



Summer Newsletter

July 2022

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Summer 2022 SENDIASS North Yorkshire Newsletter.

In 2021/2022 we received a total of 2632 referrals which meant an increase of 34% since last year. I remember when I first arrived into this post in 2015, the referral rate that year was 683 and we felt incredibly busy. 2022 has been busier than ever with referrals regularly moving over 600 per quarter so far. The main reason for referral for 2022 tends to stay within the top 3 places. The top for the first two months of this year was being given information and advice about requests for EHCP assessments. Next highest reason is provision and concerns about whether provision provided actually suits the child or young people's identified SEND needs. The top reasons for referrals changed in May and we found Appeals became the second largest reason and Provision at the top. We continue to work hard to offer relevant SEND information and advice in many different ways despite our team consisting of 4 coordinators (two are part time) a manager and a part time media & training officer. We are constantly assessing how to best deliver SEND information, advice and support in the most accessible way possible. So for the first time ever, we are closing our service down for the first week of August to get the website updated, new webinars written up and offered on You Tube and planning training over the autumn.

Our referrals come mainly through the telephone messaging service but emailing into the advice line is becoming increasingly popular and Facebook is growing steadily. We noticed recently that people are expecting us to pick up the phone when they ring. This is something we sadly cannot do any longer as we want to ensure the person waiting the longest will get their response from us first and so we work through the voicemail messages in time order. This takes up to two or three days usually, however in July we have had to extend this time. If we cannot reach you, we always try to leave a message if you have the facility for us to do so. If you recently spoke to a duty coordinator and are awaiting a further email, please check your spam folders.

Our live SENDIASS sessions about Education, Health and Care plan assessment requests (EHCAR) have proven so popular that some months we have ran two sessions. They will continue on a 4-6 week basis.

In September we are planning to increase live training to offer regular SEN support sessions. Alice will be advertising these free training sessions (often called webinars) in the autumn term with instructions on how to book a place. Our aim is to give you as much information and guidance as possible as you can access from our website. We are also planning to have this information available in other languages to ensure accessibility for more families.

Melanie – SENDIASS Manager

Consultations in England

There have been quite a few local and national consultations this year and SENDIASS North Yorkshire has been concentrating, like many, on 'The SEND Review and Alternative Provision' paper 2022.



SEND Review:

Right support
Right place
Right time



This paper was finally announced on the 29th March and consultation closes on the 22nd July at 11:45pm. There are 22 questions to answer and you can choose to answer as many as you want, even just one, to ensure you have given your opinion. When answering the questions, if you choose to tick any box saying 'other' it will be read and taken into account, however not marked down as part of the Gov statistics.

There are 4 main aspects to this green paper and you can decide to write about one area or all. If you decide on one area only, for example about mandatory mediations, whether you agree or not to mandatory mediation you may have some good experiences of a particular way this service actioned something or you may want to share something you experienced that was a concern. You can tick about the mediation box and then add additional information about your experiences to this. This applies to all the other proposals too.

SENDIASS North Yorkshire would urge that you do look for information about these proposals. You could listen to pod casts, IPSEA's website or look at the easy read leaflets as some of the proposals will undoubtedly impact children and young people in North Yorkshire, whether positively or negatively.

It was encouraged that you read the School's Bill 2022 alongside the Green paper. This has less scope for feedback and consultation as much of it was completed in 2019. This paper is proposing that all schools will move or be in Multi Academy Trusts (MAT's) by 2030. It describes the expected sizes of these MAT's and what happens if after two inspections, results are less than good, the choices or direction this school could be given due to showing weaknesses.

The school bill 2022 focuses on a duty for local authorities in England to establish and maintain Children Not In School (CNIS) registers, and to provide support to home educators (Local Authorities may have a choice of what they offer). These changes are partly due to the numbers of children and young people increasing year on year, moving to elected home education (EHE) but particularly after the Covid -19 pandemic, raising by 38%. The registers will record eligible children of compulsory school age that are: electively home educated,

flexi-schooled, or receive alternative provision in an unregistered setting (unless an exception applies) There is also an introduction of the parent pledge, stating the Government's aim is for 90% of pupils to gain grade 5 GCSE in Maths and English and gives examples of how this may happen. It appears that Attendance Orders shall be speeded up with the potential to a much larger fine or worse was described. There are many things in the School's Bill that do need reading about as some actions are due from the actioned from September 2022.



Melanie

The SEND Tribunal update.

There are now over 4,000 cases to be heard before the end of July 2022, the SEND Tribunal have informed that they are facing an unprecedented backlog, having over 10,000 cases to be heard for 2012/22.



HM Courts &
Tribunals Service

Some of these cases will not be heard until 2023 due to the capacity and therefore two kinds of cases are being prioritised. Phased transfers, where a child or young person is moving from one phase of education to another (for example, primary to secondary school) and the other priority is children, young people out of education.

At a recent meeting with the Judges, they reminded everyone that these issues need to be written on the SEND 35 appeal form. It helps the Tribunal team if on the subject line of your email you write 'missing education' or 'phased transfer' alongside the other information you must include so they are alerted immediately. These cases will then be expedited.

We have noticed a small number of cases being adjourned until the autumn term so far, but some, reasons for appealing in the first place could be made more difficult with additional time delays. For example, if there is likelihood of your child being permanently excluded in which case you can email the SEND tribunal and explain why you think a delay would be detrimental. Finally, if anything changes or you do not think the tribunal has up to date or accurate information then we would advise you bring this to their attention through an email too.

Changes to the Team



Goodbye Marnie

We are sad to let you know that at the end of July we will be saying goodbye to Marnie, our Coordinator for Selby.

Marnie joined the team earlier in the year and is now going to work within the Adoption Service in York.

We wish you the best of luck in your new role Marnie.

Education, Health and Care Plans

Do you have an EHCP (an Education, health and Care Plan)?

If you do, then it must be reviewed within 12 months to make sure it is up to date and that what is in the plan about your needs is correct. These needs must be written into section B of your EHCP. Then in section F there will be very specific information on ways your needs will be supported and hopefully achieved as you move towards your dreams and aspirations.

Just like when you are applying for an EHCP assessment, it is important that you have your say during this Annual Review, so below are some things you might want to do and think about:

Preparing for your EHCP annual review

You must receive a copy of your EHCP and any reports and assessments at least 10 days before your review. This gives you time to read through your plan, decide if it's all still correct or whether some things have changed.

At the meeting.

Will it be virtual or face to face? Most often nowadays it is a hybrid, meaning a mix of both.

Do you want to be seated in a particular place or near someone else?

Have you got any preferences about the style of the meeting? Some young people like to welcome the professionals to their meeting and others prefer to be quiet and ask a family member or a professional to support them in communicating.

If you need a break during the meeting, are you just going to ask for one yourself or do you want the person organising the meeting to add one in at the very beginning so

everyone knows there is a 5 or 10 minutes break.

During the meeting:

Have you achieved the targets (outcomes) in your plan yet? You will find these in Section E.

Is the support you are getting still helping? (Look at section F).

Is there something new that you would like to work towards?

Is there anything else you can think of that might help you to reach your targets?

National Volunteers Week

When the **National Volunteers week** opened on the 1-7th June we advertised for volunteers across North Yorkshire.

The volunteers role will range from being able to attend various events to support SENDIASS when there are enquires to offering impartial and arm's length support to parents, carers or young adults at an annual review or help support with the EHCAR process (request to assess for an EHCP) after a parent, carer or young adult has attended an EHCAR webinar.

SENDIASS coordinator's often support to prepare for particular meetings but sometimes there is a need to attend due to identified needs and the Annual review is likely to be supported by a volunteer if available.



Additional Support Links

IPSEA: Offers free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help get the right education for children and young people with SEND:
<https://www.ipsea.org.uk>

KIDS: A National Charity, that provides a wide range of services to disabled children, young people, and their families in England. Their services include: drop-in crèches and nurseries for the under 5s to youth clubs, short breaks and residential stays for young adults:
<https://www.kids.org.uk>

Contact: A National Information and Advice service for families of disabled children:
<https://contact.org.uk>

ACE Education: Provides independent advice and information to parents, carers, young people and professionals on state education in England. <http://www.ace-ed.org.uk>

North Yorkshire Connect: A free community directory for North Yorkshire.
<https://northyorkshireconnect.org.uk>

Parent Carer Voice News

PCV North Yorkshire hope that you have the best summer you can!

Its been a tough year for many families across the County but hopefully these sunny days will stick around for the holidays, allowing for some outdoor plans and maybe to enjoy some nature if possible.

It may be useful to know that the library service's Summer reading challenge called 'Gadgeteers' which is about science and innovation for 4-11 year olds. The libraries are supported by many volunteers and each have different offers for young children through to teenagers, such as Lego club and Chess Club. Each library offers something different but its worth contacting them to find out what's on locally for you and your families. All libraries offer the hidden disabilities sunflower lanyard scheme too and due to its success in Harrogate in 2021, the scheme has been extended across all libraries. The aim is to enhance the library experience for children, young people or adults with hidden disabilities, such as neurodiversity, visual or hearing impairment or anxiety and no diagnosis is needed.

The main focus this summer has been concentrating on the SEND Green Paper as this important consultation closes on the 22nd July. This is the chance to have your views read and considered. Then, in the autumn term we are hoping to introduce more 'Let's talk' sessions focussing on various aspects of SEND, what services are available and your experiences or views about them, so they help shape future offers.



Parent Carer Voice News

Changes within PCV

You may know that in the Spring Term, and after dedicating a number of years to PCV, helping to shape many services within North Yorkshire with her experience and knowledge, Rhiann has decided it was time to leave PCV and concentrate on other things.

Alison Borg is now our PCV Interim chair and is working hard to continue ensuring PCV North Yorkshire is aiming to be the best it can for local parents and carers of children and young people with SEND.



Alison has experience ranging from being an Additional Support Manager, a Learning Disability Manager to being a mother and foster carer. If anyone is interested in joining Alison and the PCV board in the autumn term, please contact us as we would welcome your interest.

Flying High with SENDIASS

At the beginning of June, some of the team met Flying High young people's group. SENDIASS want to form a young people's group to focus on some of our duties within this service and have discussions that would inform our offer.

The Flying High group asked if they could help start this group with us and so we begin in September. We are going to meet virtually every half term, Wednesdays at 4pm, and already have some other young people aged between 13 and 19 years old joining us. Anyone from 11-25 years with SEND can join either of these groups and the welcome given is exceptional.

We were bowled over by the warmth we received by the Flying High group and it was great to meet such enthusiasm to talk about the SEND review Green Paper. We are still trying to decide on a name for the SENDIASS group with some young people. Suggestions such as Flying High with SENDIASS, SENDIASS Flying High and Groupy Mc Groupface so far have been put to one side. I suggested FlyIAS HighIAS but that was flatly refused, although I have no idea why!

Upcoming Themes on the Month

September— School Anxiety

October— Avoiding Exclusions



Advice Line Summer Opening Times

Our Advice Line is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during School Holidays from 9:30am—1pm.

The Advice Line will be closed for a week beginning on Monday 1st August, however you can still leave a message and the team will get back to you the following week.

Contact us

If you would like to get in touch with us you can contact us on one of the following platforms:

Advice Line: 01609 536923 **Advice Line Email:** info@sendiassnorthyorks.org

Our Website: www.sendiassnorthyorkshire.co.uk **Facebook:** @Sendiassnorthyorks

Twitter: @SendiassY **Instagram:** @SendiassNY **YouTube:** @SendiassNorthYorkshire

We would like to say a massive thank you to all our families who continue to give us feedback on our service.

We have been sharing this feedback across our Social Media Platforms on 'Feedback Friday'.

Your feedback is extremely valuable in allowing us to improve our service.

If you would like to leave us some feedback please visit our website:

<http://sendiassnorthyorkshire.co.uk/parentsand-carers/>



Your Feedback

FEEDBACK FRIDAY!

'Brilliant service with invaluable and accessible information delivered in a way I can understand'



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And finally...

The SENDIASS North Yorkshire Team hope you have a relaxing Summer and spend some much needed time in the sunshine.

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