

SEND voice

Warwickshire special educational needs and disability news and information

Contents

- Pg 2** Hello and welcome
- Pg 3** Children's experiences
- Pg 5** SEND processes news
- Pg 9** A Spotlight on...
Warwickshire Parent
Carer Voice
- Pg 10** Schools' experiences
- Pg 11** Support for families



SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. There are four areas of SEND: communication and interaction; cognition and learning; emotional, social and mental health; physical and sensory. A child or young person with SEND may have difficulties with more than one of these areas – this is often referred to as having 'complex needs'.

A Spotlight on.... Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice



Read the full article on page 9.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send

Hello and welcome

Hello and welcome to the 2021 Summer/ Autumn edition of SEND Voice!



My name is Duane Chappell and I am the Strategy and Commissioning Manager for SEND and Inclusion at Warwickshire County Council. I would like to welcome you to the second edition of SEND Voice for 2021 and once again there will be updates and news in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities within Warwickshire.

We have had a busy few months in Warwickshire as work continued the County Council's SEND and Inclusion Change Programme and Ofsted/CQC conducted their Local Area Inspection. The Programme is comprised of 31 separate projects and aims to provide every child with access to high quality education so they can achieve their full potential.

By working together with local partners, we aim to improve the outcomes for children and young people with special

educational needs and disabilities by promoting inclusion in mainstream settings, giving schools the skills and resources to meet the needs of learners and building the confidence of parents and carers. There's a [short video on WCC's YouTube channel if you would like to find out more](#).

I welcomed the Local Area Inspection report's findings and there's an update further on in this publication on Page 5 that goes into more details about the areas of WCC's SEND service that were commended and parts that need improvement.

All the SEND-focused work on behalf of Warwickshire County Council and our partners contributes to a shared goal of seeing all children and young people in Warwickshire leading fulfilling lives as part of their communities.

We have had a busy few months in Warwickshire as work continued (on) the County Council's SEND and Inclusion Change Programme and Ofsted/CQC conducted their Local Area Inspection.



Duane Chappell

Children's experiences

Warwickshire student celebrates supported internship success!

A Warwickshire student's achievements are being celebrated after she completed a successful supported internship working with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Courtney Garnett, 23, from Warwick, is a student at WCG, Moreton Morrell College and has spent the last academic year on a Supported Internship Programme with placements hosted by Warwickshire County Council. As part of this she has worked on a virtual platform one day a week with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service's (WFRS) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team.

Supported Internships offer students with Education, Health and Care plans an opportunity to gain work experience while studying and a chance to develop their skills. Students spend at least three days a week working with an employer and performing a specific role to meet a business need. They are an initiative that Warwickshire County Council has been championing to support children and young people with special educational needs and disability in the county.

Courtney's main job role with WFRS was a project to develop a Service Directory of all the voluntary and community groups and organisations working to support children and young people, older people and groups covered by the Equality Act 2010. The directory will improve the capacity and efficiency of officers at WFRS with collaborative work, engaging with different communities across the county.

Courtney said: "I loved my whole experience working with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. I loved creating the service directory and while there were challenges to find the information for some of the groups, the service directory has made me feel happy because I know it is going to be used by Warwickshire County Council WFRS as a service to benefit other people.

"I wish I could have started my placement earlier than planned, but due to circumstances I couldn't because of Covid. I would change the fact of being in the office a bit more with Imran and Jo - I really



enjoyed these visits and it wasn't always easy working remotely at College. I hope the next intern has the same great experience as me."

During the internship, Courtney developed a range of skills and qualities including her IT skills and knowledge, her confidence to communicate with others on a professional level, resilience to adapt to different situations and perseverance to learn new tasks.

Warwickshire County Council is supporting a number of students with Supported Internships and members of the public can find out more here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/post16help>.

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education, at Warwickshire County Council said: "I'm delighted to hear about Courtney's positive experiences of working with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. Supported internships are a great way for young people with an education, health and care plan to gain valuable experience in the workplace and I look forward to hearing about Courtney's next steps."

[Watch Courtney discuss her experiences here.](#)

Update from the girls' group

You may remember the girls' group from the last edition of SEND Voice. They are back with an update.

We have been busy again this term. During the Easter holiday we met virtually and tried our hand at making Easter biscuits. In May, we welcomed Clover to our meeting, who shared her experiences of secondary school. Clover had lots of useful tips and we bombarded her with questions about life in secondary school, in general, as well as about coping with a hearing loss. To round the year off, on Saturday 10th July, we all met for a picnic and some fun and games. It has been a fantastic year which the girls have clearly enjoyed... I loved everything about the picnic, especially the book hunt (Frankie) I love doing Girls' Group because I get to meet other



girls like me and make friends (Clea). Everything was really fun, and I finally met girls like me (Bella).

Restorative Practice: what is it and how is it used to support children with SEND needs?

Restorative practice is a way of working that Warwickshire County Council has adopted in its work with children and their families. Restorative practice is a term used to describe a method of working with people which emphasises three key things:

- The importance of respectful, healthy relationships.
- A belief in resolving difficulties.
- A commitment to repairing harm where there has been conflict.

Central to restorative practice is a commitment to work with people. The council believes that better outcomes will happen if it works alongside people, rather than doing things to them, doing things for them, or just not doing them at all.

Change is important in all the work of the Children and Families team. They want to be important in helping change to happen. They believe that the two key ingredients for change are support and challenge.

So, they will provide this high support, high challenge offer to all people that they work with and will welcome both support and challenge in return. Families are the experts in their own lives, and they need to work with families to help turn this expertise into the solutions needed at the time to solve problems.

The Pathway to change model was formally launched at the Children and Families Staff conference held across the county during July/ August/ September 2019. It is a model to support assessments which are restorative and rigorous. It builds on the practice of holding restorative conversations with families about what has happened, who has been affected and what needs to happen now. It enables practitioners to think carefully about what is happening now, what needs to change, what is preventing that change from happening, and what harm might happen in the future that needs to be prevented.

SEND processes news

Warwickshire welcomes outcomes of Ofsted report

A report issued from the Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission on SEND services in Warwickshire has been published highlighting several aspects of good practice alongside areas for improvement.

Inspectors visited Warwickshire between the 12 and 16 July 2021. As part of the inspection the team spoke with children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, health, key partners and local authority officers. They also visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

Whilst several areas were commended, including the commitment of area leaders to improve the outcomes of children and young people with SEND, the report also highlighted weaknesses that the local area needs to address, particularly waiting times for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) assessments and the quality of the online local offer. The report also notes that more work needs to be done with parents and carers, and schools need to access more staff training to help them understand and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

The report confirmed that current area leaders have the expertise, drive, determination, and commitment to improving health, education and care outcomes for all children and young people with SEND. There was also clear acknowledgement of the work already underway to implement an ambitious Change Programme in response to the outcomes of the reviews.

The main findings of the report are:

- Children and young people with SEND achieve positive educational outcomes. A high proportion of them remain in education, training and employment and a high proportion also go on to achieve paid employment. Attendance rates for children and young people with SEND are very positive, and fixed term exclusions have reduced dramatically.
- Area leaders understand the strengths and weaknesses of the area because of their accurate, well-informed and detailed self-evaluation. They commissioned two independent reviews of all SEND services to help them identify what works well and what does not across the local area. Leaders have developed and started to implement an ambitious Change Programme in response to the findings of the reviews.
- The Change Programme identifies what needs to change and why. It has prioritised and focused on key areas, with further actions appropriately planned out in the right order. This is enabling area leaders to drive the necessary improvements across the local area. However, some plans are still developing, such as those to improve neurodevelopmental pathways.
- Current area leaders know that the area was slow to implement the 2014 reforms in full. Previous leadership groups had not worked closely enough together. Weaknesses in the past have led to poor outcomes for some children and young people, particularly those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Leaders are determined to address the weaknesses across the area and have started to do so.

Continued on page 6

To address the issues raised in the report and continue to build on the SEND Change and Inclusion Programme, a written statement of action will now be co-produced with education, health, social care and Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice to demonstrate how all partners will work together to improve services for children and young people in Warwickshire.

Talking about the inspection report, Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services said:

"As a local area, we are determined and focused to implement our plans to meet the needs of all children and young people with SEND. I am pleased that the inspectors have recognised the commitment of the leadership in Warwickshire and have confirmed that we have the right plan in place with the Send and Inclusion Change Programme. However, we recognise that there is more work to be done and we know there are several areas where we need to do better and improve the services, we provide.

"As with many places in the country, we have been asked to produce a written statement of action to outline how those improvements will be made. The statement will be drafted in the next few weeks with input from our colleagues in education, health, social care, Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice and other key stakeholders. Our action plan will be robust, and we will work with rigour and pace to ensure changes are made to help us to improve and enhance the SEND offer in Warwickshire.

"SEND is a key priority and the work we have done as part of our SEND and Inclusion Change Programme has been acknowledged as the right plan addressing the key issues to ensure changes are made. Our ambitious plans to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND including building a new school and resource provisions, providing

clear pathways of support, reforming our decision-making panels and ensuring our systems are sustainable into the future will help us to make a real change to the way in which support children and young people with SEND in Warwickshire."

Dr Sarah Raistrick, local GP and Chair of Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group said

"Ensuring that all children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire with SEND are able to access the support that they need is a priority for the CCG. This report recognises that we are not where we need to be as a system, but that we have the plans in place which will help us to deliver better care, whether it is to provide additional support for those waiting for a diagnosis or those receiving support already. We are committed to working in partnership with Warwickshire County Council to implement these plans and to make sure that we improve things for our local children, young people and their families."

Changes are already underway in Warwickshire to help to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. This includes the SEND and Inclusion Change Programme; a three-year programme that aims to ensure that every young person with SEND has the knowledge, skills and qualifications they need to lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. In addition, the Child Friendly Warwickshire programme was given the green light by Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet in March 2021 and forms part of a wider £12 million programme of change in the way the Children's and Families Services work in the county.

Read the report here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-disabilities-send/send-inclusion-change-programme/3>

Redesigned Local Offer to help Warwickshire families access support

Improvements and updates have been made to an online resource for parents and carers in Warwickshire.

This resource provides information and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND). It is called the SEND Local Offer and Warwickshire County Council has been working hard to improve its SEND Local Offer to ensure that families with SEND can find the information they need.

Every local authority in England must produce and maintain a Local Offer. It brings together information about the local services and support available across education, health, and social care for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Consultations with families, young people and professionals in Warwickshire across five months revealed that it wasn't always easy to find the information they were looking for in the Local Offer. A task group of Warwickshire County Council officers and independent parent carers have worked together with young people and practitioners to address these concerns.

The group explored the understanding gained from these local evaluations with a mapping exercise across 167 other local authority inspection reports. They also cross-referenced against current SEND legislation on what must be included in a Local Offer.

The group worked on improving the navigation issues which were impeding access to information. They have created 12 broad categories to help people find what they were looking for within a more accessible and logical format. On completion, this was re-checked across a

range of people through online exercises designed to identify and evaluate the user experience.

The process of redesigning the navigational aspects of the Local Offer enabled the group to identify where the problems in locating information and support were. Importantly, it also helped identify where there were gaps in information or provision. Mapping current information and services across the new categories is now underway. This work will continue alongside development of new information and resources that will see further updates to the Local Offer in the future.

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families said: "Warwickshire County Council is committed to continuous improvement to build an interactive Local Offer that residents can be proud of. Actively engaging with people and working productively together within a 'you said, we did' approach is an integral part of our work going forwards. We were grateful for all the input from children, young people, professionals, parents and carers that fed into the redesign. Please do take a look and tell us what you think."

Find the SEND Local Offer here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send>



The county's bear has got a new look to represent Child Friendly Warwickshire



The Warwickshire Bear has been given a makeover following a vote for an emblem to represent work to celebrate children and young people.

Child Friendly Warwickshire is a celebration of all the positive things happening in the county to make it the best place it can be for children to live, learn and grow. It aims to promote and encourage more activities and projects to benefit children and young people, as well as bring together existing services, activities, and communities to focus on creating safe, happy and bright futures for Warwickshire youngsters.

Warwickshire is already a county full of opportunity. It is where growing up is full of fun, safe and healthy experiences, and the chance to make memories which set our children and young people on course to fulfil their dreams. The Child Friendly Warwickshire programme will make sure this remains a truth.

Child Friendly Warwickshire has five guiding principles, developed from a recent survey where children and young people shared their views, opinions and aspirations on what a child friendly county means to them. Children are at the centre of our communities and it's important to ensure that their voices are heard, they are engaged in all aspects of their lives, and they are empowered to reach their full potential. Everyone has a part to play to support Child Friendly Warwickshire and people from all backgrounds across the county are invited to come together to make Warwickshire the best it can be.

Coming soon:

The programme is currently working on a new website and social media channels to share young people's voices and to engage with businesses and community groups – watch this space and look out for the bear.

This is only the start of the journey, to share comments and feedback which will help to collectively achieve the child friendly goals, please contact childfriendly@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Governors webinar sees insightful discussion with Professor Adam Boddison

Over 40 school governors attended a thought-provoking webinar on 1 July 2021 on SEND & Inclusion arranged by Warwickshire County Council.

The event aimed to raise awareness to support the ambitions for children and young people with SEND in Warwickshire and for governors to understand their responsibilities for children with SEND in schools. It included the latest news on the SEND and Inclusion Change Programme by Duane Chappell, WCC SEND & Inclusion Strategy & Commissioning Manager, and an engaging session on the national context for SEND by keynote speaker Professor Adam Boddison, Chief Executive at the National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN) and Chair of Whole School SEND.

Governors learnt valuable information about how they can improve inclusion in schools to allow every student to reach their full potential:

Governors were updated on the expectations in policies and legislation, particularly the SEND Code of Practice, and the key roles of SENCOs in schools, and a wealth of resources and information available to support schools with the ultimate aim to 'Make SEND everybody's responsibility'.

The feedback was very positive.

It was an inspiring and fascinating talk, that really brought my mind into focus about my role as a SEND governor.

Getting to meet Duane Chapell. It was fascinating listening to what she was saying and I loved seeing her passion and enthusiasm come across.

For more information on Professor Boddison please visit <https://www.adamboddison.com/>

For more information on the SEND and Inclusion Change Programme please see this short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t8IDKM2jk>

WCC looks forward to running more events for governors in the future. For more information, please email sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk.

A Spotlight on...

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice

If you are a parent carer then Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice is YOUR Parent Carer Forum - read on to find out more about what we are doing, how we're working to support you and how you can get involved. If you are a SENCO, service provider or a decision maker - read on to find out how we support parent carers to get their voice heard.

What is a Parent Carer Forum?

A parent carer forum is a group made up of parents carers who have children aged 0-25 with special educational needs and / or disabilities who work with local authorities, education, health services and other providers to make sure the services they plan and deliver really meet the needs of disabled children and families.

What Have We Done?

Since we formed earlier this year we have been busy building our foundations. We are thrilled with our new logo and to have launched our website www.warwickshireparentcarervoice.org. We have started to recruit parent carers to our membership, understand what is happening locally, build relationships with key decision makers and to represent parent carers at meetings with Warwickshire County Council. We took an active part in the recent Joint Inspection, raising the profile of the inspection with parent carers and encouraging them to complete the questionnaire and attend the open meeting. We also attended lots of the sessions with the inspection team.

What's Next

It's an exciting time for us as we grow our organisation and get more involved with the decision making processes - we look forward to continuing work with both the Warwickshire County Council and Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group to build on these foundations and make coproduction a reality.

How To Get Involved

If you are a parent carer please join us - you can find the link on our website, we also love to receive emails about both the systems that aren't working for your family and also the examples of when things are really going well so please do get in touch.

Now that Covid restrictions are easing we are planning some opportunities to meet up with you - look out for the details in your members' mailings, on our website or facebook page.

We also welcome interest in volunteering with us - there are lots of different ways you can be involved, contact us for more information.

In the autumn we will also be launching our 'State of SEND' survey where you can give us your feedback and help shape our priorities for the year ahead.

If you are not a parent carer but are a professional working with SEND families please support us by signposting parent carers to join us; you can also sign up for our newsletter.



Schools' experiences

Warwickshire primary schools celebrate WIncKS awards

Seven primary schools in Warwickshire are being commended for the high-quality of their support for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND).

Primary Schools from across the county have been given a Warwickshire Inclusion Kitemarking Award (WIncKS). All early year's providers must make reasonable adjustments to ensure they are offering inclusive provision for children with SEND needs and the WIncKS award recognises and celebrates schools that go the extra mile with their SEND support.

There are now 58 educational settings in Warwickshire that have a WIncKS award and this includes day nurseries, childminders, nursery schools and classes and pre-schools. A good or outstanding Ofsted rating is mandatory for nurseries and childminders to be considered for a WIncKS award. All the latest winners have received a framed certificate to mark their achievement.

Those receiving awards include:

- Chilvers Coton Community School in Nuneaton
- Racemeadow Primary Academy in Atherstone
- Westgate Primary School in Warwick
- Briar Hill Primary School in Leamington Spa
- Eastlands Primary School in Rugby
- Goodyers End Primary School in Bedworth
- Paddox Primary School in Rugby



Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education, said: "I am really pleased to see more educational settings in Warwickshire meeting the high standards to win a WIncKS award. This shows real commitment. The schools have clearly demonstrated excellent inclusive practice in supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families. This is key to ensuring that all children in Warwickshire are able to lead a fulfilling life and to be part of their community. Well done to all those who are receiving awards, you should be very proud."

For more information on WIncKS visit

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/view-current-wincks-award-winners>

Support for families

New support service for young people with SEND launched – Connect and Be Heard

A national charity providing support services for children, young people and their families has received grant funding by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to run a new support service in the county - Connect and Be Heard.



KIDS West Midlands will be running the new programme to provide support to young people aged 14-25 with a Special Educational Need and/or Disability (SEND). The charity was awarded funding following a successful bid for funds from Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund. The new project will run from September 2021 to September 2022 to support young people's mental health and increase their participation in their local communities.

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families at Warwickshire County Council said: "I am really pleased that Warwickshire County Council has been able to provide the funding for the Connect and Be Heard project. It is a great way for young people with special educational needs and or disability to have their voice heard and to receive support and advice around mental health.

"I am sure that the project will be of real benefit of all those involved, and I look forward to hearing more about the great work being delivered by KIDS West Midlands."

The charity will be organising an online monthly group creating an opportunity to meet new people, make friends and take part in a range of activities to promote positive emotional wellbeing and have a voice. The online group will be facilitated by KIDS staff with the young people planning and agreeing the activities.

KIDS also plan to host social meet ups in the school holidays and facilitate individual support for young people to make decisions that impact on their future.

Claire Reid, Regional Manager for KIDS, said: "KIDS is delighted to be one of the beneficiaries of the Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund. With the support of this innovative funding from Warwickshire County Council we have been able to launch our Connect and Be Heard Project that will directly benefit young people with SEND aged 14-25 and their families across the county.

"The project aim is to support young people with their emotional well-being and increase their resilience to build strategies which can be used throughout their life. Supporting young people to build their confidence, skills and opportunity to participate in decision making that impacts on their lives.

"Working together we can improve the lives of young disabled people and their families in Warwickshire."



New SEND Inclusion Guidance for schools to boost support for children and families in Warwickshire

More guidance is available for school staff to meet the needs of young learners in Warwickshire with the recently launched SEND Inclusion Guidance.

The Guidance is available online as part of Warwickshire's Local Offer and its purpose is to help school staff to implement effective extra support for young people. It is structured in the four broad areas of need as outlined in the government's [SEND Code of Practice](#) to support schools to plan provision for learners. The four areas are Cognition and Learning, Social Emotional and Mental Health, Communication and Interaction and Physical and Sensory.

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education at Warwickshire County Council, said: "The new guidance feeds into the ongoing work in Warwickshire to provide every child with access to high-quality education so they

can achieve their full potential. I am confident that educational professionals will find the new resources to be helpful and useful when supporting young learners in the county."

The guidance was developed working alongside practitioners and parents, and promotes Warwickshire's inclusive, needs-led ethos in supporting children and young people with SEND in mainstream schools when appropriate. A webinar is taking place on

Explore the guidance on Warwickshire's County Council's website <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send-inclusion-guidance>.

Little Ears support group for babies and pre-school children with hearing loss

Little Ears is a child, parent and family group for babies and pre-school children with a hearing loss, run jointly by the Hearing Team and Speech & Language Team for children with a hearing loss. Each month they have a theme and the children have the opportunities to explore and interact with their peers.



It is an opportunity for families to meet others and share stories and experiences. Now that the restrictions are lifting, they have been able to facilitate monthly Little Ears sessions, meeting outside at St Nicholas Park, Warwick and Riversley Park in Nuneaton.

It has been an excellent opportunity for new families who, up until now, have met virtually on MS teams, to meet in person. They hope to be able to resume their meetings from September, held at the relevant centres, on different days in the month. Please join them if you can, they look forward to seeing you at any of the venues!

For further information:

Little Ears North: 3rd Tuesday in the month at Riversley Park Children's Centre. CV11 5TY
Contact: Denise Newman Tel: 01926 413777
email: denisnewman@warwickshire.gov.uk

Little Ears South: 1st Friday in the month at Kingsway Children's Centre, CV31 3HB
Contact: Hannah Cockburn Tel: 01926 413737
email: hannahcockburn@warwickshire.gov.uk

Little Ears East: 1st Monday in the month at Claremont Road Children's Centre, CV21 3UL
Contact: Elizabeth Roche Tel: 01926 400001 ext 254
email: Elizabeth.Roche@swft.nhs.uk
or Julia Sheppard-Boby
email: juliasheppard-boby@warwickshire.gov.uk

Act for Autism workshops in October

Are you a Coventry/Warwickshire based parent/carer of an autistic child or teenager? Do you want to understand their autism and help them understand their autism? Act for Autism are offering a series of facilitator led workshops.

CASP: Children's Autism Support Programme for parents/carers of children aged 4-12

TASP: Teenage Autism Support Programme for parents/carers of children aged 13-18

The workshops are fully-funded and comprise of 4 x 3-hour sessions over a 4-week period facilitated by autism professionals who are also parents. You will be joined by up to 15 other parents for an informative and empowering workshop.

The objectives of the workshops are to enable parents/carers to understand their child's lived experience – the joys and the challenges, to facilitate a 'conscious connection' between parent/carer and their child via the 3 C pathway, a relational approach to parenting.

They will identify adjustments and changes to help children feel secure and be understood.

The four weeks will follow a broad framework:

1. Autism, a brief history and context. Your child and their autism
2. The sensory world – experience it and consider how it impacts on your child
3. Communication – making connections and building a secure base
4. Transitions, advocacy, planning next steps and problem solving. Each week aims to be person-focused and attendees will be encouraged to share and comment.

All sessions are FREE (£50 charge for DNAs or cancelling within 48 hours of the course). For more information, dates and to complete a booking form please contact Julie Hampton at julie@actforautism.co.uk

Little Pegs offers Autism Support

Little Pegs is all about supporting local families who find themselves living with Autism and associated disorders. They are here no matter what stage of the journey you may find yourselves on. From full diagnosis to that niggly feeling something is not quite as it should be, child, teenager or adult, Little Pegs is there to help and support.

Their closed Facebook group offers a safe place to ask questions, share experiences or just find a listening ear. They don't have all the answers but chances are someone in the group has 'been there' and can point you in the right direction or even just offer a virtual hug.

Little Pegs also meet in the real world once a month at family support group to have a chat, eat cake, meet other parents sharing our journey, eat cake, let the children make new friends and eat cake (cake is very important to them). Support groups are very relaxed, come alone or bring the whole family, they really don't mind. Support group meetings are held at Stockingford Community Centre, Nuneaton, CV10 8DY and posted as events on their page so keep your eyes peeled.

During school holidays they also offer inclusive activity sessions for families. These give opportunities for their Little Pegs and siblings to socialise, join in with craft activities and positive play and even get muddy at their very own allotment.



Updates from the Family Information Service



Warwickshire's Family Information Service (FIS) is an information, advice and guidance service for families living in the area. They offer information, including one-to-one support, on a wide range of subjects from family relationships to finance, housing, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), parenting support and childcare.

The Service sends out an e-newsletter regularly to keep parents and carers updated on the latest advice and resources available to support them.

Sign up to the FIS newsletter [here](#)

You can find further information about services available to children and families online and follow the FIS social media channels for more advice and support:

 warwickshire.gov.uk/fis

 [@WarwickshireFIS](https://www.facebook.com/WarwickshireFIS)

 [@WarksFIS](https://twitter.com/WarksFIS)

The Family Information Service can be contacted on:

Tel: **01926 742274**

Email: **fis@warwickshire.gov.uk**

Transitions Guide

The '14-25 Transitions Guide' has been developed by the Warwickshire Parent Carer Forum to help support young people on their journey to adulthood. It includes advice around education, health and social care, as well as transport and travel, benefits, finances and legal matters.

View the Transitions Guide [here](#)

New SEND Panels from April 2021

Should you wish to ask any further questions, please email: sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk

SEND LOCAL OFFER

What is the SEND Local Offer?

The **Local Offer** provides information for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place. It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health and social care. All local authorities must have a Local Offer.

View a poster from The Council for Disabled Children explaining the Local Offer [here](#)

View Warwickshire's current Local Offer [here](#)

Give us your feedback

We are in the process of reviewing our Local Offer so that it is easy to use and you can find the information you are looking for in the right place.

Help us improve our Local Offer by sending your feedback [here](#)

Warwickshire SENDIAS

Warwickshire SENDIAS (Special Education Needs Information Advice and Support Service) provides free, confidential and impartial support to parents and carers of all Warwickshire children with special educational needs and disabilities, from 0 - 25 years of age. They produce a termly newsletter to keep parents, carers and young people in Warwickshire updated on the latest advice, support and developments.

Find out more about SENDIAS and view the newsletters online [here](#)