

Leeds Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice Support Service SENDIASS



January 2020

Welcome to the SENDIASS January newsletter!

Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service
SENDIASS

Leeds SENDIASS VOLUNTEERS



Would you like to
VOLUNTEER
With Leeds SENDIASS
Supporting our
New Website Project

Our Volunteer role is :

- Website and Digital Communication Volunteer

If you are interested in volunteering at SENDIASS
please get in touch for further information!

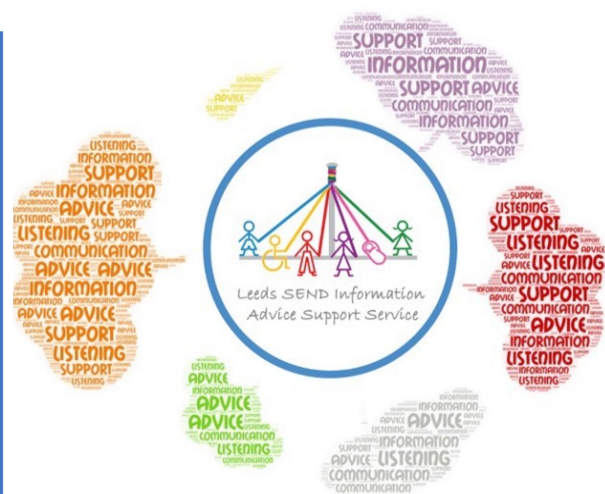
You can contact the project team for current role
descriptions and application forms:

- Email: sendiassproject@leeds.gov.uk

Volunteer Training and Support provided.

www.leedssendiass.co.uk

Leeds SENDIASS Volunteer Roles



In this issue

- Parent training
- Advice Drop-ins
- Dates for February
- Young Person views
- Focus Groups
- Specialist Provisions tips

Leeds SENDIASS

Telephone: 0113 378 5020
Email: sendiass@leeds.gov.uk
Website: www.leedssendiass.co.uk



Leeds SEND
Information Advice Support Service
SENDIASS



DID YOU KNOW?

SENDIASS have a
Leeds specialist school
provisions booklet and
visiting schools guide

Available on our
Website:

www.leedssendiass.co.uk.

Children and Young People views

SENDIASS also provide Information Advice and Support (IAS) for young people from 16-25 . Young people can make a direct referral for SEND Information, Advice and Support.

Email: sendiass@leeds.gov.uk or Tel: 0113 3785020

Find out about IAS for young people and see an animation about IAS services by visiting the children and young people website:

<https://cyp.iassnetwork.org.uk/>

Two new contributions from young people:

Thankyou.

I am 24 and have got brain damage from having too many seizures in a day and other things.

I got told I would always need to live with carers always with me . I now have a wife am living in my own flat just me and her.

My wife is autistic and has bad anxiety problems but I wanted to tell you all that you can do anything you want when you believe.

My Christmas time!

I was diagnosed as autistic in 2019 and its made this Christmas my favourite one!

Before people knew I was autistic they used to think I'd like all the same things as everyone else! But this year my family all told me what my presents was so I wouldn't feel worried opening them 'cause I can't lie if I don't like my presents.

I didn't go to the Panto and no one kept asking WHY!

I felt like I could just be me and feel happy.

So that's why I liked this years Christmas more than others.

People don't always understand me but they know there's a reason I do some things I do.

Do you know a child or young person who would like to write a piece for our newsletter or may want to suggest a topic?

Please let us know ! Email: sendiassproject@leeds.gov.uk

SENDIASS Focus Groups

Are you interested in joining our SENDIASS Focus groups?

These are short task focused email sessions that might involve looking at and commenting on a specific service development topic. It might be design of our literature or the look and content of our website or specific aspects of this.

SENDIASS are currently looking at service branding and a new SENDIASS website, we are seeking parents, carers and service users feedback and input on this.

If you are interested please contact the team at:
sendiassproject@leeds.co.uk

Would you like to
get involved and Join
our:

SENDIASS
FOCUS
GROUPS!

Would you like to
tell us
Your views on our cur-
rent topic:

SENDIASS
branding?



Leeds Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice
and Support Service
(SENDIASS)

NEEDS YOU!

SENDIASS service focus groups

We are currently undertaking 2 year project work funded by the Department of Education. Part of the aim of the project is to have an information advice and support service regarding special educational needs and disability matters, relating to education, health and social care, which has been designed and commissioned with children, young people and parents/carers.

We want to make sure that SENDIASS is involving children, young people and parents/carers in the future design of the service including involvement with proposed changes such as developments to our service website, materials/literature we share with our service users, training content and our service branding. We plan to have email and/or face to face focus group sessions to look these changes and gather valuable feedback.

Throughout the 2 year project work we may contact you at various stages to request your involvement in a focus session. We will contact you via email outlining the purpose of the individual focus session and each time you can decide whether you wish to opt in to being involved with the session.

If you are interested in being involved please complete our SENDIASS service focus group consent form.

If you would like further information please contact the SENDIASS project team
Email: sendiassproject@leeds.gov.uk Tel: 0113 3788993 / 3788994 / 3788995

Parent training on transition from Childhood to Adulthood

We are offering free SENDIASS parent carer training providing an outline of and supporting information on the key stages of transition within education and associated health and social care.

Our next training date is :

Tuesday 25th February 2020

Venue Technorth , 9 Harrogate Road, Chapel Allerton, LS7 3NB

Please contact sendiassproject@leeds.gov.uk for further information.

Please let us about other parent training you would like us to deliver by contacting the team by email at:

sendiassproject@leeds.gov.uk

Parent Carer Consultation on SENDIASS and Joint Commissioning

SENDIASS would like to ask your views on Joint Commissioning and have a short consultation on the topic, looking at joint commissioning and the Information Advice and Support Service in Leeds.

If you would like to share a view/ complete the form or feedback on this topic, please get in touch and we can email you a consultation form.

You can contact the team about the consultation by email at:

sendiassproject@leeds.gov.uk

Specialist Provisions and Visiting Schools -Tips

SENDIASS produce a specialist provisions guide and visiting schools guide which includes the current Leeds maintained settings as well as other settings. You can access our guides and the Autism Education Trust visiting schools guide at: www.leedssendiass.co.uk

School types:

Resourced Schools. Mainstream schools with a specialism in one area of SEND.

Partnership schools. Based in mainstream schools with a SEND offer that includes Specialist teaching from Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre (SILC) staff.

Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres are Special schools with teaching from SILC staff at all times.

Specialist provision for Social Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). Leeds has its own SEMH offer via Springwell.

Free school. Leeds has a special free school.

Before your visits:

- Using the SENDIASS Visiting schools guide and/or the Autism Education Trust (AET) visiting schools guide. Select the questions in the guides relevant for your child or young persons needs. This will help to plan questions for your visit. Asking the same questions at each visit means you can compare the responses for each setting, compiling a pros and cons list following each visit can help to support your decision making and future conversations about each setting with professionals.
- Plan to visit schools well before you need to make decisions to allow time for booking in visits and for revisits if needed.

Where to visit:

- Check the SENDIASS specialist provisions guide as a starting point. This is broken down into areas of the city.
- Plan visits starting with the closest schools to your address first (which are relevant to your child/ young persons needs) and work outwards.
- Nearness to your address does not always mean that a school is going to be the most suitable to meet your child's needs. This depends on individual needs and the offer at each school at the time.

- Try to identify more than one school that could be the right setting for your child.

Booking your visits

- Contact the schools SENCO or school reception directly and request to speak to the person who arranges school visits. Some schools have group visits you may need to allow enough time to accommodate this in planning.
- Take a trusted friend or someone who knows your child well with you to the visits to support you (this could also be a professional). This will help to ensure that the important points from the visit can be noted down and will support your discussion afterwards . Keep your notes to refer to.
- If you have been asked to visit schools to name a setting in section 'I' of an EHCP, it may be helpful to inform a setting about the stage you are at in the EHCP process, this will help them to understand the timeframe you are working within for a visit. Visiting settings enables parents and carers to make an informed decision as part of the EHCP process, SENDIASS advice is to always go to see settings in person.

After your visits

- Use your pros and cons list and refer to the notes made in visits. Clarify any points with the professionals supporting your child if you need this to support your decision making.
- Once you have reached a decision, make sure your case officer at SENSAP knows the school preference, it is noted in EHCP review paperwork and keep a record of any emails you send. Your school preference decision means consultations to the schools can be prepared at the appropriate time by SENSAP.

Other sources of information about specialist settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-special-schools-and-colleges> for Independent Special Schools and colleges.

And at: 'find a school':

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>

John Catts directory of special educational needs non maintained and post 16 specialist settings. A useful directory of schools meeting a full range of SEND needs. <https://www.specialneedsguide.co.uk/>

Post 16 setting options: Start Leeds -<http://www.startinleeds.com/>

Please see tips on other SEND topics in the next newsletter.

SENDIASS Advice Drop-in Sessions

Our free Community based Drop in Advice sessions are visiting each area of the city again in Spring term.

SENDIASS staff will be delivering Information Advice and Support on SEND topics , SEN support in school, EHCP and can support your specific enquiries. We will be supported by our trained SENDIASS volunteers.

This term we also welcome SCOPE family services who will be available at all our Advice Drop in Sessions providing advice on their sleep service, short breaks, activities and information on parent services.

SEND Process reminder and Information

SENDIASS will be attending the STARS advice drop-in sessions as usual at Leeds Central Library 10am-midday first Friday of the month in term time. The next sessions are:

Friday 7th February 2020

Friday 6th March 2020.

The timescale in the calendar year for the local Authority to have reviewed and if necessary amended the EHCP for a phase transfer is :
nursery to primary, and primary to high school -before 15th February.
High school to post16- before 31 March.

There is a free parent training session run by Witherslack group on EHCP on 29 February 2020. See the individual service website for further information:

<https://witherslackgroup.co.uk/events/hallcliffe-ehcp/>

Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service SENDIASS

Spring 2020



New Drop In Advice Sessions

Do you need impartial Information Advice and Support on:

- SEN advice at school
- EHCP
- Specialist Provisions
- Other SEND questions

Advice and Information on the day with SENDIASS Staff

SCOPE will also be available at all sessions

SCOPE = Equality for disabled people

SCOPE family services will provide advice on sleep, shortbreaks, activities and parents services information on the day. Join us!

Monday 10th February Afternoon 12:00- 14:00pm
Moortown Children's Centre, The Highwood,
Brackenwood Drive, Leeds, LS8 1RG
Tel: 0113 212 1413

Thursday 13th February Afternoon 12:00-14:00pm
Horsforth Children's Centre
Broadgate Primary school, North Broadgate Lane,
LS18 5AF Tel: 0113 2591786

Thursday 27th February Morning 10:00am-12:00 midday.
Middleton Community Centre
Acre Road, Leeds, LS10 4AQ

Please note there are no childcare facilities at our advice sessions

Refreshments provided. Please drop in at any session.



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SENDIASS Projects

We are developing the SENDIASS service through new projects over the next two years this work includes service offers and invitations to participate in developing the service.

Focus Groups. We would like your help and input to review our website, its content and our service literature and are looking for more members of our focus groups all the time.

Consultations. We have created a short consultation for parents and carers about joint commissioning and are finalising one for young people about information, advice and support service commissioning.

Volunteers. SENDIASS have a team of established volunteers to the team supporting the newsletter production, new website planning, community advice drop-ins and SEND tribunal support.

SENDIASS Advice Drop-in sessions. Our complete advice offer continues to journey around the city. New sessions for Spring term in February 2020 also have SCOPE delivering their service advice alongside.

Roaming Steering Groups. Thankyou again to all our hosts and contributors so far. We are visiting Sunshine and Smiles and People In Action this term and really looking forward to meeting our two new groups. Roaming steering groups feed in views and discussion topics about SEND and Information Advice and Support across education, health and social care to our fixed steering group.

Parent Training. Our January parent training session on transition from childhood to adulthood was well received and our next session is booked in for 25th February. New training sessions will be planned for the future. Let us know if you have a topic you would like including in our SENDIASS parent training.

Thank you again to all our contributors , hosts and parents and carers who participate in the SENDIASS projects and activities each term.

Please let us know if you would like to see something in the newsletter or have any comments by emailing: sendiassproject@leeds.gov.uk