



Warwickshire Parent Carer Webinar (SEND) Early Conversations - 9th June 2022 Q&A's

1. Where to go for support – School or GP?

The right route will depend on who the referral needs to be made to. Schools are often best placed to make referrals, particularly for learning issues and emotional concerns, as they regularly see the child or young person. Sometimes it can be useful to unpick if there is anything health related that can be treated, in which case chat to your GP to confirm this.

Also seek support from your GP if you are a parent carer with your own emotional needs. Remember that it can be a long and complex journey, so it is important to look after your own needs too.

Here is a link for advice on what SEND support should be offered in Mainstream schools - <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-send/send-support-mainstream-education>

Schools and GPs will signpost to the Dimensions website to highlight areas of need: <https://dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/>.

2. Do you have to wait for a diagnosis before you apply for Disability Living Allowance (DLA)?

[Disability Living Allowance Guide](#)

No, you don't need to wait for a diagnosis to apply for DLA, as it is based on an assessment of need. However, it will require evidence to be submitted to support the application. The application document is very long and can be emotionally difficult to complete because it focuses on things your child struggles with, rather than celebrating the great things about them. Consider this when completing the form. Also consider who is involved and could provide supporting evidence or what information you may have already, for example from:

- Community Paediatrician
- Referrals from Health Visitor, School Nursing and/or GP
- Reports from therapy services e.g., Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy
- School or Nursery reports or observations

3. What other activities can my child do outside of school/home?

There are several organisations that have opportunities available with the needs of children with SEND in mind. Some examples are shown below (there are others, so this is not an exhaustive list):

Entrust Partnership - <https://entrustcarepartnership.org.uk/what-we-do/family-participation/>

Ileap - www.ileap.co.uk/

Roots to Branches <https://www.roots2branches.co.uk/>



Community Autism Support Service provided by Coventry and Warwickshire Mind for children and young people cwmind.org.uk/autism-support-service/

02476 631835 vibes@cwmind.org.uk

Mixed Ability Rugby - [Hornets Mixed Ability](#)

SEND Local Offer Facebook shares posts, which may provide information about local opportunities <https://www.facebook.com/WarksLocalOffer>

SEND Local Offer is a central place for families to find information about services and support that is available - [Warwickshire's Local Offer](#)



Search Out Warwickshire, which is underdevelopment, has a page for SEND Services and Groups, so in the future this should be a good resource.

<https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-disabilities-send>

Family Information Service – for families looking to be signposted to specific groups in your area or relevant activities call FIS Monday to Friday 9am-5pm on 01926 742274 or by email:

fis@warwickshire.gov.uk

4. What support is available when children identify feelings of wanting to hurt themselves or have suicidal thoughts or intentions? What support should there be from school?

Crisis/Urgent support

Free support is available 24/7

- Immediate risk to life: call 999 or go straight to A&E
- Urgent advice: call 111 or the NHS Mental Health Access Hubs on 08081 966 798 (option 2)
- Confidential emotional support for Warwickshire residents age 16+: call 0800 616171



- For further suicide prevention resources, information and advice, visit: <https://www.dearlife.org.uk/>
- Visit your GP who can provide ongoing support and advice.

Local Support

- **Rise (CAMHS)** is a family of NHS-led services providing emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people in Warwickshire. <https://cwrise.com/>
- **Kooth** is an online support community for Young People. Website www.kooth.com/

Video to explain more www.kooth.com/video

- **Dimensions** is a free online tool providing self-care information to support children, young people and adults in Warwickshire. <https://dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/>
- **Early Help Support (WCC)**
 - <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/early-help-warwickshire>
 - Family Support Line: Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm on 01926 412412
- **Community Autism Support Service** provided by Coventry and Warwickshire Mind for children and young people cwmind.org.uk/autism-support-service/ Call 024 76 631835 email vibes@cwmind.org.uk
- **Family Information Service** for sign-posting advice. Mon to Fri 9am-5pm on 01926 742274 or email: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk

National Resources:

Papyrus Guidance for suicide prevention: www.papyrus-uk.org/

Samaritans: call 116 123 (or visit <https://www.samaritans.org/>)

Ripple: <https://www.ripplesuicideprevention.com/>

5. What should I do if I feel that my child's school is not taking my concerns seriously?

Keep a record – help school to understand your concerns by keep a record of what happens and how this is causing you concern. This may happen when children are considered 'fine in school' but are masking their distress during the day which then overflows at home later. This may be more likely when, for example, a child/young person may be autistic, but their presentation is not what people expect to see; instead, it may represent a more internal presentation. Autistic Girls Network have developed a [Keeping it all Inside White paper](#) on how children, identified as girls at birth, more commonly present. This may be a useful resource to highlight to school an inward presentation of autism, if this is relevant to the concerns you have.

Ask to meet the SENCO – The SENCO is the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator and is responsible for co-ordinating the support children with special educational needs may require. A child does not need a diagnosis to have support for any special educational needs. Seek the SENCOs commitment to make adjustments in school to meet your child's needs. You can refer to the [SEND Inclusion Guidance](#) that all Warwickshire schools should follow to support children and young people with SEND.



Raise the issues with the Head Teacher: If meeting with the SENCO doesn't improve your situation, you could raise the issues with the Headteacher. Again, you can refer to the [SEND Inclusion Guidance](#) that the school should be following.

Escalate to the schools SEND Governor: If you are still unhappy, you can escalate to the school's SEND Governor. This information should be on the school's website, either in the governor's section, the SEND policy or both.

Ask Others for Support - If there are other agencies involved with your family, you could ask for them to organise a meeting to include all who are involved. Or you can **Speak to SENDIAS** - Warwickshire SEND Information Advice and Support Service

- Email: Warwickshire@kids.org.uk
- Website: www.kids.org.uk/sendias
- Telephone: 024 7636 6054

Seek external advice - for example from **IPSEA** (Independent Parental Special Educational Needs Advice) www.ipsea.org.uk who offer free advice and guidance/resources and templates. If you still feel you are not getting any support, you can consider making a Disability Discrimination claim: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/sorting-out-school-problems>

If the situation does not improve, contact the Local Authority via sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk or if the school is an Academy, you could contact their Trust Board.

6. Is there any specific support for families with children aged 3 or under who believe their child is on the spectrum but don't have a diagnosis?

The [Health Visiting Service](#) are well-placed to offer support and advice if a child is under school age and the assessments they undertake, would provide important information to support the appropriate next steps. The Health Visitor or Community Nursery Nurse will be able to review your situation and make referrals to other agencies for support, as required.

If your child is in a preschool or nursery setting, they can also be a helpful resource to understanding your circumstances and concerns and planning next steps.

Warwickshire's Integrated Disability Service (IDS): They offer advice and support to early years settings, so you may like to suggest to your child's school or nursery contact this service to discuss your child www.warwickshire.gov.uk/early-years-0-5/integrated-disability-service-ids

Warwickshire Portage Service: The Warwickshire Birth to Three Portage service is a county wide home visiting educational service for Pre-School children aged 0-3. To access the service children should have a significant delay in two or more areas of their development. Child Development Advisers will guide parent in teaching their child new skills through play and help parents think of activities that will support their development. Referrals can be made Professionals or Parents www.portage.org.uk/warwickshire-portage-service

Warwickshire Preschool Autism Team Professionals can refer for assessment with parents' consent, when there are a significant number of indicators of autism and there are two agencies



involved www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/service-detail/health-service/warwickshire-preschool-autism-service-765/

Early Help Support – Family Support Line- Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm on 01926 412412

Family Information Service for sign-posting advice - Monday to Friday 9am-5pm on 01926 742274 or by email: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk

7. Is there any practical support for dealing with a child's behaviours at home e.g., someone coming to the home to help with strategies etc?

Early Help have Family Support Workers, who provide this kind of support
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/early-help

Warwickshire Health Visiting Service Text Service to receive advice

- From a Health Visitor www.warwickshire.gov.uk/healthchat **07520 615 293**
- Health Visiting Teams also have Community Nursery Nurses, who can offer advice and support

Useful Links

Webinar Feedback www.warwickshire.gov.uk/webinarfeedback

Please give your feedback on SEND services via the link below:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendfamilyfeedback>



SEND Local Offer webpages <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send>

New Local Offer Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WarksLocalOffer>

SEND Newsletter link: [SEND Newsletter](#)

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice

- www.warwickshireparentvoice.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/Warksparentcarervoice>
- [WPCV Membership Form](#)



If you aren't sure where to go for support the **Family Information Service helpline** is available 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday Phone: 01926 742274 email: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk

SENDIAS - Warwickshire SEND Information Advice and Support Service

- Email: Warwickshire@kids.org.uk
- Website: www.kids.org.uk/sendias
- Telephone: 024 7636 6054