



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in NE Lincs

Parents/carers weekly NE Lincs SEND meeting with partners from education, health and social care.

DATE 28/10/2020

This week in NE Lincs

This week is half term for most of our Primary and Secondary schools and academies in NE Lincs.

Free School Meals



Following the Health Secretary's announcement on Friday that funding has been made available to Local Authorities to support children who receive free school meals during half term, NE Lincs have been working closely with schools and academies to identify the children eligible and will procure £10 food shopping vouchers for families. Schools and academies will distribute the vouchers when children return to school after the half term break.

For more information of FSM please follow this link: <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/>

If parents/carers have any questions about Free School Meals or Covid and their child's education they can email school@nelincs.gov.uk and an education officer will directly respond to your communication. Emails can be sent at any time and will be responded to between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

There is a link below for information including the contact details for those services who can support families with food and supplies at this difficult time, including services for those who may have to self-isolate.

[NELC - COVID-19 Guidance and Support for Local Residents](#)



Early Years Update



Last week we gave you information on the Early Years Inclusion Funding that is available to school's support with those children starting with them who have identified needs. Since September there has been 20 children who have benefitted from this funding.

There is a quick turnaround for the funding, the request must come from the school via the vSEND tool.

The feedback we have received from schools has been very positive overall. The funding is still open for schools to apply.

If you have any questions about Early Years education in our local area please do contact
Rose.Tanser@nelincs.gov.uk

NELPPF Update



NELPPF is a collective voice for parents and carer's in North East Lincolnshire, offering guidance and support for families of children and young people aged 0-25 years with SEND. Their General Advice Line is: **07583474892**.

SENDIASS Update



SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs Disability Information Advice Support Service) provides free impartial information, advice and support to disabled children and young people aged 0-25, and those with SEN, through their parents and carers. Young people aged 16+ can have support in their own right. The service is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am until 4.30pm and Friday 8am – 4pm. Staff are working remotely at the moment but they will answer your call within 3 days if you leave a message or you can email them on nelincs@barnardos.org.uk, or you can also follow them on Facebook.

SENDIASS are operating as usual and they are responding to all new enquiries within 3 days.

In November, SENDIASS are holding workshops and drop-in surgeries around Exclusions and Elective Home Education to provide information to parents/carers. Please see link below or contact nelincs@barnardos.org.uk for further information and details on how to book your place.

[SENDIASS Training/Drop-in Surgeries for Parents/Carers](#)

Co-production in NE Lincs

'Co-production is not just a word, it's not just a concept, it is a meeting of minds coming together to find a shared solution. In practice, it involves people who use services being consulted, included and working together from the start to the end of any project that affects them' Social Care institute for excellence (SCIE)

In June 2019 SENDIASS and NELPPF invited parents of children & young people with SEND to meet on a regular basis to work alongside the Local Authority to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and when opportunities arose to take a more active role in new developments in our local area.

The first question parents asked was 'What is co-production and what has it got to do with me?'



Website:

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-and-local-offer/>



Contact:

07974 082474
01472 323236



Email:

SEN@nelincs.gov.uk

We held a couple of meetings to answer this question and then moved forward with 2 groups of parents. One group looking at how Capital Funding for SEND should be used in the LA, and the other at the new approach for the Access Pathway.

Even though lockdown and the ongoing restrictions to all our lives did interrupt these meetings we are glad to say that both groups are now up and running again.

As we move forward, we would like more parents to be involved. As a parent of a child/young person with special educational needs and disabilities you have a lot to contribute to these discussions. There is nothing set in stone as to how the groups run; some parents want to be directly involved and are able to attend meetings (Zoom at the moment) but others may prefer to have a say by email or telephone.

If you are interested in finding out more then please email

nelincs@barnardos.org.uk

or

Telephone **01472 355365** and leave a message on the answerphone

Co-production – the right ingredients



Co-operation	Equal power
Respect	Listening (even if it is challenging)
Clear vision / outline	Realistic expectations
Based on people's strengths	Inclusive
Common purpose	Aspiration to improve outcomes

NE Lincolnshire - Talking, Listening and Working Together



As we mentioned last week, we are keen to engage with parents/carers on what co-production means to them and have asked the Council for Disabled Children to help us do this.

We have delayed the first meeting that was planned for 22nd October 2020. It will now take place on **12th November 2020, 13.00 – 16.30**. We are hoping that if we reach out to the local area a broad range of parents/carers and young people will be able to be involved (albeit virtually at the moment) so that we can shape services for all families of children with SEND in our community.

If you would like to be part all you need to do is:

- Have internet access
- Have time to join the meeting
- You would not have to appear on screen if you did not want to and you could ask questions and put your points of view forward by using the online chat facility.
- Register at: <https://bit.ly/31LdyWR> (Password: NELincs1)

For more information please email Rebecca.Taylor@nelincs.gov.uk or text 07880462414.



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Contact:

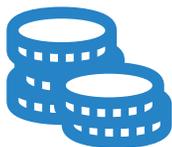
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Disability Living Allowance



Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is the main benefit for children under 16 with a condition or disability. DLA helps to meet the extra costs that you might have because of your child's disability. Any child who has a disability or illness **might** qualify for DLA, and you do not need a formal diagnosis to make a claim.

You will need to show that your child needs substantially more care or supervision than other children of the same age who do not have a disability or health condition. Any decision to award DLA will be based on how your child's condition impacts on their day to day life. It can be paid regardless of whether you are working or not. It is not means-tested, so it does not matter what income or savings you have.

There is a specific form that is used for claiming DLA for a child, called DLA1A Child. It is preferable to phone the DLA helpline and ask for this form, rather than downloading it yourself. This is because the form they send you will be date-stamped with the date you made your call, and this will help ensure the benefit is paid from the earliest possible point. Order a claim form from the DLA Unit by calling 0800 121 4600.

For more information on DLA, you may like to take a look at this link to the Council for Disabled Children.
<https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/benefits-financial-help/benefits-and-tax-credits/disability-living-allowance/>

Health Update



Carly Pickles, Access Pathway Coordinator and Caroline Saunderson, Access Pathway Practitioner attended this week's Newsletter meeting to give clarity on the Access Pathway and to answer any questions raised by parents.

Within the current process parents are not able to represent themselves at Panel meetings, however this is a future goal for the pathway for those who wish to have the option. Carly currently makes contact with the parent/carers prior to panel and is able to share their voice and raise any concerns on their behalf at the meeting. In addition to this, Panel Members are screening all the referral information ahead of the meeting and provide virtual feedback and raise any queries for parents/carers and authors, providing more opportunities to gather information from them ahead of the meeting to ensure they have all the details to make sound/appropriate recommendations.

We want to reassure parents that if schools/settings are not seeing any issues that the parents are seeing then referrals can still be made by other professionals who can provide the detail required through their own observations and parent/carers information. In some cases this has been a Families First Practitioner or a School Nurse. The referral information is not dependant on the school's input, it is to gather the parents/carers and child's voice.

There are often many reasons why a referral may require more information to progress, and we understand the frustration this may cause. If a referral is not accepted at the point of screening, this will be fully explained in a letter to parent/author about what is needed. The responsibility lies with the author to gather the additional, required information and for them to then re-submit the referral.

Previously, there were a lot of open referrals and this caused confusion for parents in thinking they were on a waiting list, but they were not as the referral had missing information. Parents have also asked for the letters to provide clear guidance around what is needed so they are fully aware and can support the author with the resubmission. The team are happy to discuss this over the phone and urge parents/authors to call us if needed.

A diagnosis is not required to access support for their child and can be accessed separately to the pathway or at the same time of the access pathway referral. Cases are listened to and recommendations are given on an individual basis and concerns raised by the parent are also acknowledged within the recommendations.



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Following Panel, if recommendations are made for intervention and a review following this, we ask the author to make this request once completed. Parents can also contact us to request a review. The review template can be found along with the referral form on <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-families-and-schools/send-and-local-offer/send-support-for-children-and-young-people/>.

We can share 'You said, we did'. There is now only one Referral Form for the Access Pathway, no longer a Contact Form these have merged to create just the one form and a voicemail service. We have received positive feedback from both parents and professionals about this.

If you have any queries around the Access Pathway please email access-pathway@nelincs.gov.uk or contact number is 01472 323998, these are both checked daily and response time is 5 working days.

Local Offer Co-ordinator and Communications Officer – Job Vacancy



We have an exciting opportunity for someone to join our SEND team where they will play a key role in engaging with the local community about North East Lincolnshire Council's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer.

This role will focus on developing and maintaining the SEND Local Offer and providing clear and accessible information for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities age 0-25 and their families about the services available to them.

We are looking for an individual with exceptional written and verbal communication skills, able to work in partnership with local providers and stakeholders to ensure the information about the Local Offer is comprehensive, well maintained, and serves the needs of families in our local area. Creativity and communication are the key skills you will need to succeed in this role, and you will need to be confident in the use of a wide range of digital media.

To apply, please complete the online application form.

For more information about the role please contact Clare.Linfitt@nelincs.gov.uk or Tel: 01472 323236

<https://www.jobsgopublic.com/vacancies/162286?keywords=local+offer&search=3fd00f835f4c33fff99d748b5704cf8f22544ef2d36d5e1d69c55060249ee8b9>

Bonfire Night during Lockdown



As we all work together to reduce Covid-19 cases in North East Lincolnshire Bonfire Night can still be a sparkler for families in our local area.

New ideas to think about include:

- Make your own Guy and display him on your doorstep. Perhaps arrange a competition with your neighbours to find the best Guy. *N.B. Remember the national lockdown restrictions and stay safe.*
- **Watch the skies.** If the weather allows, try stargazing and enjoy the natural lights show in the night sky. <https://www.greenchildmagazine.com/stargazing-with-kids-101/>
N.B. For more information for enjoying stargazing with children who have SEND take a look at this blog <https://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/cbeebiesgrownups/entries/e8bad217-ef55-3588-afcf-f4372b4b0570>
- **Get cooking.** Make firework and bonfire-inspired snacks, such as biscuits iced with firework-like explosions of colour or cupcakes decorated to look like bonfires. Or toast marshmallows on your open fire, if you have one. And don't forget the sticky parkin and warming hot chocolate. *N.B. Following child friendly picture instructions is great way to practice sequencing.* <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-14407-bonfire-night-recipe-booklet>
- **Be crafty:** Try fireworks arts and crafts, such as making a toilet roll holder rocket, creating colourful firework paintings or collecting autumn leaves to make a firework collage. <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/kaminari84/sen->



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[bonfire-night/](#) N.B. There are a range of scissors available for children with motor skills difficulties.
<https://www.sensetoys.com/handwriting-fine-motor-skills-c19/scissor-control-c23>

- **Virtual fireworks.** Relive the spectacular New Year firework displays in London on the BBC iPlayer.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04yqbtc>
- **Go outside** and enjoy some exercise in the changing seasons and crisp autumn weather.
N.B. NE Lincs has a range of parks and open spaces with disabled toilets and changing facilities.
<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/leisure-and-things-to-do/parks-and-open-spaces/>

Firework Safety

A firework safety campaign has been launched by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), working in partnership with the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, the Child Accident Prevention Trust, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Individuals are encouraged to support the consumer awareness messages, on how to stay safe when using fireworks, by retweeting and posting them on social media, using the hashtag #fireworksafe, or using the shared campaign materials.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opss-launches-firework-safety-campaign>

Future Meetings / Newsletters

These Weekly SEND parent/carer newsletters are shared with teams within education, health and social care as well as parents/carers, SENCOs, the DfE and local charities.

If you would like to be added to the weekly emailing list please contact siobhan.hardy@nelincs.gov.uk

If anyone would like to be involved in the weekly meetings, you are most welcome and can contact clare.linfitt@nelincs.gov.uk for more information.



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