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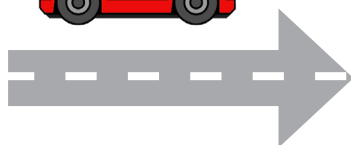
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If there are issues you'd like to see in future newsletters, contact admin@familyvoice.org.uk or 07535 895748.



PTP



PTS

The Personalised Travel Payments pilot, an exciting new initiative for families looking for an alternative home-to-school transport arrangement, is now called the **Personalised Travel Scheme**.

The pilot is making some scheme changes designed to protect families from potential income tax implications and/or liability for reductions in benefits.

- The Additional Support Allowance will now be held in reserve for families and claimable upon receipt of expenses claims.
- The mileage rate is increasing by 5p per mile to 50p per mile.

Check out the Local Offer page for full details on the scheme, including how to register: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/about-the-local-offer/personalised-travel-payment-pilot>

Family Voice representatives have been working with Children's Services and the Personalised Travel Scheme (PTS) team to ensure that this new idea continues to adapt and improve to help families.



Transforming children and young people's mental health provision: Government response to consultation

In December 2017, the Government published a green paper setting out proposals for new models of mental health provision for children and young people. They ran a 13-week consultation to which Family Voice Norfolk and perhaps some of you contributed. The three main proposals of the green paper were:

- To incentivise and support all schools and colleges to identify and train a Designated Senior Lead for mental health.
- To fund new Mental Health Support Teams, which will be supervised by NHS children and young people's mental health staff.
- To pilot a four week waiting time for access to specialist NHS children and young people's mental health services.

There was a plan to pilot these proposals immediately in 'trailblazer areas' and to roll out the new approach to 'a fifth to a quarter of the country by 2022/23.

The Department of Health & Social Care and the Department for Education have now published a response to the consultation. Comments from those who gave their views included:

- Approval of the plan for better joining up between health and education and providing earlier support in or near schools and colleges.
- Approval for improving access to NHS services for those who need specialist support.

There were concerns expressed, too:

- that implementation should be flexible

and not create new requirements that would increase teacher workload and pressures on school funding.

- that the roll-out of plans should be faster and cover more of the country.
- Young people aged 16–25 felt those out of education should still be able to access mental health support, with services designed around their specific needs.
- that mental health education should be incorporated into the curriculum.
- that the effectiveness and outcomes of interventions and counselling services should be measured.

The DHSC and DfE have responded by stressing the importance of moving forward at a rate that enables new approaches to be properly tested without putting unsustainable stress on schools and colleges and so that workable models for the new Mental Health Support Teams can be properly trialled. They acknowledge, however, the importance of the points raised and comment: 'We agree with consultation respondents that young people should continue to be involved in how we implement the proposals. We expect local areas to consider how to involve children and young people in taking forward the proposals.'

The areas chosen for the first set of 'trailblazers' will be announced in the autumn of 2018 and between ten and twenty areas are expected to be 'operational' by the end of 2019.

We will report further if any of those areas are in our region.

Family Voice Norfolk newsletter deadlines

The next newsletter will appear at the end of September. To suggest topics or comment on this edition, email admin@familyvoice.org.uk or leave a message on 07535 895748 by 24 September 2018.



Norfolk All Age Autism Partnership Board (NAAAPB)

Candidates sought

Autism members, Norfolk County Council and Norfolk CCGs are inviting nominations for further representatives to join the Board.

The Board's job is to improve the lives of people affected by autism in Norfolk, by helping local authority and NHS organisations to better implement their statutory duties through co-production and partnership.

Nominations wanted

The Board is seeking expressions of interest to stand for election to the Board from:

- One young autistic person (aged 14–24)
- One adult with autism (aged 25–54)
- One older autistic persons (aged 55 or over)

You can nominate yourself, but you must live in Norfolk and you must either self-identify as autistic or have a diagnosis.

Once the deadline for submission of nominations/expressions of interest has passed, they will be circulated to the wider autism community for autistic people to vote.

The person/people with the most votes will be offered membership of the Board and membership will be reviewed after a year.

Expression of interest

To stand for election, please submit a short statement, maximum 250 words, setting out:

- The role you are interested in
- What experience/skills you will bring to the NAAAPB to support its work
- How you will support the progress of the NAAAPB and represent the wider autism community

Please note that statements longer than 250 words will not be considered.

What's involved if you are elected

If you're elected you'll:

- Attend NAAAPB meetings four times a year. Each meeting lasts a morning or an afternoon. Meetings are currently held in different locations around Norfolk.
- Be expected to have read all the documents circulated for the meeting before you arrive and to take a full part in Board discussions.
- Be expected to volunteer to join one or more of our Working Groups, which meet more frequently, usually at County Hall in Norwich, and to play a full part in their work. These Groups are designing the new/improved services for autistic people and their families

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- Receive payment of travel expenses and a small contribution for your time.

Please note you will be able to bring a support worker with you to all meetings, should you need to.

The process

- Expressions of interest must be received by midnight on **Friday 31 August 2018**.
- Expressions of interest should be sent by email to:

alastair.corrigan@norfolk.gov.uk

Please title the email: Subject: Partnership Board EOI

Nominations by post will not be accepted.

All nominees who meet these requirements will become candidates.

After 31 August 2018, a list of all candidates and their statements, along with details of how to vote, will be circulated.

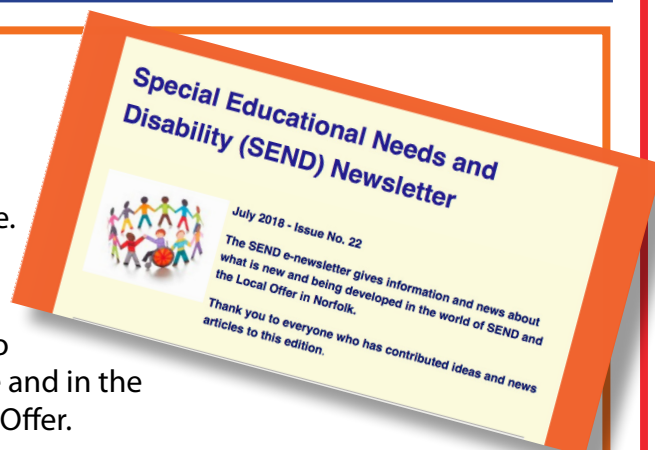
There is a strong wish for the autism community to have a robust voice on the NAAAPB so that work can move forward with the utmost speed.

SEND e-Newsletter

If you don't already subscribe to Norfolk's SEND e-Newsletter, you can do so easily at www.norfolk.gov.uk/send – the Local Offer website.

If you have previously received the newsletter, but didn't in July, it may be that in a flurry of GDPR emails, you missed the one from NCC asking you to update your preferences. If so, you can resubscribe and in the meantime read the newsletter online on the Local Offer.

The newsletter is full of information about events and services in Norfolk that may be of interest to you and your family. It is produced as part of the Local Offer in co-production with Family Voice and other interested bodies. If you have comments or would like to submit an article, you can contact the newsletter editors on send@norfolk.gov.uk



Remember...

If you have news or views to share with us, you can contact our Membership Secretary Kate on 07950 302937 or email her at membership@familyvoice.org.uk or contact us on:



www.familyvoice.org.uk



[FamilyVoiceNorfolk](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyVoiceNorfolk)



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





A celebration of disabled people and the diversity of our community

The event will showcase local artists, performers and speakers highlighting the skills and abilities of disabled people. There will be a marketplace of stalls where individuals, groups and businesses will promote the activities and services they offer locally.

Fringe events in support of Disability Pride are running throughout September you can find out more online:



<https://equallives.org.uk/get-involved/disability-pride/>



<https://www.facebook.com/norfolkdisabilitypride/>



[#NorfolkDisabilityPride](https://twitter.com/norfdispride)



Important ruling regarding exclusion of children with SEND

This week, a landmark ruling in the Upper Tribunal is likely to have a major impact on the school experience of many children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). A judge ruled that the exclusion of a 13-year-old boy on the autistic spectrum for aggressive behaviour was unlawful.

The case revolved around the fact that children with disabilities that cause them to have 'a tendency to physically abuse' are not protected by the Equality Act 2010. The judge, looking at whether this breaches the human rights of children with disabilities, found that the rule came 'nowhere near striking a fair balance between the rights of children ... on the one side and the interests of the community on the other'. She went on to say, 'In my judgment the Secretary of State has failed to justify maintaining in force a provision which excludes from the ambit of the protection of the Equality Act, children whose behaviour in school is a manifestation of the very condition which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. In that context, to my mind it is repugnant to define as "criminal or anti-social" the effect of the behaviour of children whose condition (through no fault of their own) manifests itself in particular ways so as to justify treating them differently from children whose condition has other manifestations.'

At Family Voice we hear many stories of children and young people who have been sanctioned for failing to conform to a social norm that their disability makes it impossible for them to achieve. While a student with limited mobility is usually not expected to join the rest of their class in a cross-country race, a student with ADHD may be required to 'sit still and concentrate' like typically developing peers. Those who struggle to comprehend the motives and meaning of others are often required to react

to the unexpected words or deeds of their classmates with a degree of understanding and forbearance that is simply not possible for them.

Exclusions and isolations in such cases send messages to the rest of the school about what is acceptable behaviour but do nothing at all to help the young person with special needs to understand or modify their own behaviour, and the results for families can be devastating.

My son reacted aggressively to another child's jibe. He was excluded for two days. As a single, working parent, I could not take time off but could not leave him at home alone. I felt utterly desperate. My son did not understand what he should have done. There was no learning for him in the situation.

This is not an easy subject generally for families. Many of us find ourselves attempting to balance what we can expect of our children and young people in terms of complying with socially acceptable behaviour against what we can expect of society (schools, our families, our neighbours, workplaces and community) in accommodating the needs of our children. But that young people should not be penalised for something they cannot help is surely the very least we can expect.

In Family Voice's liaison meetings with the local authority, we regularly ask for updates on school exclusions as they relate to SEND. This ruling encourages us to clarify how Norfolk responds both to the perspective of families and to the implications of the legal issues. As always, Family Voice would value hearing the experiences of families on this subject (membership@familyvoice.org.uk).



SEND Schools' Workforce programme of work

On 6 July Children's Minister Nadhim Zahawi launched the SEND Schools' Workforce programme of work, which will be delivered by the Whole School SEND consortium, led by nasen, in partnership with University College London.

The aim of the new, two-year, programme of work is to embed SEND into school led approaches to School Improvement in order to equip the workforce to deliver high quality teaching across all types of SEND. The programme of work will:

- drive education institutions to prioritise SEND;
- equip schools to identify and meet their training needs in relation to SEND;
- build the specialist workforce and identify and respond to any gaps in the training and resources available to schools.

SEND regional leaders and deputy leaders will be appointed in each region, to help bring together the expertise and knowledge in the area and to share good practice, latest research and resources in order to ensure all pupils with SEND are supported effectively.

Find out more about Whole School SEND at <http://www.wholeschoolsend.com>

CDC stakeholder survey

The Council for Disabled Children has launched its annual online stakeholder survey, saying 'In our role as the Strategic Reform Partner to the Department for Education (DfE), CDC is seeking views from the sector as we move from implementation into embedding the SEND reforms. We're keen to find out what you think the priorities are for the sector and what further information and support you would like to receive.'

The survey is for practitioners, parent carers and others who have firsthand experience of the SEND reforms in action. You can find it at <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk>



Not someone else's problem...

Speaking at the Manchester Conference of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) in July, Damian Hinds, Secretary of State for Education, said: 'We know there has been a steady movement of children with special educational needs out of mainstream schools and into specialist provision, alternative provision and home education. At the same time, rates of exclusion have begun to rise after a period of having calmed down. And I hear too many stories about off-rolling. And I want to be clear right now: this is not okay. SEND pupils are not someone else's problem. Every school is a school for pupils with SEND; and every teacher is a teacher of SEND pupils.'

It sounds positive, but it would be even better if our children were not described as a 'problem' at all.

★ It's never too early to save the date! ★

Family Voice Norfolk Ninth Annual Conference

Saturday, 16 March 2019

John Innes Centre, Norwich NR4 7UH



Parent carers' working lives

A new report by Working Families, 'Off Balance – Parents of disabled children and paid work', highlights how parents of disabled children are struggling to hold down vital jobs. You can read the full report at https://www.workingfamilies.org.uk/news/off_balance_2018/ Some of the key findings were:

- 76% of parents of disabled children have turned down a promotion or accepted a demotion to meet their caring responsibilities.
- Nearly half (45%) are working at a lower skill level than before they had their disabled child.
- The vast majority (86%) of parents of disabled children find it 'difficult or impossible' to find suitable – often specialist – childcare while 82% have trouble finding childcare they can afford.
- While flexible jobs are highly valued, they are scarce. Nine in ten (91%) parents of disabled children say finding a job with the right working pattern is a significant barrier to returning to work. Four in five (81%) say it's a significant barrier to staying in work.

Parents seeking advice about employment or benefit issues can call Working Families' free legal helpline for parents and carers on 0300 012 0312.

Jargon busting!

We've tackled mystifying jargon and annoying acronyms in this newsletter in the past but those troublesome terms just keep multiplying. The Council for Disabled Children has come up with two jargon-busting documents to help us all.

- Health jargon buster looks at language around healthcare and related services
- Policy jargon buster looks at language around policy, the SEND reforms and strategic decision-making

You can download both in pdf format from the CDC website: https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/jargon-busters?mc_cid=4ee2921603&mc_eid=1d470884b7

Safe and better journeys

Initiatives to help children and young people to travel independently were highlighted in our April newsletter. (Previous newsletters can be found on our website at <https://www.familyvoice.org.uk/articles-reports/newsletters/>.) For young people who find it difficult to communicate their needs in order to use public transport, 'Safe and better journey cards' may be the answer. These are a downloadable resource at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-transport/public-transport-accessibility>. They can be printed out and some can be customised to suit the traveller's needs.



The weather may no longer be so settled, but we hope your summer is all you wish and that any beginnings in September are happy ones.

