Welcome…

to the autumn edition of SNIX NEWS, a newsletter for children with special educational needs or disabilities and their families.

If you need further information or details about any article in this or any other issue of SNIX NEWS please email: localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

SNIX NEWS is compiled by the Local Offer Team.

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Support Service

The SEND Support Service offers advice and support to children, young people, families, carers and educational establishments for children with a wide range of special educational needs, aged 0-19 years. They offer:

- Consultations for parents, carers and schools at Senco meetings, parent groups and when needed, one hour appointments.
- Courses and workshops for parents to attend on a range of subjects such as food, toileting, sensory difficulties, anxiety, and anger.
- Early Years support (this may be from a Portage volunteer): assessment, home teaching, advice and/or signposting.
- Advice or support at home to child or young person regarding a specific need
- Assessment of learning environment and development of appropriate interventions and strategies in schools or settings
- Support and advice at times of transition between schools or settings
- Advice/support with the Statutory Assessment process or criteria for Education Health and Care Plans for those students they are working with.
- Support and advice to the whole family of a child or young person with SEND, which may lead to an “Early Help Assessment”

The Service aims to empower and support families and educational settings to build on each child’s and young person’s individual strengths and to identify next steps for their development. It aims to encourage children’s and young people’s social interaction with their peers, adults and their communities and to fully include children and young people in a range of activities.

Parents can self-refer to the service using an online form. Allocation Panel meetings take place fortnightly where all referrals are considered.
Do you care for someone?

YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE...

If you are aged between 5-17 years and are helping to care for someone with a long term illness or disability (including mental health or substance misuse) you are a young carer and we are able to help.

You May Take On Some Of The Following Tasks:
- Housework, Cooking, Shopping, Cleaning
- Communication
- Fetching/Administering Medicine
- Listening/Emotional Support (helping someone to feel ok)
- Looking after Siblings
- Financial Help i.e. Paying Bills, Reading Letters

Types Of Support We Can Offer:
- Information/Advice
- Meeting Others in a Similar Situation
- Social Activities/Groups
- Family Help/Support Planning
- Working with Schools
- Awareness Raising
- 1-1 Support

01933 677837
YoungCarersTeam@northamptonshire-carers.org
www.northamptonshire-carers.org/young-carers
Northamptonshireyoungcarers  @NorthantsCarers  Northantsyoungcarers
Shooting Stars are organising a competition for SEND young people aged 13-25 years to help them design a new logo for the group. The winning design would be used for future resources for the group. You could win a:

1st prize – £50 Tesco Gift Card
2nd prize – Family ticket to West Lodge Farm
3rd prize – Family swimming tickets

If you would like to enter the closing date is the 31st October. All entries to be sent to the address on the poster which was designed by the Shooting Stars young people.

e-mail: lflute@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk

Hello, I’d like to introduce myself as the Children’s Rights Service advocate for children and young people with disabilities. My name is Stacey Login and I am a qualified paediatric Occupational Therapist who has specialised in working with children and young people with Autism, ADHD and severe to mild learning disabilities within residential schools. My new and exciting role as an advocate is to support children and young people who have involvement from social care to have their voice heard either through supporting them to be able to self-advocate or to advocate on their behalf for those who cannot. Any child or young person with social care involvement can be referred, therefore children and young people who access short breaks, or are considered to be a child in need, children whose family are part of a child protection plan or children and young people that are looked after in foster care or residential care. Often when a number of professionals or services are involved the child’s voice can be lost unintentionally, particularly for those children and young people who struggle or cannot communicate verbally. For these children, advocacy from an independent and impartial adult can enable them to feel involved in the decisions that are being made about their lives and their views are used to inform the decisions that are made. To refer a child to the Children’s Rights Service for advocacy support please go to: https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk and follow the links from Know Your Rights. Any adult can refer a child or young person or a child or young person can be supported to refer themselves.
Community Law

Community Law Service has secured further funding from Children In Need for a 3 year project for a Children’s Welfare Rights Worker. The service is free, independent and confidential. It will provide a face to face casework service for disabled/ill/SEN children, young people and their carers. Specialist advice and assistance with any benefit matters including challenges and appeals, help to understand wrong or refused decisions, assistance to complete complex forms such as Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments, advice and assistance in relation to Social Welfare Reform changes and assisting with applying for grants. We can also refer to our other departments for other areas of specialist advice e.g. debt advice, housing advice or to other agencies as required.

This service includes home visits, appointments at community venues and in our own offices in Northampton, Wellingborough and Rushden.

For further information please call Jane Coe: 01604 624070
or email: j.coe@communitylawservice.org.uk

Local Offer Quick Guide to Personal Assistants

A Personal Assistant is:

“Someone you choose and employ to provide the support you need, in the way that suits you best. This may include cooking, cleaning, help with personal care such as washing and dressing, and other things such as getting out and about in your community. Your personal assistant can be paid through direct payments or a personal budget.”

Taken from Think Local, Act Personal

In Northamptonshire you are able to employ your own personal assistant to help you or your son or daughter in the home or out and about in the community.

You can pay them with
A personal care or health budget
A direct payment,
Your own money,
Or other means,
You will be the employer of this personal assistant and will have employer responsibilities.

More information can be found at
Skills for Care

Finding a Personal Assistant (PA’s) in Northamptonshire

Job description
Firstly, set out a list of exactly what you will need your PA to help you with.

A job description needs to include everything the job may entail to ensure the employee is suitable.

There are a number of methods of advertising the role such as through job centres, word of mouth, newspapers, disability organisations and online.

NB: If your PA is hired through an agency – you are not the employer, the agency is

Pay
You must pay the national minimum wage (and understand tax and NI obligations if applicable)

Sick Pay
Your employee will be entitled to statutory sick pay

Holiday Pay
Your employee will be entitled to holiday pay

DBS (Disclosure Barring Service)
You are entitled to find out if someone has a criminal record before they start looking after you or your child.

Individual employers cannot submit an application for a DBS check themselves. Similarly, they cannot make a suitability decision based on the results of a check. The employer will need to ask either their local authority, NHS organisation or support organisation to conduct the DBS check.
and make a suitability decision before proceeding with employment. If you are employing the personal assistant directly, you will need to make an arrangement through a suitable authority. The local authority or NHS organisation cannot share the details of a check with a PA’s potential employer but must share their decision regarding a PA’s suitability.

However, the PA can show their DBS check to the person intending to employ them if they so wish as well as the employer being advised by one of the agencies detailed above making a suitability decision.

**Contract of employment**

An employment contract stipulates a number of things, from working hours, pay, breaks and place of work, amongst other things.

**Employer liability insurance**

It must cover you against liability for an employee’s injury or an injury caused by the PA whilst at work.

**Pension contributions**

You may need to enrol your PA into a workplace pension scheme.

*Remember the Local Authority will provide you with advice if you want to employ your own PA.*

Northamptonshire offers advice through the adult social services department about finding a personal assistant.

https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/adult-social-care/living-at-home/Pages/personal-assistants.aspx

For children under the age of 18, the Disabled Childrens Team will support you to find someone suitable. You can also make a private arrangement with someone yourself. Other families have used teaching assistants in schools or voluntary workers such as scout leaders.

*(If you would like advice from the council, please contact social care to arrange an assessment or a care review if you already have a care package from social care.)*

Some online parent groups can be helpful in sharing experiences, but every person will have different needs. You can find these groups through the Local Offer.

There are also commercial agencies that can offer a carer service such as Turning Point UK and Mentaur. Magazines such as The Lady are also known to advertise for and on behalf of personal assistants.

**Useful Reading**

A Family Guide to making it Personal 2014 (PDF)


**And finally**

Northamptonshire does not have a register of Personal Assistants. As this is a large undertaking to establish and keep updated, please let us know if this is something that you think that would be helpful. Please contact the Local Offer using the e-mail address, or send in an online form from the LO website.

Currently, it is expected that the Local Authority will help with the understanding and when managing the responsibilities of being an employer families are using their direct payments to employ their own personal assistants.

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer
**“Participation and Engagement” or “Get Involved”**

Many of you took the opportunity to get involved in the 2020 events of summer 2017. One of the plans to come out of this was a regular opportunity to take part in planning SEND services for the future.

Parents are represented by the Northamptonshire Parent Forum Group at lots of committees and meetings, but we are conscious that some people, especially young people don’t like going to meetings and committees, or can’t commit that amount of time, but would still like to take part in influencing the future. IASS would like to set up some contacts to ask people their opinions using social media and e-mails. If this is something that you think you would like to take part in, please let either the Local Offer or IASS know and we will start up an online group.

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**Billing Brook School**

Billing Brook is an all age special school, with 230 students, based on Penistone Road.

In December 2017 our Sixth Form Centre opened on Holmecross Road (NN3 8AW) next door to the Woodvale Medical Centre.

The Café and Pre-loved shop provides our students aged 16 – 18 the opportunity to work in a real business.

Students make and serve the food and run the shop. We hope you will support us.

*C M Grant*  
Headteacher

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**Cafe @ The Brook**

Holmecross Road, NN3 8AW  
(next to Woodview Medical Centre)

Opening Hours:  
Monday – Friday 9.30 - 15.00

- Tea / coffee
- Hot chocolate
- Cakes
- Sandwiches

**Take Away available**  
Use this flyer for a 10% discount  
Valid until 30th November 2018
**Action for Children**

We are pleased to be able to share the arrangements for the non-residential short breaks contract.

### Disability Groups (PMLD and MLD) vs Youth Clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Days/Times/Price</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Days/Times/Price</th>
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</table>
| **Daventry PMLD**               | Saturday – Term time 10am-3pm  
Tuesdays and Thursday – Half term and Summer holidays  
10am-3pm  
£10 per session               | **Brackley Youth Club**  
Magdalen College School  
2 Waynflete Avenue  
Brackley  
NN13 6AF  
(11-18 year olds)             | **Daventry Youth Club**  
Daventry Methodist Church  
Golding Close  
Daventry  
NN11 0QE  
(8-18yrs old)                  |
| **Daventry Hill School**        |                                                                                  | **Northampton Youth Club**      |                                                                                  |
| **Ashby Road**                  |                                                                                  | **Olympus House**               |                                                                                  |
| **Daventry**                    |                                                                                  | **Wellingbrook Youth Club**     |                                                                                  |
| **NN11 0QE**                    |                                                                                  | **38 Oxford Street**            |                                                                                  |
| **(8-18yrs old)**               |                                                                                  | **Wellingborough**              |                                                                                  |
| **Northampton PMLD**            | Saturday – Term time 10am-3pm  
Monday and Wednesday – Half term and Summer Holidays  
10am-3pm  
£10 per session               | **Wellingborough MLD**           | Saturday- Term time  
9.30am- 12.30pm  
Tuesday and Wednesday – Half term and Summer Holidays  
9.30am- 2.30pm  
£10 per session               |
| **Blackthorn Community Centre** |                                                                                  | **Swanspool Pavilion**          |                                                                                  |
| **Longmead Court**              |                                                                                  | **Swanspool Parade**            |                                                                                  |
| **Northampton**                 |                                                                                  | **Wellingborough**              |                                                                                  |
| **NN3 8QD**                     |                                                                                  | **(8-18yrs old)**               |                                                                                  |
| **Wellingborough**              |                                                                                  | **Corby PMLD**                  |                                                                                  |
| **MLD**                         |                                                                                  | **Maplefields Academy**         |                                                                                  |
| **Swanspool Pavilion**          |                                                                                  | **Tower Hill Road**             |                                                                                  |
| **Swanspool Parade**            |                                                                                  | **Corby**                       |                                                                                  |
| **Wellingborough**              |                                                                                  | **NN18 0TH**                    |                                                                                  |
| **NN8 2BZ**                     |                                                                                  | **(8-18yrs old)**               |                                                                                  |
| **Wellingborough MLD**          |                                                                                  | **Raunds PMLD**                 |                                                                                  |
| **Swanspool Pavilion**          |                                                                                  | **Saxon Hall**                  |                                                                                  |
| **Swanspool Parade**            |                                                                                  | **Raunds**                      |                                                                                  |
| **Wellingborough**              |                                                                                  | **Wellingborough**              |                                                                                  |
| **NN8 2BZ**                     |                                                                                  | **NN9 6LT**                     |                                                                                  |
| **(8-18yrs old)**               |                                                                                  | **(8-18yrs old)**               |                                                                                  |

**Northamptonshire Short Breaks** run various groups across the county. We offer fun activities in a safe environment for children & young people to come along while parents have some respite.

The groups are for mild and profound, complex disabilities for children from 5 years to 17 years.

We offer Saturday groups, youth groups and holiday clubs in a variety of locations.

The groups have many activities to offer such as – Bowling, Messy play, Cooking, Sensory Play, Outdoor Play. We also include visits to the groups from children’s entertainers, slime making and small farms!

To attend the groups an assessment will need to be completed, so we can ensure your child’s needs are being met appropriately. This assessment shall be arranged after the initial contact form has been completed.

**For more information please contact us on:**

01604 752553

or **email us on:**

northants.disability@actionforchildren.org.uk
New Autism Group
Autism East Midlands are going to be running a group from Thorplands Children’s Centre

It is due to start on 3rd October 10-12 at Thorplands Children’s Centre, Farmfield Court Thorplands Northampton NN3 8AQ.

They are also offering 3 individual appointments in the afternoon for those parents who require more targeted support. They will be 1pm, 2pm and 3pm and are booked by e-mailing Harriet Dowson at Blackthorn Childrens Centre:

T: 01604 413504
E: hdowson@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk

Corby Inclusive Climbing Club
The Corby club is an inclusive bouldering club that is for 12+ and specifically caters to young people with additional mental or health needs. The club has a specially trained instructor and is supported by a team of volunteers who have been trained in safeguarding and inclusion as well as being skilled climbers/boulderers. We tend to use the volunteers so that there is 1 volunteer to 2 participants. The club runs on a Sunday morning from 10am – midday and the address for the venue is:

The Corby Climbing Centre, 11 St Marks Road, Corby, NN18 8AN

The cost is £15 for the 2 hour session which includes all equipment and shoe hire. Each session is geared to try to learn more about climbing and bouldering techniques as well as team building and social interaction with peers. Our aim is to improve everyone’s well-being by introducing them to a new sport.

If you would like to book you can do this via our facebook events page:
https://www.facebook.com/events/254464165209021/

Or else contact s.tuckfield@ididadventure.co.uk for more details.
Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport

is one of the “bags of help” good causes at Tesco.

You can vote with a blue token from the checkouts in Northampton stores from Saturday, Sep 1 to Wednesday, Oct 31.

Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport provide support, training and financial grants to disability sporting groups in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport aims to increase the number of disabled people involved in all aspects of sport, recreation and physical activity within Northamptonshire.

Northants Para – Swimming Duo Delight in Dublin!

Ellie Robinson and Maisie Summers - Newton of Northampton Swimming Club both achieved great success at the 2018 European Para - Swimming Championships which were held in Dublin in August, winning 7 medals between them for Great Britain under the guidance of their club coach, Jacquie Marshall.

Ellie got the event off to a great start by winning a bronze medal in the S6 50m Freestyle held on the first day with a time of 34.31 seconds. Maisie who was competing in her first ever major championships was 4th in a personal best time of 34.70.

Maisie then had an amazing couple of days racing firstly winning gold in the S6 200m Individual Medley with a new World Record time of 2:59.60. This lowered the previous world record achieved by Eleanor Simmonds with whom she’s pictured by two tenths of a second. Sixteen year Maisie then followed that up by winning gold in the S6 100m breaststroke a day later and again breaking the World Record in a time of 1:33.63.

After a rest day, Maisie then returned to the pool on Friday 17th August when she won bronze for finishing 3rd in the S6 400m Freestyle in a personal best time of 5:26.97.

Then on Saturday 18th August Ellie competed in the S6 50m Butterfly event which she previously won a silver medal in at the last European Championships held in Funchal, Portugal in 2016 before then going on to win gold for the event at the Rio Paralympics just 4 months later. It was to be one place better for her this time at the European Championships as she took the gold medal in a time of 35.37 which was just off her personal best and own World record of 35.22.

Ellie was then back in individual action on the final night of the competition when she won a silver medal in the S6 100m Freestyle with a personal best time of 1:13.46.

Maisie concluded her competition in fine style by winning her 3rd gold medal as part of the Women’s 34 point 4 x 100m Medley Relay team in which she swam the Breaststroke leg.

Anyone with a disability, or sensory impairment inspired by Ellie and Maisie’s performances who would like to get involved in para - swimming should contact Northampton Swimming Club either by phone on: 01604 622264 or email: enquiries@northamptonswimming.com

Swimming lessons are a great way to start your athletic career (or just to learn a fun life skill) and the Local Offer lists many Northamptonshire venues that support youngsters with additional needs to learn to swim. Sports coaches are trained to be inclusive. It is also possible to have private lessons at a lot of venues.

Photo reproduced with permission from British Swimming

NFDS

Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport

is supported by the national organisation “Activity Alliance” – promoting disability inclusive sport.

Swimming lessons are a great way to start your athletic career (or just to learn a fun life skill) and the Local Offer lists many Northamptonshire venues that support youngsters with additional needs to learn to swim. Sports coaches are trained to be inclusive. It is also possible to have private lessons at a lot of venues.

Photo reproduced with permission from British Swimming
iDID Adventure

**Who are we?**

iDID Adventure is a registered charity improving wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem through access and participation in adventure sports.

Working across Northamptonshire, iDID is on a mission to ensure that every young adult can gain equal access to the physical and mental health benefits of adventure sports. We currently do this through various climbing and bouldering programmes that we run from The Pinnacle Centre in Northampton and Corby Climbing Centre.

**Why do we do what we do?**

- Estimated 9 million deaf or hard of hearing people living in the UK and an estimated 40% of those will be affected by mental health issues
- People with disabilities are more likely to experience mental health issues
- 1 in 12 young people deliberately self harm
- Half of those with lifetime mental health issues experience their first symptoms by the age of 14, and three quarters before their mid-20’s
- 1 in 10 children aged 5-16 years have a mental health problem

Our ethos is to provide therapy through play. The concept is that through positive engagement we can help improve young people’s confidence and feelings of self-worth with an aim to help them develop new skills, socialise with their peers and reduce negative perceptions of disability, mental health and other problems.

**Why adventure sports?**

We have found that there have been many barriers in traditional sports with regards to including young people with additional mental or physical needs. Team games often become a cause for exclusion and many sports rely on pressure and competition. The adventure sports programmes we run are specifically geared to:

- Release stress
- Increased hand muscle strength, flexibility and fine motor skills
- Higher levels of focus and concentration
- Increased physical and cognitive functions
- Improved confidence

Whilst giving every person a safe environment to learn how to deal with anxieties.

**Programmes and clubs**

We currently run an Inclusive Climbing Club on Sunday mornings during term time from 10.00 am – midday at the Pinnacle, Northampton. We also run an Inclusive Bouldering Club during the same time but at the Corby Climbing Centre. For more information on these clubs please go to our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/IdidNorthampton/events/

**Climbing Minds Programme**

In 2017 we launched our Climbing Minds Programme which is funded by Children in Need and the Northampton Community Foundation. This is a therapeutic climbing programme for young people aged 12-19. This project is for young adults in Northamptonshire affected by, or at risk of, mental health issues. This is a FREE 6 week climbing programme targeted at:

- Young Carers
- People with low sense of self-worth
- Socially isolated people
- People with mental health issues
- People with additional physical needs

The course runs for 6 weeks during term time and we accept both professional and self-referrals for course placements. The majority of our referrals at present are from social services, post adoption teams, organisations, parents, teachers and hospitals.
Summer Playschemes & Activities

NPFG

Dates for your Diary:
23rd/24th November

Now that the SEND Reform has been fully implemented, we would like to find out how the journey has been for you?

NPFG is organising a feedback event. You can contribute via the online Survey Monkey tool or join us:

ON:  Friday, 23rd November 2018 – 10:00-14:00h

OR

Saturday, 24th November 2018 – 10:00-14:00h

AT:  King’s Park Conference Centre
Kings Park Road, Northampton, NN3 6KK

The day will kick off with local presentations of the changes in Northamptonshire with plenty of interactive feedback opportunities.

More details will be coming soon via our e-bulletin communication.

NPFG is fully compliant with the latest General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) but we find lots of people are not taking the last step by clicking the verification link in the email confirmation. Unless you verify, you will not be receiving our communication with events and workshop invitations! Check your subscription status now, by signing up to the e-bulletin on www.npfg.co.uk.

The Northants Parent Forum Group (NPFG) is an independent parent-led group formed and run by parent volunteers to represent the views of families of children and young people up to the age of 25 with special educational needs and /or disabilities in Northamptonshire.

For more information please visit our website: www.npfg.co.uk. Any questions - please email: enquiries@npfg.co.uk or call 07745 249094.

We would love to hear from you!
Towcester Sensory Room
South Northants Children’s Centre Services

Our Sensory Room is a safe environment specially designed to provide a unique sensory experience. The room is particularly beneficial for children with additional needs of any age as well as babies and young children.

Call us today on 01327 350272 to book your FREE 30 minute session

Venue: Towcester Children’s Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU

For more information please contact us:
01327 350272

Kingsthorpe Children’s Centre

We welcome you to our calm, friendly drop in group on Monday mornings, from 10-11.30 am at Kingsthorpe Children’s Centre. This stay and play session is free and no booking is needed.

This group runs every Monday (apart from bank holidays) to support children who need to stick to their routine.

There are two large rooms with toys and books, an outdoor play area, a crèche area for babies, and a sensory corner.

If you would like to see whether this environment would be suitable for your child, or if you would like to take some photos of the centre for your transition book, or schedule, or have any questions or worries at all, then please feel free to contact Julie Hawkins by phone or text on 07738 637342 or by email at Juhawkins@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk

Or just pop in on a Monday morning!

Dyslexia
NDA/BDA’s Parent Pop-Up Roadshow Event!

For Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes
FREE EVENT

Date: 3rd November 2018
11:30am – 4:00pm

Location: Malcolm Arnold Academy, Trinity Avenue, Northampton, NN2 6JW

From 11:30 am – Registration and Exhibitions, advice and information from our specialist Tutors and NDA Trustees. Packed lunch available if pre-booked. (£5 donation)

What will be covered? - BDA
Join Helen Boden, BDA Chief Executive, Arran Smith (Microsoft), Hayley Mason (SEN Legal) and John Hicks (Dyslexia Parenting Coach) for this informative event.

- What is dyslexia? Supporting your child’s needs; BDA CEO, Helen Boden
- Empowering Potential; Arran Smith
- Navigating the SEN maze: entitlement, provision and appeals; Hayley Mason
- How does my child’s dyslexia affect me?; John Hicks

To book: https://parenteventnda.eventbrite.co.uk

Thank you to our sponsors: Meredith Kenny and family

https://www.northantsdyslexia.co.uk

Free event
Epilepsy Northampton

Epilepsy Northampton is a parent support group of children with epilepsy. They have a closed Facebook group for members, as well as a website.

As a parent of a child with epilepsy, Susan Bannard realised that there wasn’t a local support group, so set one up herself. The idea was to provide somewhere for members to share their experiences and toughest days with people who ‘get it’, as well as somewhere to ask for advice and support.

Epilepsy Northampton also provide family activities, parent ‘coffee and chat’ mornings and epilepsy emergency first aid courses too.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/epilepsynorthampton
Email: info@epilepsynorthampton.co.uk
Susan Bannard tel no: 07843249409
Website: www.epilepsynorthampton.co.uk
Specialist Support Services Workshops

Towcester Children’s Centre 2018/19
Islington Road, Towcester, Northants, NN12 6AU

ANGER (2 week workshop)
5th December 2018 09.30-11.30
12th December

SENSORY
16th January 2019 09.30-13.00

REFLECTIONS (6 week course)
23rd January 2019 09.30-11.30
30th January
6th February
13th February
27th February
6th March

FOOD (2 week workshop)
15th May 2019 09.30-11.30
22nd May

SPECTRUM (6 week course)
5th June 2019 09.30-11.30
12th June
19th June
26th June
3rd July
10th July

BOOKING ESSENTIAL – These courses are always very popular. Bookings via:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/northamptonshire-county-council-specialist-support-service-12262405155

** EACH PERSON ATTENDING WILL REQUIRE A TICKET **

Specialist Support Services also hold these courses at different venues. Find more details for the different courses and venues on their website.
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/sssCourses

SEN Support

“SEN support is the term given to children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities and require support, but who do not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. Around 12% of pupils in primary school and 10% of pupils in secondary school are on SEN support.” (Department for Education, 2016). SEN support: a survey of schools and colleges Research Report July 2017 Helen Johnson, Julia Carroll & Louise Bradley Coventry University

Children with special educational needs (SEN) have needs or disabilities that affect their ability to learn. Special educational needs aren’t always a lifelong problem; some children only need support for a short time.

Chapter 6 of SEN Code of Practice 2015

The chapter explains the action that mainstream schools should take to meet their duties in relation to identifying and supporting all children with special educational needs (SEN) whether or not they have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

Stages of support

There are different stages for helping children depending on each child’s needs. If their needs are severe or complex, they may go straight to the statutory assessment stage.

What to do if you are worried about your child’s progress

If your child is at school or nursery, always speak to your child’s teacher first if you think your child is learning more slowly than they should. They will let you know what they are doing to address your child’s area of weakness.

If your child doesn’t progress despite well-targeted teaching, you or the teacher should speak to the person in your child’s school or nursery responsible for special educational needs (the SENCO).

Medical Needs

The Local Authority has guidance policies for supporting pupils with medical needs in school and these can be found on the Local Offer website. The school will also have a local policy and you can ask the school how these guidelines will be used to support your child.

If your child has a medical problem that affects their learning or access to education, discuss these issues with the school who will work with you and any relevant health professionals to implement an effective health plan. A medical condition is not a special educational need.

Continued
SEN support in school
Every school is required to identify and address the special educational needs of the pupils that they support. They must:
- Use their best endeavours to make sure that a child with special educational needs gets the support they need - this means doing everything they can to meet children and young people’s special educational needs.
- Ensure that children and young people with SEN join in activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have special educational needs.
- Prepare and publish a SEN information report (DFE guidance). This can be found on the school’s website. There is a link on the Local Offer for each school.
Schools also have wider duties to prevent discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations

SEN support in school has four stages
1. Assess (this is not the statutory assessment process for obtaining an EHC plan)
   Carry out a clear analysis of the pupil’s needs
2. Plan
   The school, in consultation with parents and pupil, should agree the adjustments, interventions and support to be put in place, as well as the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour along with a clear date for review.
3. Do
   The class or subject teacher remains responsible for the pupil on a day to day basis with the support of the SENCO if required. Any intervention delivered by other school staff should be closely monitored by the responsible teacher.
4. Review
   The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress should be reviewed in line with the agreed date.
   This evaluation will include the views of the pupil and their parents and feed back into the analysis of the pupil’s needs and the next steps. If the school feel they need additional resources to help them support your child they may request this from the Local Authority.

What the SENCO will do
Every school must designate a teacher to be responsible for co-ordinating SEN provision.

The SENCO will work with your child’s teacher to assess whether your child has special educational needs (SEN). They will do this by talking to you and your child and looking at your child’s work, progress and behaviour. This is not the formal education, health and care assessment.
If they think your child has special education needs:
- The school or nursery must tell you if they think your child has special needs and about what action they plan on taking
- They will put in place SEN support and closely monitor progress

The SEN Descriptors document gives information on what SEN support is expected to be delivered in Early Years settings and schools for a range of needs. The descriptor documents can be found on the Local Offer website.

Disagreement Resolution
If you do not believe that the educational establishment is working effectively to support your child’s progress, you should in the first instance speak with the class teacher or SENCO to discuss your concerns. If this does not resolve your concerns you should follow the school’s complaints policy and contact the head teacher, the SEN governor, or chair of governors depending on the school’s policy.

Additional support and information
- IASS (parent and pupil information advice and support)
- Education Inclusion and Partnership team (who can support at an individual level)
- School Improvement (who can support at a strategic level)

It may be helpful when working to resolve disagreements with educational establishments that consideration is given to a more formal disagreement process. To discuss this option contact the Information, Advice and Support Service or Global Mediation (commissioned organisation on disagreement mediation services).

For those students whose educational needs have been assessed through the formal education, health and care plan process, schools will be asked whether they can meet the student’s needs. Where there is no EHC Plan, reasonable adjustments need to be made by the school to meet the individual needs of each student. Schools will need to plan and anticipate these needs.
School Transport

How is your son or daughter going to get to their new school in the next academic year?

It seems early to start thinking about next academic year, but making arrangements to start at school for the first time or change schools from primary to secondary, or secondary to college needs to start this school term.

Choosing the most suitable school for your child’s needs is one of the most important decisions that you will make as a parent. Whilst visiting schools will help you to decide the suitability of the school, studying the route to school is something else you will need to consider.

School Transport have provided some thoughts to help you make your choice. Each child’s needs and family circumstances are different and so each mode of transport will not be suitable for everyone.

The buses and transport page on Northamptonshire County Council’s website: http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/buses/Pages/default.aspx

This has various resources to help including bus timetables, cycling and cycle hire.

If you are travelling by cycle, bus, car or walking, we recommend that you look at the various routes available and estimate the time that it will take to get to and from the school.

You need to take into consideration any other commitments that you may have.

Whilst your child may not currently be able to travel by themselves, we are able to co-ordinate independent travel training. This can help your daughter or son gain independence and social opportunities and enable them to travel by themselves in the future.

For further information, please contact us using the following e-mail address:
sentransport@kierwsp.co.uk

It is strongly recommended that if you think that your child will need transport to your school of choice that you check if you are eligible before making your decision, (please see Northamptonshire County Council’s website for eligibility guidance).

If your child has an EHC plan then a suitable school will be named within the plan, however, it is worth noting that whilst you can also request a school of your choice, if this does not meet the criteria as set out in the transport policy, you will not be entitled to school transport.

You can be offered guidance as to their eligibility from both the EHCP team and also from the transport team: sentransport@kierwsp.co.uk

If you think you will need transport for next September, this can be requested via the EHCP team.

South Northants Children’s Centre Services

Come along to a parent led group for families with children with any kind of diagnosed special needs. This is your chance to meet other parents/carers in a similar situation. The Sensory Room will be open and other toys will be available.

In association with Special Friends and SNUG

**Venue:** Towcester Children’s Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU

**Day:** Wednesdays

**Time:** 9:30am – 12pm

For more information please contact us:

01327 350272
Keep Safe

The Keep Safe Scheme was initially launched in 2011 for people with learning disabilities. It proved a popular way for card holders and their families to feel that the vulnerable person was safe when they were out and about. Many other organisations were keen to be able to provide the card to their service users and so with financial support from Northamptonshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, the scheme was relaunched in April 2018.

The expansion of the scheme has enabled new member organisations to sign up as key partners. These organisations include Age UK, Autism East Midlands, Mind, and Northamptonshire Association for the Blind, Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Carers and Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.

The project encourages people with a disability, people who experience mental illness, or people who may be vulnerable, to sign up as Keep Safe Card holders. When they register they are provided with a Keep Safe Card, which holds some basic details about their needs as well as contact details for people close to them, such as family or carers, who can be telephoned in an emergency. The card also gives an idea of how best to help and communicate with the card holder.

The card can then be shown whenever the holder feels lost, bullied, worried about their safety or in need of assistance in any way and helps people supporting them understand their needs if they are in crisis.

Help may be found in shops, libraries, leisure centres, GP surgeries or anywhere a person feels they can ask for support. Countywide business and public facing organisations have received information about the Keep Safe Scheme so as many staff as possible are aware of how to help someone who may show them a Keep Safe card.

The information about the card holder is held on a secure database, which the three emergency services (police, fire and ambulance) can access, to be able to support the person in the best possible way.

For more information and to find out how to register for a Keep Safe card please visit: www.keepsafenorthants.org

Going to the Doctor (1)

Some things you can do to get good care from your doctor

1. Tell the doctor what you need and how they can help you

There are lots of things you may need like:

- Easy information about your health
- More time for your appointment
- Somewhere quiet to wait
- Seeing the same doctor every time

Tell your doctor what you need: they should try to help you.

Continued
Going to the Doctor (2)

Make sure the doctor puts this information on their computer.

Then they will know what you need next time.

If you need to go to hospital make sure the doctor tells the hospital what you need.

2. Tell your doctor if you do not understand what they say

Ask them to say it again or use easier words.

3. You can take some information with you to the doctor

You can take a hospital passport with you.

This is a small book.

It tells doctors and nurses what you need.

You can make it yourself.

Or there is this one on this website: https://www.autism.org.uk/about/health/hospital-passport.aspx
**Going to the Doctor (3)**

4. **If you are worried about seeing a new doctor**

You can ask to visit the doctor’s surgery first to see what it is like.

5. **Ask your doctor to put something on their computer to say you have autism**

This will help people know you have autism so they can give you the right support.

6. **If you look after someone else who needs support**

Tell your doctor about this as well.

They can put something on their computer to say you are a carer.
Editorial Note

The Local Offer reserves the right to edit any submitted materials. The articles printed and the views expressed are not necessarily those of Northamptonshire County Council. Items are correct to the best of our knowledge, but we do not take any responsibility for any errors in information provided to us for inclusion.

Deadline Dates

Should you wish to advertise your organisation, submit a personal story or place an article in the SNIX newsletter – please note our deadlines.

Articles submitted should be in a Word format as this will result in a better finish from our printers. We are unable to take responsibility for the quality if submitted in another format.

Spring edition deadline
7th January 2019

Summer edition deadline
9th April 2019

Local Offer

Feedback is really important to the Local Offer. If you have found something new in SNIX or the Local Offer, please let the Local Offer team know.

Do you go to a group and want to show off what you have done recently? Do you need new members? Please let us know and we will advertise for you on the Local Offer and in the next SNIX. The Local Offer is being updated all the time, and we also post our information on Twitter and Facebook.

Paid Adverts

Please note that in order to keep the SNIX magazine produced, the Local Authority is now having to charge businesses to advertise in the SNIX magazine. Therefore some of the articles in the magazine may have been paid for by the provider. Adverts will continue to be relevant to the audience of SNIX. Please note that the Local Offer does not endorse or support these services.

SNIX would welcome more opportunities to generate an income to keep the magazine free for families and anyone wishing to take up an advert with us, should get in touch by the deadlines. Sponsorship would also be considered.

Contact Details

Local Offer
telephone: 0300 126 1000 option 5
or email: localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk
or use our online forms on the website:
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

IASS (Independent Advice and Support Service)
telephone: 01604 364772
e-mail: contact@iassnorthants.co.uk
website: www.iassnorthants.co.uk

NPFG
e-mail: enquiries@npfg.co.uk
website: www.npfg.co.uk

Shooting Stars
telephone: 01604 368051
or: 07515 189630

SSS (Specialist Support Service)
e-mail: sss@northamptonshire.gov.uk
website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/specialistsupportservice

SNIX NEWSLETTERS

You can access a limited number of back issues of SNIX News on our website:
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/slixir

If you would prefer to get your SNIX newsletter sent to you by e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing: localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk with SNIX in the subject and we will get them sent to you electronically.

If you have received a copy of the newsletter, but no longer wish to, please let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list.