Gorleston Library	10.30am-12pm	
Thursday 28th August	Hellesdon Library	2pm-3.30pm	
Friday 29th August	Online group	2pm-3.30pm	

To book on please email: csparticipation@ norfolk.gov.uk or call 01603 303378





Meet the team

Amy & Laura

Voices Through Art On Tour!

Do you like being creative?
Do you have special educational needs or a disability?
Do you like to express your views?
Are you aged 25 or under?
Come join us for these FREE and FUN sessions.

Friday 25th July Kings Lynn Library 10-11:30am for more dates in King's Lynn click here.

Friday 25th July Dereham Library 2pm- 3:30pm

Thursday 31st July Diss Library 10am- 11:30am

Tuesday 29th July Cromer Library 10-11:30am for more dates in Cromer click here.

Thursday 31st July Long Stratton Library 1:30pm-3pm

Monday 11th August Millenium Library 2pm- 3:30pm For more dates in Norwich click here.

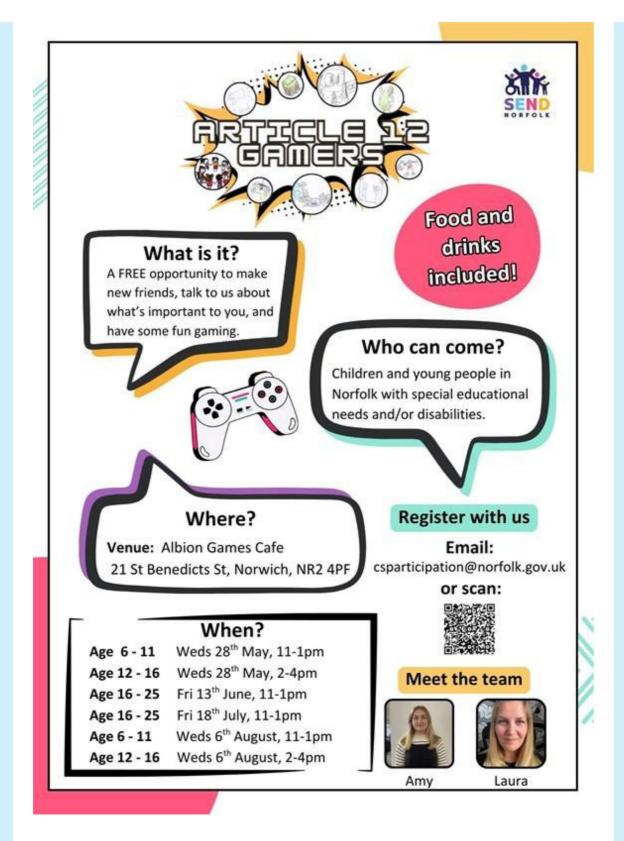
Wednesday 13th August Gorleston Library 10:30am-12pm

Thursday 28th August Hellesdon Library 2pm-3:30pm

Friday 29th August Online group 2pm-3:30pm

Meet Amy and Laura from the SEND Participation Team.

To book on email or call 01603303378



Article 12 gamers

A free opportunity to make new friends, talk to us about what's important to you, and have some fun gaming.

Food and drinks included.

For children and young people in Norfolk with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

At the Albion Games Cafe, 21 St. Benedicts street, Norwich NR2 4PF.

Age 16-25 Friday 18th July 11-1pm

Age 6-11 Wednesday 6th August 11-1pm

Age 12-16 Wednesday 6th August 2-4pm

Meet Amy and Laura from the SEND Participation Team.

To register email or call 01603303378



Emollients and Fire Safety Webinars!





Following the tragic deaths of several Norfolk residents where emollients and fire have been a factor, key agencies have been collaborating to support improved awareness and training across the Norfolk and Waveney workforce.



Although this work has had a focus for people with a learning disability, the risk of emollients and fire risk is applicable to all who receive care, especially those with cognitive impairments.



We hope this training will increase knowledge and awareness, improve practice and reduce the risk of injury, serious harm and death amongst our most vulnerable populations.



The webinar will be run multiple times; to provide maximum flexibility for colleagues to attend and we would strongly encourage as many staff as possible joining us to get updated on this important topic.



This will be a Teams Webinar lasting approximately one hour and is suitable for any health or care professional or family/parent carer in Norfolk and Waveney.

You can book using the Microsoft Office Form here
or by scanning the QR code.
If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact nwicb.leder@nhs.net.



Emollients and fire safety webinars -from Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System

Following the tragic deaths of several Norfolk residents where emollients and fire have been a factor, key agencies have been collaborating to support improved awareness and training across the Norfolk and Waveney workforce.

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This will be a Teams Webinar lasting approximately one hour and is suitable for any health or care professional or family/parent carer in Norfolk and Waveney.

We will be running 6 sessions across 3 weeks which occur on different days and at different times to try and maximise the opportunities for people to attend. The dates and times are below and can be booked via a Microsoft Office Forms.

- Monday 23rd June 13.00 to 14.00
- Friday 27th June 11.00 to 12.00
- Tuesday 1st July 12.00 to 13.00
- Thursday 3rd July 16.00 to 17.00
- Monday 7th July 15.00 to 16.00
- Wednesday 9th July 9.00 to 10.00

You can book using the Microsoft Office Form here or by scanning the QR code. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact nwicb.leder@nhs.net.



Become a parent champion-training in Long Stratton

Would you like to help parents and carers in your community?

Becoming a Parent Champion means you can meet new people, learn new skills, gain confidence, and give something back to the local community.

Training Available.

Monday 9 June 2025, 9.30am-4pm Long Stratton Early Childhood and Family Service Base 6 Manor Road, Long Stratton, NR15 2XR

Lunch and refreshments provided. Travel costs reimbursed.

To register your interest email: or visit our website: for more information.



Family Fund grants- Your Opportunity programme

National charity Family Fund has grants available for families living in the UK raising a disabled or seriously ill young adult, and living on a low income.

If you're the parent or carer of a disabled adult, aged 18 to 24, who lives at home with you, you may be eligible for a grant from the <u>Your Opportunity programme</u>.

Grants range from digital devices, membership to a club, sports equipment, education materials, or even a musical instrument – whatever is needed the most.

The quickest way to apply is online. You can also download a paper application or request for one to be sent to you from Family Fund website.

For more details of the support the Family Fund can offer please click here



Norfolk SEN Network Coffee Morning 4th July 2025

Our next coffee morning will take place on Friday 4th July, 10am – 12 noon. At Portal House, 7B Alkmaar Way, Norwich, NR6 6BF.

We look forward to welcoming back speaker Samantha McCallum, Head of Statutory SEND, Norfolk County Council. Sam will be updating us on new SEN procedures starting from

September. If you would like to come along you can book a space <u>HERE</u>. Spaces are free and there will be tea/ coffee and cake made by our fabulous Development Worker Beckie! If you have a specific question you would like Sam to answer, please let us <u>know</u> in advance.

To find out more about Norfolk SEN Network click here



Where will you join us?



Chapel Break Village Hall, Norwich Starting Thursday 17th June, 10:30-11:30





The Old School Village Centre, Bradwell Starting Thursday 12th June 10:30-12:00





Massage

West Dereham Village Hall

Starting Tuesday 3rd June 10:30 -12:00

The Old School Village Centre, Bradwell Starting Saturday 14th June, 10:00-11:30

Sacred Heart Village Hall, North Walsham Starting Thursday 26th June 10:30 -12:00



www.homestartnorfolk.org/get-support



Home-Start Norfolk groups running across Norfolk in June 2025





Homestart groups in June- Where will you join us?

Baby PEEP - Bowthorpe

Where: Chapel Break Village Hall, Bowthorpe, NR5 9LG

Starting Tuesday 17th June, 10:30-11:30

Suitable for babies 0-crawling

Book your space: Email Sharon. Hearsum@homestartnorfolk.org or call 07860 832565

Babies On the Move-Little PEEP Group six-week course - Bradwell

Where: The Old School village Centre, 2 Green Ln, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth NR31 8QH

Starting Thursday 12th June, 10:30-12:00

Crawling - 2 years

Book your space: Email emma.cooke@homestartnorfolk.org or call 07860832549

Baby Massage

West Dereham

Where: West Dereham Village Hall, Church Rd, King's Lynn PE33 9RF

5-Week course starting Tuesday 3rd June, 10:30-12:00

Suitable for babies under 1

Book your space: Email claire.keron@homestartnorfolk.org or call 07860832556

Bradwell

Where: The Old School village Centre, 2 Green Ln, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth NR31 8QH

5-Week course starting Saturday 14th June, 10:00-11:30

Suitable for babies under 1

Book your space: Email claire.keron@homestartnorfolk.org or call 07860832556

North Walsham

Where: Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Norwich Road, North Walsham, NR28 9JP

5-Week course starting Thursday 26th June, 10:30-12:00

Suitable for babies under 1

Book your space: Email claire.keron@homestartnorfolk.org or call 07860832556

Click <u>here</u> for more details about the groups.

To join the new Home Start Norfolk FaceBook group click here





CEA card- allows a carer to go to the cinema for free when accompanying a CEA card holder

The UK Cinema Association (UKCA) and its members recognise that the effects of someone's disability might make it difficult or impossible to attend the cinema without being accompanied which is why the CEA Card (Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card) scheme has been developed. However, having a Card is not mandatory and being accompanied may not address all of the effects of a disability. Cinemas should continue to make reasonable adjustments for their disabled guests irrespective of whether or not they hold a Card.

Applying for a Card is straightforward. To be eligible, you must:

- be 5 years of age or older; and
- have a need to be accompanied in cinemas because of the effect of your disability.

The CEA Card Scheme has straightforward <u>eligibility criteria</u> and there are three ways to apply. Further guidance on the scheme is readily available if you contact us. Our aim is to make the Card application process as straightforward and inclusive as possible.

For more details and how to apply click here



Find your Apprenticeship at...



Come along to Norfolk's biggest Apprenticeships event!





Speak to 30 employers & training providers about apprenticeship opportunities.



Chat to real apprentices about their experiences Find out what apprenticeships are and if they're right for you

apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org

All About Apprenticeships event Wednesday 18th June 3:30pm-7pm at The Forum Norwich

Are you looking for an Apprenticeship?

All About Apprenticeships is Norfolks biggest Apprenticeships focused free event! Hosted by Apprenticeships Norfolk, part of Norfolk County Council- All About Apprenticeships brings together local apprenticeship employers and training providers under one roof so that you can hear about real opportunities available to you. With over 30 exhibitors confirmed in a huge range of sectors, there is something for everyone.

The event is completely free, so whether you're an individual looking for an apprenticeship, a parent, carer or teacher looking for more information, or you're considering doing an apprenticeship in the future, this is the place to be.

The event is completely free, and will be held in the Forum, Norwich on Wednesday 18th

June from 3.30pm-7pm.

Come along at any time and be greeted by our friendly and knowledgeable team. Will you be coming along? Let us know by clicking 'attending' to this event!

For more information about Apprenticeships Norfolk click here





Fees Fund- Fi's Enrichment Education Support (FEES) Fund

Do you know a child or young person aged between 7 – 25 who would benefit from taking part in an enrichment education activity but money in the family can't currently stretch to paying for the activity? Fees Fund might be able to help.

FEES Fund is a registered education charity set up in memory of Fiona (Fi) Braidwood. Fi died in a car accident in March 2016 just before her 18th Birthday. Her family and friends actively fundraise in her memory, and have set up the trust fund, which awards grants three times a year. Fi's love of learning, benefited greatly from the opportunity to take part in enrichment education support activities both in the community where she lived, and at the schools she attended.

Research shows there are many benefits for children and young people who take part in extracurricular activities. Such activities can result in improved education outcomes, the building of social and emotional skills and improved social inclusion particularly when children from disadvantaged backgrounds take part.

How to apply

FEES Fund provides grants to enable children and young to take part in extracurricular activities. FEES Fund grants have funded music lessons, swim camps, musical theatre opportunities, funding for outdoor adventure, scout-based activities, mountain biking, forest school activities, gardening, maths clubs, foreign travel and trips. FEES Fund pay grants directly to the enrichment activities providers, so it's important to tell us in the application where the activity will take place, the cost of the activity and a contact person in the organisation for FEES Fund trustees to liaise with around the payment of the grant.

Click here to go to the FEES Fund website



LPA AND DEPUTYSHIP INFORMATION SESSION

12 JUNE 2025 | 1PM - 2PM





To mark Carers Week, OPG is holding a free online information session for people with caring responsibilities.

If you help manage the finances or health of the person you care for, you may want to learn more about lasting powers of attorney (LPAs) and deputyship orders.

Join us to find out how to apply, how much it costs and what the role of an attorney or deputy involves.



Lasting powers of attorney (LPA) and Deputyshipfree online information session To mark carers week, the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is hosting a free online information session for people with caring responsibilities on **June the 12th 1pm to 2pm**.

If you help manage the finances or health of a person you care for, you may want to learn more about Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) and Deputyship orders.

Join us to find out how to apply, how much it costs and what the role of an attorney or deputy involves.

For more details and to book a place click here





The Sunflower Club- SEND friendly stay and play in Dickleburgh, Diss for ages 0-12 years

Sessions for families with children with additional needs/SEND (0-12 years) **Please note the age range has been extended.**

Sensory play, craft activities, construction resources, den building.

Sensory corner with fibre optic lights

Hot drinks for adults cold drinks for children

Monthly sessions in Dickleburgh Diss

Sessions are held on a Saturday afternoon 1:30-3:30pm

Please get in touch to book a place

£3 per family drinks included, siblings welcome

Click here to join the Sunflower club Facebook page

Click here to email the Sunflower Club and book a place





Carers Money Matters

Do you live in Norfolk and care for someone?

Are you worried about your or your family's finances?

Carer Money Matters can help you with energy bills and other money matters. We can help make sure you, and the people you care for, are getting everything you're entitled to.

We offer free advice on energy saving and energy debt. We can help you to get extra support from your energy supplier with things like meter readings, advance warning of supply interruptions, and how to save on cooking and heating.

You'll also get priority reconnection if your supply is interrupted. And we'll advise you on practical ways to reduce your energy bills that work for your individual circumstances. Call 0345 241 0954 or email carermoneymatters@caringtogether.org



Take action to stop cuts to Universal Credit to 16-21 year olds

Contact is a charity for families who have disabled children, whose aim is to support families, bring families together and help families take action for others. It is also the delivery partner of the Department of Education in supporting parent carer participation in England.

It supports the work of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF), working in partnership on national projects. As part of the NNPCF, Family Voice Norfolk is in receipt of support, advice and guidance from Contact. Whilst Family Voice Norfolk does not become involved in campaigning, we are happy to share the work that Contact is currently involved in.

This week Contact has launched a new campaign linked the proposal that, if implemented, would remove the health (LCWRA) element of Universal Credit for most young people aged

16 – 21 (question 11 of the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits Green Paper consultation).

Please do take action and email your MP.

Summary of Contact's position on removing the health (LCWRA) element of Universal Credit for most young people aged 16 – 21:

- This proposal would mean a huge drop in income of almost £100 per week for nearly 110,000[1] disabled young people aged 16 21, once they claim Universal Credit in their own right.
- It would have a devastating financial impact not only on young disabled people who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) but also on many disabled young people under 22s who are in education or low paid employment.
- This proposal pushes disabled young people and their families further into poverty and further away from employment.
- It is not a policy that should be implemented and is not a proposal that Contact could support in any way.

This proposal will cause yet more worry and stress for families. We therefore encourage concerned families to access advice from Contact's helpline. Freephone: 0808 808 3555 (Monday-Friday, 9.30am-5pm).

Click here for more details





The Sequal Trust -50 Years of Funding Communication Aids

We're a communication disability charity that aims to improve the quality of life for those living with severe learning disabilities, mobility issues and communication difficulties. We know that finding and funding the right electronic communication aid can be challenging and costly, so our dedicated team are here to help every step of the way. It doesn't matter if someone has incoherent speech or is completely non-verbal, when they become a member of The Sequal Trust, we will liaise with your assigned Speech and Language Therapist to ensure we provide the most suitable assistive technology such as an eye gaze, Grid Pad or Lightwriter.

For more information click here

Click here to watch a short video about 50 years of creating communication





BA (Hons) Additional Needs and Disabilities (Children and Young People)

Applications open for September 2025

Philosophy

For children and young people (aged 0-25 years) living with additional needs and disabilities to meet their full potential, they need skilled practitioners around them who are dedicated, professional and knowledgeable about this kind of work. With the right support, every child and young person should be enabled and empowered to make the best possible progress and life outcomes. Accordingly, the BA (Hons) Additional Needs and Disabilities (Children and Young People) degree has been developed to upskill practitioners so that they can help children and young people towards their life goals. The philosophy is that there is no such thing as normal, it is normal to be different, and this thread of thinking runs throughout the course. In a world where this is still a long way to go to ensure equal opportunities and inclusion in society of all, the course aims to help develop practitioners' knowledge, understanding and empathy in this complex line of work.

Course Aims

- 1. Lecturers and students working together as co-learners with the common goal of high-quality provision and reflective practice for children and young people (aged 0-25 years) living with additional needs and disabilities.
- 2. Throughout the programme students will be enabled to develop excellent transferable employability skills relevant to practice supporting additional needs and disabilities for children and young people.
- 3. The programme ethos is that students graduate with the ambition of doing 'everything they should and everything they can to improve outcomes... for children and young people'

living with additional needs and disabilities (SEND Code of Practice 2015, p5).

- 4. The programme will enable the development of knowledge, understanding and critical thought around practice.
- 5. Students will be encouraged to develop empathy, professional curiosity, and creativity in their approaches to working with children and young people living with additional needs and disabilities.
- 6. Lecturers and students will recognise the importance of, and work to promote, the independent voice and identity of children or young people living with additional needs and disabilities.

If you would like further information, please take a moment to fill in the following form:

Click here for more information



Craft and nature group for carer givers of anyone with ASD

Take a break, unwind, and get creative with nature. Connect with others and enjoy some well-deserved calm.

Dates & Times

19th June 12:00pm - 1:30pm 17th July 12:00pm - 1:30pm

The Discovery Centre, Columbia Way, King's Lynn PE30 2LA

In collaboration with Asperger East Anglia

To book or for more information please contact <u>thewildhubnorfolk@gmail.com</u> or <u>J.Saint-Laurent@asperger.org.uk</u>

For more details about Asperger East Anglia click here





New report calls for better support for people preparing for adulthood

Why this work is important

Every young person deserves the chance to live a good life, with the right support, at the right time, in a way that works for them. But too often, young people who draw on care and support and family and friend carers face a confusing and uncertain time when the young person reaches adulthood and starts accessing adult social care.

<u>At Think Local Act Personal (TLAP)</u>, we wanted to understand what matters most to young people and their loved ones during this time. We heard clearly that people want to stay in control, understand their rights, and have consistent, person-centred support. This report shares what we learned and what needs to change.

What we did

This work was co-produced from the start. We held online workshops with family and friend carers, listening to stories about what works and what doesn't. We used those insights to shape a national online survey, co-produced with members of the National Co-production Advisory Group.

We also spoke to people and organisations doing similar work, reviewed recent examples of good practice, and explored how self-directed support and person-centred planning are being used.



Assistance Dogs Travel Scheme on National Rail

At National Rail we want everyone to be able to access stations and trains.

We understand that some customers will be more confident travelling with a little extra support and information.

We welcome all trained assistance dogs on our services. We offer the Assistance Dogs Travel Scheme, supported by <u>Assistance Dogs (UK)</u>. The scheme aims to raise awareness of the needs of assistance dog owners among rail staff and customers.

How the Assistance Dog Travel Scheme works.

The scheme helps customers travel confidently with their assistance dogs.

You get a personal, highly visible and reusable Assistance Dog Under Seat card that either slots into the standard seat reservation holder on top of the seat (where these are available) or can be placed on the cushion on the seat next to yours. The card creates a 'protected space' for your dog and lets other customers know the seat and the space under it should be kept free.

If you need help getting on and off the train or finding your seat, ask the conductor or a member of station staff for assistance. For help planning your journey, contact Passenger Assist.

Apply for your card

If you would like an Assistance Dog Under Seat card sent direct to your home free of charge,

For more accessible train travel and facilities details click here



The Assist family friendly festival Saturday 14th June 2pm-7pm NR3

An inclusive family friendly festival on Saturday 14th June at our Hill Farm allotments site (Sprowston Road, Norwich) to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Assist Trust.

There will be inclusive dance and music workshops with No Limits Dance and Musical Keys, circus skills workshops with both The Oak circus centre and the Foolhardy Circus; different performances and a great local covers band to close the event. Plus a barbeque, pizzas, face painting, a raffle and some inclusive sports activities taking place too.

The event is free and open to everyone!
The Family Friendly Festival
At Heath Gardens, Hill Farm Allotments, Sprowston Road,
Norwich, NR3 4HY

For more details about the Assist trust click here





There's so much more to be done!

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with support needs?

We'd love to hear about your experiences with housing and independent living and what what the ideal options for your young person would be

Why?

- NDTi works with all local authorities in England to provide support and training on good Preparation for Adulthood.
- Young people with support needs and families have long said that supported housing is confusing and hard to access.
- The government has launched a new strategy to build more social housing, alongside an annual £1.6 billion fund for supported housing.

How?

Join our webinars this June — open to parents, carers, and young people across England. We want to hear about:

- · Your hopes for future housing options
- · What's important for young people with support needs when planning about housing
- Your experiences of getting information on housing for your son/daughter from school to adulthood

We're also speaking with local authorities to help shape better, more independent housing options.

- Join any regional webinar that suits you!
- Can't make it? Fill in our quick questionnaire your views matter!

When?

Tuesday 3rd June 2025, 10am-12pm - South-West region

Tuesday 3rd June 2025, 1pm-3pm - Yorkshire and Humber region

Thursday 5th June, 10am-12pm - South-East and East of England regions

Thursday 5th June, 1pm -3pm - London region

Tuesday 10th June 10am-12pm - West Midlands and East Midlands regions

Tuesday 10th June 1pm-3pm - North-East and North-West regions

Preparing for adulthood-housing and independent living webinars

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with support needs?

We'd love to hear about your experiences with housing and independent living and what the ideal options for your young person would be.

Why?

- National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) works with all local authorities in England to provide support and training on good Preparation for Adulthood.
- Young people with support needs and families have long said that supported housing is confusing and hard to access.
- The government has launched a new strategy to build more social housing, alongside an annual £1.6 billion fund for supported housing.

Join our webinars this June — open to parents, carers, and young people across England. We want to hear about:

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We're also speaking with local authorities to help shape better, more independent housing options.

Join any regional webinar that suits you! If you are unable to make the webinar date for your region please join the webinar / date that is most convenient for you.

Can't make it? <u>Fill in our quick questionnaire</u> – your views matter!

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Tuesday 10th June 10am-12pm - West Midlands and East Midlands regions

Tuesday 10th June 1pm-3pm - North-East and North-West regions

Click here to access the booking form







Norfolk Autism Partnership- Call for evidence: The Autism Act your views

The Autism Act 2009 Committee in the House of Lords is looking into how well the Autism Act 2009 and the Government's autism strategy are working.

As part of this, the Committee is holding a call for evidence asking for information and views from you. The call for evidence is open **until 2 June 2025**.

This is a great chance for us to make sure Norfolk's voice is heard. Whether you're an autistic person, a family member, or a professional, your experiences and ideas could help shape future support and services.

Anyone can submit evidence – it doesn't have to be long or complicated – and everything shared will help paint a clearer picture of what's needed.

Why it's important

This is a valuable chance for us to ensure that the voices of autistic people, families, and professionals in Norfolk are heard. Your insights and experiences can help shape future support and services.

How you can help:

Please consider submitting your views, whether individually or on behalf of your organisation. The process is straightforward, and even short submissions are welcomed.

The deadline for submissions is 2nd June 2025.

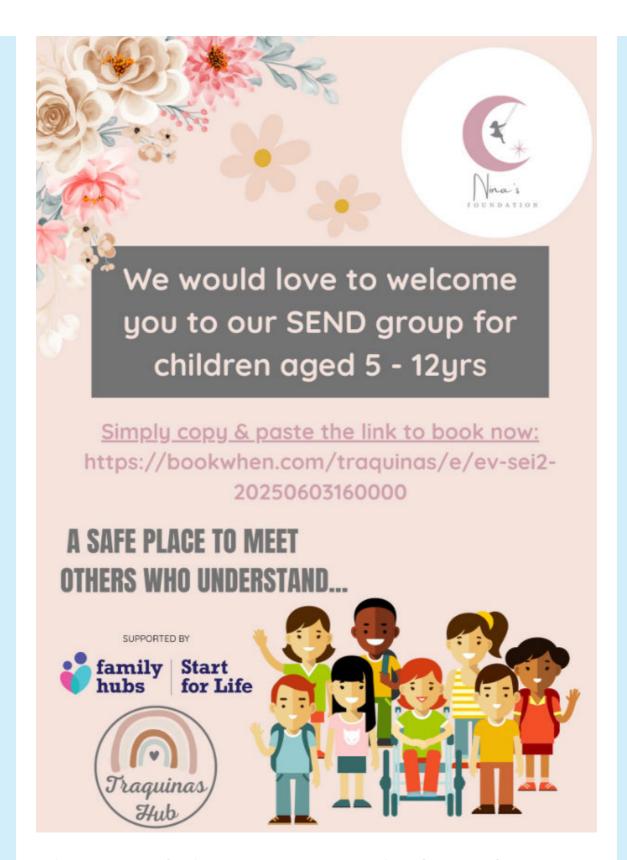
Click here for an introduction into The Call for Evidence. For more information click here.

For a video explaining more click here.

Click here for the Easy Read version

Click here to submit your evidence





Nina's Foundation-SEND groups in Thetford

This friendly SEND group is for parents and carers to come along with their children (aged 5–12) and connect with other families in a safe, welcoming space where everyone understands. It's a great opportunity to relax, share experiences, and enjoy a variety of fun activities together.

We're also excited to be in talks with Musical Keys, who may be joining us for some of the sessions to offer creative musical experiences.

Right now, the group is open to everyone, but we'll keep things under review and may introduce separate sessions based on age or needs if that works better for families.

This project has been partially funded by Norfolk County Council, whose support helps us offer this valuable space to families in our community.

Tuesday, 3rd June '25 4pm to 5pm Charles Burrell Centre, The Charles Burrell Centre Staniforth Road, Thetford, IP24 3LH

For more dates and times and how to book click here





Bluebird Deaf taster sessions- come and try waterskiing or wakeboarding

Come and try waterskiing or wakeboarding,

- Equipment rental included
- Friendly coaches to help you learn

£10 a ski

Tuesday 10th June 4pm onwards

Tuesday 19th of August 4pm onwards

At Costessey pits, Norwich NR8 5BE

Bluebird Deaf Waterski and Wakeboard Club is also holding two women and girls taster sessions this summer in partnership with British Water Ski & Wakeboard

These sessions will be held on:

- Tuesday 8th July from 4pm onwards
- Tuesday 5th August from 4pm onwards

Women and girls over the age of six are welcome to attend - no experience necessary! We have experienced coaches and drivers, newly refurbished changing facilities and provide a safe and fun environment for people to learn how to ski or wakeboard or get back on the water after some time off.

We will have snacks and goodie bags for participants and a discounted ski rate of £15 per ski.

To find out more click <u>here</u> for their Facebook page.

Click here to email to book a place





Magic Acorns sensory play for toddlers in Great Yarmouth

Magic Acorns provide sensory experiences for families living in Great Yarmouth with children age 0-3.

Who are sessions for?

Sessions are for children age 0-3 with SEND and/or neurodivergence, including families who might be considering or waiting on a diagnosis or referal. It's possible we might work with slightly older children.

What is Sensory Play?

Sensory Play provides a calmer environment for babies and toddlers who might find regular toddler groups tricky and there are more opportunities for 1-1 interaction with our specially trained artists.

Where and when do sessions run?

Every Tuesday 1.00 -3.30 in term time. Sessions take place at our dedicated Early Years arts centre, 2 Stonecutters Way.

Do I have to come every week?

You can come along to a one off session -you don't have to come every week

Can I just turn up?

Sessions are free but families need to book or be referred.

How many will be in a session?

There are a maximum of 5 families.

How do I find out more?

You can get in touch with us on Facebook or Instagram - Magic Acorns. Or click here to email.

To book places and find out what else Magic Acorns offer click here





Newsletter

If you would like to share our newsletter with friends, colleagues or other parents or professionals click here for a compressed PDF version.

There are so many ways you can get in touch with Family Voice Norfolk...

- You can contact our Membership Secretary Kate on 07950 302937 or at membership@familyvoice.org.uk
- Or message us via:
 - www.familyvoice.org.uk
 - **f** FamilyVoiceNorfolk

- Or write to us at Family Voice Norfolk, c/o Ayton House, 11 Ayton Rd, Wymondham NR18 0QQ
- Or for family members you can join our Family Voice Members Chat Room on Facebook here

Family Voice Norfolk Ayton House 11 Ayton Road Wymondham Norfolk NR18 0QQ

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