

# West Midlands

Special Education Needs and Disability Regional Network



## WM SEND Regional Network Newsletter

September 2020

Welcome to the latest West Midlands SEND network newsletter. The network is currently led by Nichola Jones, Birmingham LA and Jane Carter, Warwickshire LA, on behalf of all 14. We are currently working with Pat Bullen as our interim Regional SEND network coordinator- Pat covers the EM too, and is working with us as we develop new structures for the future.

This is a bumper edition and owes much to the work of Cathy Hamer, NW SEND Regional Coordinator, for collating resources to support children and young people, their parents and practitioners, as we move into the next stage of our national Covid response.

The network is keen to provide support for children, families and practitioners. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries you may have. If you would like to be added to the newsletter circulation list just send an email to [colleen.regan@mottmac.com](mailto:colleen.regan@mottmac.com) or [pat.bullen@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:pat.bullen@leicester.gov.uk)

### GUIDANCE

#### Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Guidance on temporary changes to special educational needs and disability legislation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Last updated 26.8.20

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus>

#### All schools guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

#### Collection of guidance: Local authority children's services - coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-childrens-services-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### Collection of guidance: Early years and childcare - coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-yhttps://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19ears-and-childcare-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### Collection of guidance: Further and higher education - coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-and-higher-education-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### Collection of guidance: Schools - coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### Transport guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>

#### Implementing Phase 3 of the NHS response to Covid-19

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/implementing-phase-3-of-the-nhs-response-to-covid-19.pdf>

## NATIONAL EVENTS

### 2020 September

**15 September - 11:00-12:00pm**

#### **Joint and Cross Commissioning SENDIASS – How and Why**

The webinar will be led by Daisy Russell, Practice and Policy Manager of the Information, Advice and Support Services Network at CDC.

You can register for the webinar here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/joint-and-cross-commissioning-send-iass-why-and-how-tickets-112957699520>

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**16 September - 11:00-12:00pm**

#### **Effective support for children and young people with SEND – nasen webinar**

[https://nasen.org.uk/events/effective-support-for-children-and-young-people-with-for-send.html?utm\\_campaign=2715600\\_monthly%20round%20up%20w%2Fc%206th%20July&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Nasen&dm\\_i=2F68,1M7DC,7KZLHG,5HEAJ,1](https://nasen.org.uk/events/effective-support-for-children-and-young-people-with-for-send.html?utm_campaign=2715600_monthly%20round%20up%20w%2Fc%206th%20July&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Nasen&dm_i=2F68,1M7DC,7KZLHG,5HEAJ,1)

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**16 September – 3:45-5:15pm**

#### **An introduction to DME (Dual and Multiple Exceptionality), nasen webinar**

[https://nasen.org.uk/events/an-introduction-to-dme-dual-and-multiple-exceptionality.html?utm\\_campaign=2715600\\_monthly%20round%20up%20w%2Fc%206th%20July&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Nasen&dm\\_i=2F68,1M7DC,7KZLHG,5HEAJ,1](https://nasen.org.uk/events/an-introduction-to-dme-dual-and-multiple-exceptionality.html?utm_campaign=2715600_monthly%20round%20up%20w%2Fc%206th%20July&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Nasen&dm_i=2F68,1M7DC,7KZLHG,5HEAJ,1)

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**17 September – 3:30-4:30pm**

#### **High quality teaching to support pupils with SEND, tier one, nasen webinar**

[https://nasen.org.uk/events/high-quality-teaching-to-support-pupils-with-send-tier-1.html?utm\\_campaign=2715600\\_monthly%20round%20up%20w%2Fc%206th%20July&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Nasen&dm\\_i=2F68,1M7DC,7KZLHG,5HEAJ,1](https://nasen.org.uk/events/high-quality-teaching-to-support-pupils-with-send-tier-1.html?utm_campaign=2715600_monthly%20round%20up%20w%2Fc%206th%20July&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Nasen&dm_i=2F68,1M7DC,7KZLHG,5HEAJ,1)

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**24 September – 10:00-10:30am**

#### **An overview of the latest SEN data, nasen webinar**

[https://nasen.org.uk/events/an-overview-of-the-latest-sen-data.html?utm\\_campaign=2715600\\_monthly%20round%20up%20w%2Fc%206th%20July&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Nasen&dm\\_i=2F68,1M7DC,7KZLHG,5HEAJ,1](https://nasen.org.uk/events/an-overview-of-the-latest-sen-data.html?utm_campaign=2715600_monthly%20round%20up%20w%2Fc%206th%20July&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Nasen&dm_i=2F68,1M7DC,7KZLHG,5HEAJ,1)

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### 2020 Sept - Nov

#### **What's your normal?**

A co-produced and co-delivered webinar on understanding autism and mental health

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-autism-and-mental-health-a-co-produced-webinar-tickets-113897813426>

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**9 November**

#### **Annual national Autism a Hands on Approach Conference**

This event will go live and online this year so you can join from your own safe space. Register

online: [www.autismahandsonapproach.co.uk](http://www.autismahandsonapproach.co.uk)

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**12 November**

**KidztoAdultz North exhibition, Event City, Manchester**

<https://www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk/kidz-north/visit-kidz-to-adultz-north/>

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**2021**

**18-21 January**

**ADOS2 Administration and Coding, Manchester**

<https://positiveaboutautism.co.uk/ados2.html>

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**25 March**

Next steps for the Ofsted inspection framework – adapting to the impact of Covid-19 and the return to school, remote learning and regulation of apprenticeship providers and FE colleges

<https://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/Next-steps-for-the-Ofsted-Inspection-Framework>

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## RESOURCES

### Face Mask Exemption Card

From Friday 24th July, the Government has set out a list of face covering exemptions, as they are mandatory in additional enclosed spaces.

People are not required to prove they are exempt and it is for individuals to choose how they would want to communicate this to others. For those who would feel more comfortable showing something that says they do not have to wear a face covering, [exemption cards are available to print or display on mobile phones from gov.uk](#).

### A therapeutic story 'The Little Elf returns to school'.

The story was written to help primary aged children explore feelings about returning to school during the coronavirus pandemic. <https://edpsy.org.uk/features/2020/the-little-elf-returns-to-school-turning-to-narrative-in-a-pandemic/>

### Free Back to School Units

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) has created a free, 2 week long, whole school units of work for Early Years through to Year 6, to encourage a sense of community, to reflect on the last few months, and to help the whole school look forward to the future in a positive way. The notes use the book 'Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth' by Oliver Jeffers, which is suitable for children of all ages. Register here to receive the free 2 week teaching unit, which can be used at the beginning of the Autumn term.

<https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/1RW5-HA3/register-to-receive?pfredir=1>

### Wordless picture books for Primary School aged children: Lenny & Lucy in Lockdown and Lenny & Lucy Return to School

These free downloadable resources are wordless picture books that help to explain to Primary School aged children what is going on and to help them to express their feelings and to start discussions.

<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/news/2020/8/15/wordless-stories-to-help-children-returning-to-school-coming-this-month>

### Preparing for Adulthood: News and Resources

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1103863233297&ca=f47dc654-d9d7-4d81-9acf-05c1215d30ed>

### Whole school SEND news and resources

<https://dmtrk.net/2F68-1MFQQ-A7F108258D40C45E7KZLHGA1970D98BCC3D71E/cr.aspx>

## FOCUS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

### Preparing for recovery and bereavement resources

[Mental health and wellbeing in primary schools: preparing for recovery](#)  
[Growing in Grief Awareness Audit tool](#) which helps schools look at what needs to be in place for a supportive response to bereaved pupils, and opportunities to learn about coping with bereavement.

### Resources to support families of children and young people with Developmental Language Disorder and Speech Language and Communication Needs

Home schooling and more  
<https://padlet.com/naplicchair/e83ts3jjirw1>

### The Sensory Projects: Coronavirus educational resources

<http://www.thesensoryprojects.co.uk/covid19-resources>

### SEND specific resources to aid learning at home

<https://www.techability.org.uk/resources/aiding-learning-from-home/>

### Coping with uncertainty during the Coronavirus outbreak, a video by Dr Peter Vermeulen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67CfqQRyHsk>

### Free access to symbols (including Coronavirus related symbols) from Widget

<https://mailchi.mp/widgit/wo>

### STARS autism resources

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/coronavirus-resources>

### Being prepared for future emergencies

During COVID, Together Matters adapted their existing guidance and templates for making emergency plans. The aim was to help family carers get essential information written down and access the support they needed during the crisis. This was one of our most downloaded resources reflecting the level of anxiety about 'What if...?'

Since lockdown has eased many families have been telling them one of their top priorities is to get an emergency plan in place in case there is another crisis. But they also say they need support to keep going as it can be emotionally and practically hard. This is particularly true for older family carers who can find it very difficult to think about and plan for the future.

<https://www.togethermatters.org.uk/making-a-plan-for-emergencies-rewritable-version-pdf/>

### Thinking Ahead: A planning guide for families

This guide has lots of ideas to encourage conversations and actions to explore the world of work. It will be helpful to

- Schools and colleges as part of career planning
- Families when thinking about options
- People wanting to move on from day opportunities who missed out on accessing work when they were younger

<https://www.togethermatters.org.uk/thinking-ahead-planning-guide-pdf/>

### I'm Thinking Ahead

An easy to read book for people with learning disabilities to help to think and talk about plans for the future. Download this version to read, save to your computer or print.

<https://www.togethermatters.org.uk/resources-and-information>

## Back to School information for families from Contact

Contact know that for many parent carers the thought of their child going back to school after months of being at home will be a worrying time. Their new web page is packed with information and advice including:

- Key information you need to know.
- Preparing your child for returning to school.
- Children in special schools.
- Answers to some of your top questions

[https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/back-to-school-advice-\(england\)/](https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/back-to-school-advice-(england)/)

## FOCUS: Supporting young people with autism remotely to transition to secondary school this year....remotely

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/blog/supporting-autistic-pupils-with-transition-to-secondary-school-remotely/>

## FOCUS: EARLY YEARS/SEND

The EYSEND Partnership is composed of The Council for Disabled Children, Contact, nasen, The Communication Trust, I CAN and Dingley's Promise. It brings together a significant amount of training and resources with the aim of improving access and inclusion in the early years. There will be a programme of support, available until March 2021, for early years practitioners and parents across England. For further information please see the website,

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/early-years-send-partnership> and if you are interested in hearing about latest updates, you can sign up to the mailing list here. <https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=707116925a>

## FREE online training offer from I CAN – Supporting SLCN In Early Years Settings

Free webcasts and live webinars designed and produced by specialist speech and language therapist advisors. These provide early years practitioners, managers and SENCOs with an opportunity to consider how best to support children with SLCN.

To get started with the two webcasts, check out the [I CAN website](#).

I CAN have also arranged new dates so that each participant has a chance to discuss the changes that they are making following the two webcasts and also to ask any questions. These dates are:

- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September – 10:30–12noon
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – 10:30–12noon
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October – 7–8:30pm
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November - 7–8:30pm
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November – 3–4:30pm
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – 7–8:30pm
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January – 10:30–12noon
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – 2–3:30pm
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – 7–8:30pm
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March – 9:30–11am.

To view the webcasts and book a place on one of these dates, please visit [www.ican.org.uk/eysend-partnership/](http://www.ican.org.uk/eysend-partnership/) Contact [eysend@ican.org.uk](mailto:eysend@ican.org.uk) for further information.

## Meeting the Needs of Every Child training for Early Years practitioners from nasen

[FREE online course](#) that provides Early Years Practitioners with a thorough understanding of inclusive practice for SEND in Early Years settings.

Book your place on any one of a number of training sessions that are taking place virtually:

- 8th September, 2020
- 10th November, 2020
- 19th November, 2020
- 26th November, 2020

## Identifying SEN in the Early Years

<https://nasen.org.uk/news/nasen-launches-new-report-on-identifying-sen-in-the-early-years.html>

## **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR 16–25 YEAR OLDS with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities**

**Time to Talk** is an exciting new programme for young people with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) developed by the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Please share this information with young people, Post 16 SEND leads in your area and colleagues working in education, health, adult and children's social care, transition teams, youth services, advocacy groups and VCS colleagues.

Trained staff will provide 50 young people in England with person centred planning sessions to enable young people to:

- develop their aspirations, motivation, and plans for the future;
- feel heard and valued;
- strengthen their emotional wellbeing and resilience;
- be well equipped to manage transitions

Funding for the project is for 6 months and owing to the COVID-19 restrictions it is anticipated that all support being delivered online.

NDTi are keen to reach 16-25 year olds with additional needs who are isolated and may not be not engaged in education or training. Sessions will be tailored to each young person. Information and links to local networks will be Young people can make a **Request for Support from Time to Talk** themselves or others can make a **Request for Support on behalf of a young person** [here](#) on the NDTi website.

<https://www.ndti.org.uk/our-work/areas-of-work/children-and-young-people3/time-to-talk/>

## **FREE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

With government funding, you can gain a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification without paying a penny.

To be eligible, you just need to be:

- Over 19
- Living in England
- Not on an Apprenticeship

Time is ticking and places are limited so don't delay secure your place today.

Simply click on the link to start your enrolment [www.wefindanylearner.com/book-online/](http://www.wefindanylearner.com/book-online/) or call 01226 958 888.

With over 30 courses available there is something for everyone

## **REPORTS**

### **An evaluation of the framework for inspecting local areas' special educational needs and/or disabilities services**

This report evaluates the fidelity of the framework's implementation and explores views on the impact of the framework on services for children and young people with SEND. "We find that the inspections allow us to collect good evidence on how well areas identify children and young people with SEND and assess and meet their needs. The joint working between inspectorates allows us to get a holistic picture of education and health provision, though there is a need for a greater emphasis on social care in future inspections."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-evaluation-of-the-framework-for-inspecting-local-areas-special-educational-needs-and-or-disabilities-services>

### **The Good childhood report 2020**

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/good-childhood-report-2020.pdf>

### **TOPIC: No Child left behind - A Public Health approach to improving outcomes for vulnerable children**

A public health informed approach looks at the factors for individual children, their families and the communities in which they live that make it more or less likely that vulnerability and adversity in childhood has a lasting impact on their lives.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/913764/Public\\_health\\_approach\\_to\\_vulnerability\\_in\\_childhood.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/913764/Public_health_approach_to_vulnerability_in_childhood.pdf)

## Return to school films and resources

Primary school <https://youtu.be/ruoq7hK-e34>

Secondary school <https://youtu.be/bLsndUeflrQ>

Further Education <https://youtu.be/OV0y4KRDRys>

SEND [https://youtu.be/WQ\\_gpNvcrnk](https://youtu.be/WQ_gpNvcrnk)

## Back to school resources for autistic students, their parents and schools/colleges

<http://manchesterparentcarerforum.org.uk/back-to-school-resources-for-autistic-students-parents-schools-colleges/>

## New guide for transition back to Primary school

<new-guide-for-transition-back-to-school>

## Recovery, Re-introduction & Renewal: Safe & Successful Returns

Written by educational psychologists, the Recovery, Re-introduction and Renewal handbook presents five guiding principles of recovery and a graduated response framework for schools to use in planning the return to school at individual, group and whole-school level. It also includes references to practical resources to share with young people, staff and parents. There is also a range of resources available and an introductory webinar to accompany the handbook. You can download the handbook here.

<https://www.aep.org.uk/recovery-re-introduction-renewal/>

## Event Resources: Webinar Recordings

### Sensory Ideas for Home

<https://youtu.be/IC0LumVDkt4>

### The Realities of Home Schooling

[https://youtu.be/AAm04Wqqr\\_c](https://youtu.be/AAm04Wqqr_c)

### Returning to School: support and strategies for managing behaviour and worry

<https://youtu.be/vM8RAj96XLc>

### Sleep

<https://youtu.be/3OGoJDxNKcU>

### Wellbeing

<https://youtu.be/H8iYF3f65t8>

## Transitioning back to school - videos for families and young

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgy7Kd\\_oisKVe6D1ok0M59-XT\\_KBwUr\\_x](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgy7Kd_oisKVe6D1ok0M59-XT_KBwUr_x)

## Responding to Covid-19 resources

CDC have published a series resources with learning and best practice on how children's health, care and education sectors adapted and innovated in response to Covid-19 whilst continuing to provide high levels of care for children with SEND.

These resources capture some of the innovation and key learning from this time, including around practical, workforce, technological and operational changes; risks and challenges of virtual working and the steps taken to mitigate these; the impact on workforce, children and families; and examples of how and where this innovation could be extended beyond the pandemic.

The resources in this Responding to Covid-19 series are based on workshops delivered at the SEND Leads and Children's Health Commissioners virtual event and the DMO/DCO virtual event earlier this summer.

Resources include using local offer to respond to Covid-19; delivering Educational Psychology virtually; virtual autism assessments; using data tools in response to Covid-19; delivering virtual clinics and assessments; and a resource on risk assessments during the pandemic.

The recordings of the breakout sessions for the SEND Leads and Children's Health Commissioner can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

## Support for Primary Schools on mental health and wellbeing

The Schools' Wellbeing Partnership, in consultation with the Department for Education, has published support for primary schools to help them prepare their recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic so that the mental health and wellbeing of the whole school community is protected.

The Coronavirus crisis has been one of the most challenging times that schools have ever faced. They have achieved a remarkable amount in making sure that children and young people have been kept safe and able to continue learning. However, the pandemic is likely to have affected children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, both now and in the longer-term.

Supporting the whole school's mental health needs is more important than ever, as children and young people adjust to the return to school.

*Mental health and wellbeing in primary schools - Preparing for recovery* empowers schools to support and prioritise pupils' wellbeing during this period, as well as putting in place sustainable changes for the longer term, based on the local context and staff capacity.

The tool builds on the eight principles set out in Public Health England's guidance: Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing: a whole school and college approach, and shows how schools can promote and support mental wellbeing through all aspects of school life. The tool is designed to support senior leadership teams seeking to build on their current practice, providing information about the wide range of mental health and wellbeing resources available, and starting a conversation about the practical steps the school can take to support staff and pupil wellbeing.

[https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Blog\\_reports/Mental%20health%20and%20wellbeing%20in%20primary%20schools%20-%20preparing%20for%20recovery%20-%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Blog_reports/Mental%20health%20and%20wellbeing%20in%20primary%20schools%20-%20preparing%20for%20recovery%20-%20FINAL.pdf)

## Council for Disabled Children

To access CDC Questions email please click on the link to download the latest in the series of weekly CDC FAQs:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/FAQs%20Issue%206%20-%20Covid-19.pdf>

## Making ourselves heard newsletter

[https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Blog\\_reports/Mental%20health%20and%20wellbeing%20in%20primary%20schools%20-%20preparing%20for%20recovery%20-%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Blog_reports/Mental%20health%20and%20wellbeing%20in%20primary%20schools%20-%20preparing%20for%20recovery%20-%20FINAL.pdf)

## Ofsted news

<https://mailchi.mp/ofsted/j0j13n9u3d-124138?e=ecd8ab8f8b>

## Positive about autism news

<https://mailchi.mp/cfcdbe8d12d9/autism-enewsletter?e=acbe2531b0>

## Other Newsletters

### Afasic news

<https://mailchi.mp/4e2a443bf268/afasic-august-update-free-resources-for-families?e=99e418390f>

### Council for Disabled Children news

<https://mailchi.mp/ncb/your-september-newsletter-is-here-1299450?e=59c28d4a77>

### Early Years/SEND partnership news

<https://mailchi.mp/55b25fd74949/eysend-partnership-support-training-update-1299462?e=59c28d4a77#SALS>

### Learning disability newsletter

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/learning-disability-newsletter-issue-11.pdf>