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If there are issues you would like to see in future newsletters, contact comms@familyvoice.org.uk or leave a message on 07535 895748.

SEN Information Reports

Since September 2014, all schools, including academies, have been required to publish an SEN Information Report on their school website, and ensure that it includes details of, and links to, the area's Local Offer. Schools are expected to review this at least annually and ensure it is updated, asking themselves:

- Is the SEN Information Report easy to find?
- Does it cover all 14 required areas in paragraphs 6.79–6.83 of the Code of Practice. (You can find this at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>)
- Is it up-to-date? Has it been reviewed within the last year?
- Is it easy to understand?
- Does it convey a welcoming message?
- How well presented is it?
- What do parents and children think of it, and how can they be more involved in co-producing the report?
- Does it provide a link to the school's accessibility plan?

Keeping the SEN Information Report as a live, up-to-date profile, says the DfE SEND newsletter, enables schools to celebrate with pupils, parents, local authorities, Ofsted and other interested members of the public, the quality of the school's provision for pupils with SEN; and share details of their pupils' achievements.

Does your child's school fulfil all the requirements above? Are you invited to contribute? If not, do let us – and the school – know. Of course, we'd be glad to hear of excellent practice, too. Contact Kate on membership@familyvoice.org.uk or 07950 302937.



There's still time to book...

In a rural county like ours, transport is a key issue for families with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Those who are at specialist educational settings may well have much **longer journeys** than their peers. Those who are in mainstream settings may not be able to access the **public transport** or independent travel used by their classmates. In addition, **independent travel** is a major factor in life chances for employment and/or meaningful activity as children move into adulthood. Find out about the travel initiatives available now, discover what the opportunities are for your family and have your questions answered.



Are you the parent of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

Do you want to find out about

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT?

Join us for coffee at one of our information and feedback sessions to talk about **TRANSPORT** options and what they could mean for your family.

We've invited Niki Park, Head of Passenger Transport at Norfolk County Council, to tell you about options including **Independent Travel**, **TITAN**, the **Personalised Travel Scheme** and the **Local Offer**.

- Ask questions about what could be available for your family.
- Find out who can help and advise you.
- Share ideas with other parent carers.
- Make sure NCC knows what most concerns families like yours.



Monday 5 November 2018

10:15am – 1:15pm
Community Room, South Lynn Community Centre, 10 St Michael's Road, **King's Lynn**, PE30 5HE

Thursday 15 November 2018

10:15am – 1:15pm
Grey Monks Room, The Priory Centre, Priory Plain, **Great Yarmouth**, NR30 1NW

Monday 12 November 2018

10:15am – 1:15pm
The Guild Chapel, The Pennoyer Centre, Station Road, **Pulham St Mary**, IP21 4QT

Tuesday 20 November 2018

6:00pm – 9:00pm
St Quintin Room, Diamond Centre, School Lane, **Sprowston**, NR7 8TR

If you can come, please email us at events@familyvoice.org.uk or call/text on 07535 895748.

- How does transport for education work at different ages?
- Does an EHC Plan affect this?
- What do I do if I am unhappy about my child's current transport?
- Does my child qualify for free bus transport outside school hours?
- What if I want to transport my child myself?
- Is travel training safe and appropriate for my child?
- Is it true that there are plans to change how travel is organised for children with SEND?
- Where can I find out more information?
- Who decides about NCC travel policies?



Supported Internships training opportunity

You may remember reading in this newsletter about the Supported Internships initiative from NCC, to train Job Coaches and support young people with special educational needs. Following consultation with many interested parties, training of the first set of Job Coaches will take place in Norwich on **5, 6, 12, 13 and 14 November** and there are still a very few places remaining. Training is free.

The 5-day course offers a comprehensive overview of the supported employment process. The course is not accredited but is based on the knowledge requirements for the National Occupational Standards for Supported Employment.

The course covers:

- the core values of supported employment
- the principles of vocational profiling
- employer engagement
- job matching
- health & safety and risk assessment
- in-work support and structured training

Further information about the course can be found by contacting the Supported Internships Coordinator, Sarah Jennings, at sarah.jennings@norfolk.gov.uk

The course will be repeated in the first half of 2019.

Strengthening choice

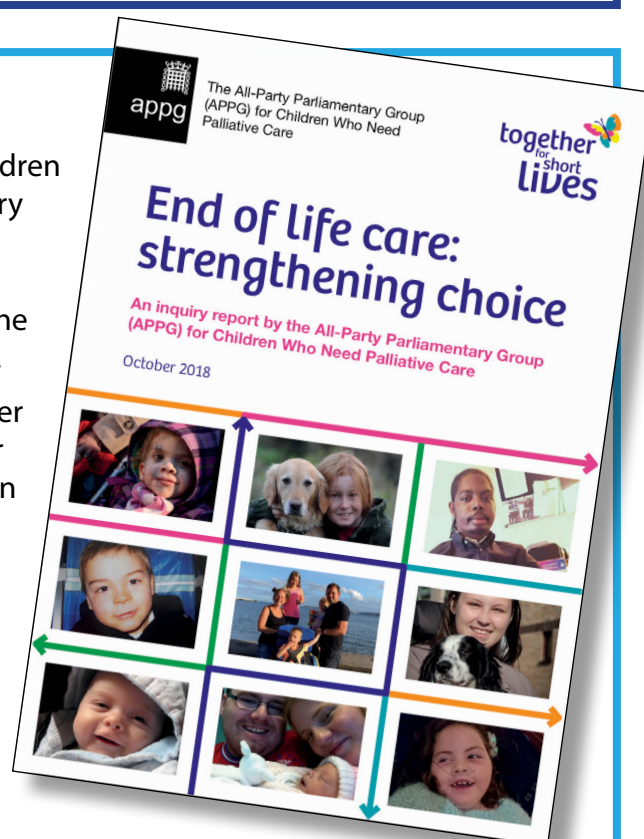
The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Children Who Need Palliative Care has conducted an inquiry into the choices that children and young people in England with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and their families, wish to make and the opportunities and barriers affecting their choices.

The APPG, in conjunction with the charity Together for Short Lives, has published the findings of their inquiry and made a strong case for how things can be improved.

End of life care: strengthening choice is available to read in full at https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Pol_Res_181019_APPG_Children_Who_Need_Palliative_Care_inquiry_report.pdf

Many of the recommendations from the inquiry – joined-up planning, integrated assessments, funding and provision of short breaks, smooth transitions to adult services – are key for any family with children or young people with additional needs.

Among many other recommendations, the report calls on the government to commission a review of health and social care law, to strengthen and clarify rights and entitlements for disabled children and their families, including children with life-limiting conditions.



Family Voice Norfolk Ninth Annual Conference

Saturday, 16 March 2019

John Innes Centre, Norwich NR4 7UH

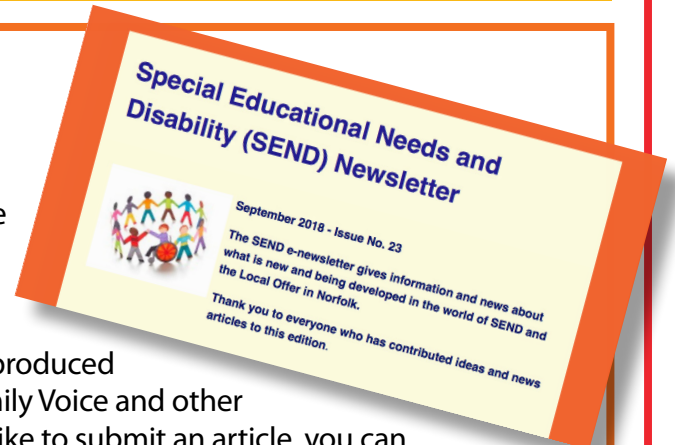
Keynote speaker:

Sara Tough

Director of Children's Services

SEND e-Newsletter

If you don't already subscribe to Norfolk's SEND e-Newsletter, or your subscription lapsed in the midst of the GDPR maelstrom, you can easily make sure you receive it at www.norfolk.gov.uk/send – the Local Offer website. 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...

At Family Voice we are always keen to hear from you with news or views about the services you are receiving or would like to receive.

We never share personal or identifying information but anonymise what you tell us and use it to affect decisions made by the education, social care and health authorities.

You may want to praise excellent services or tell us about more negative experiences. It is all useful information that means our representatives, who attend meetings and

boards, can speak authoritatively about the experiences of families like yours.

It's easy to tell us how things are for you:

- You can contact our Membership Secretary Kate on 07950 302937 or email her at membership@familyvoice.org.uk

- Or you can contact us via:



www.familyvoice.org.uk



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



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

Family Voice Norfolk newsletter deadlines

The next newsletter will appear at the end of November and be the last newsletter of the year. If there are issues that you would like to see covered, please email comms@familyvoice.org.uk or leave a message on 07535 895748 before 24 November 2018.



Transition Event East 2018

15 November 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

Newmarket Racecourse, Rowley Mile Stands

Newmarket CB8 0TF

The Transition Event East bills itself as the East of England's dedicated conference and exhibition on the future of young adults with additional needs.



Offering inspirational stories and essential practical advice, the Transition Event East helps parents/carers, teachers and practitioners supporting disabled young adults navigate the path to adult services, with the aim of securing a successful future.

Speakers will share their knowledge about **Education, Health and Care Plans**, finding meaningful **employment** and choosing the right kind of **housing** to make your young person as independent as possible.

There will also be interactive workshops on **benefits** and **assistive technology**, plus a workshop for young people from iCaSH, offering **sex and relationship advice**.

An exhibition of organisations will offer local and national products and services for young people with disabilities.

New for this year's Transition Event East is an Employment Fair run in conjunction with Mencap.

Attendance is FREE for parents, carers and young people. You can find out more and register at <https://www.myfamilyourneeds.co.uk/event/the-transition-event-east-2018/>

Schools who want to attend can call 01223 206953 for more information and to register.

A Vision for Norfolk

It is now a year since Sara Tough, Director of Children's Services, took up her post. At a meeting with her at the end of October, Family Voice Norfolk's Chair Tracey Sismey renewed her invitation to our annual Conference on 16 March 2019 and was delighted that Sara Tough agreed to give the keynote speech there on her vision for Norfolk.

Tracey also took the opportunity to highlight the fact that parent carers are not currently having access to the kind of Carer Assessments to which they are entitled and that the the Carers Strategy for Norfolk does not reflect parent carers.

Stronger together...

does not only apply to the voices and views of parent carers as gathered by Family Voice Norfolk. A new Children's Health and Integrated Commissioning Group aims to help the health services and local authority to work together more closely. The group's top priorities are autism, learning difficulties, transition and CAMHS, as well as looking at existing contracts of both health services and the LA to see if they can be jointly commissioned in the future.

Family Voice has long urged joint commissioning and joined-up working and will be represented on the new group.



NHS England SEND guides

Although not easy to find from its home page, the NHS England website has a section featuring special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) on its website.

You can find it at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/care/children-young-people/send/>

The top two publications on the right are primarily for professionals but can be downloaded from the website and offer a useful look at how the NHS aims to support our children and young people.

You will also find easy-read versions of publications such as the one at bottom right, which is a summary of the paper 'Shifting the balance of power' in *Advances in Mental Health and Intellectual Disability*.

Opportunities to give your own experiences and those of your children and young people with SEND, to help form future policy and practice, can also be found there. Go to <https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/about/get-involved/>

This link leads to the following statement and further links to participate:

To make sure people with a learning disability, autism or both and families and carers are involved in the development of services which impact on them we have set up the NHS England Learning Disability and Autism Forum (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/about/get-involved/forum/>). Anyone can join the Forum. The Forum is a network of people with a learning disability, autism or both, their families, carers and supporting organisations who want to have a say in the work of NHS England. We communicate with the Forum through:

- Forum events
- Easy read newsletters
- Update emails
- Video blogs
- Social media (follow us on Twitter or join the NHS England Learning Disability and Autism Engagement group on Facebook)

We have also set up the NHS England Learning Disability and Autism Advisory Group.

We are keen to grow the Forum and share best practice. If you would like to get involved with the Forum, meet with us, or share your ideas please email us at Engage@nhs.net or call us on 0113 8249686.



NCC: £120 million plan to increase SEND provision

On 29 October, as you may have seen in the media, Norfolk County Council's Policy and Resources Committee approved a plan to increase specialised educational provision for children and young people with SEND. This follows a paper about SEND sufficiency that was presented to the Children's Services Committee in July.

The plan is to develop up to four new special schools, accommodating a total of 400 pupils, and 170 additional places within specialist resource bases (SRBs) hosted by mainstream schools, while also exploring the possibility of further school-based nurture provision and residential provision to meet social, emotional, mental health and specialist/complex needs, with the aim that this will:

- Provide appropriate education closer to home and so reduce the time children spend travelling and the associated travel costs;
- Improve the quality of the education provision for children with special educational needs;
- Address current unmet need for pupils currently within mainstream schools who have been assessed as requiring special school placement;
- Plan appropriately for predicted future need;
- Return the budget for children with High Needs (Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block) to balance.

The first phase, expected to take three years, will involve:

- The remodelling of the currently empty Alderman Swindell School in Great Yarmouth, with some additional building, to create a school for over 100 pupils with an emphasis on social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH).
- A 100-place school for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in North Norfolk at a site to be confirmed.
- Two complex needs school developments: a 100-place complex needs school and a 170-place special school (one with 16-place residential block).
- 11 Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs)
- Refurbishment of Complex Needs Schools' Student Support Hubs
- 23 mainstream-school inclusion schemes, for example increasing nurture provision.

The target is for all of the above to be operational by the beginning of 2020, with Alderman Swindell School at full capacity by April 2022.

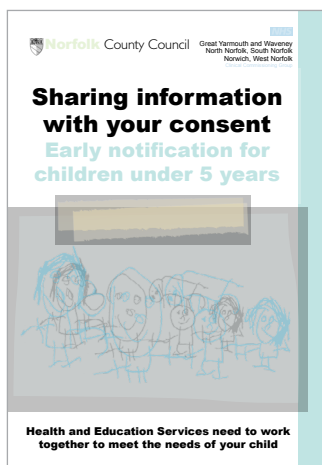
In addition, the submission to the Committee states that 'this major investment in sufficiency will need to be supported by an equally ambitious transformation of the system of support for children with special educational needs and the development of new approaches which achieve greater inclusion for young people in mainstream settings.'

The provision will also help other identifiable groups of children, such as the 20% of children in care who have an EHCP and a further 36% currently identified at SEN Support.

Family Voice Norfolk members took part in the SEND Sufficiency Survey earlier this year that informed the Sufficiency Report and these agreed proposals. It is important that we continue to be involved in further planning of the 'ambitious transformation' for our children.



Sharing information about under fives



In order for young children with additional needs to receive early and appropriate help, information may need to be shared between health and education services with the consent of the child's parents or carers.

A new leaflet has been produced with input from Family Voice Norfolk to explain how this should happen and what parent carers need to know.

The leaflet will be widely available but you can also download it from the Resources tab at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/about-the-local-offer>

The new leaflet is an addition to the suite of straightforward, introductory leaflets on topics around SEND that were co-produced



with Family Voice Norfolk in 2016. These are still available to be downloaded or ordered via the same link.

Relationships and Sex Education

The Department for Education October SEND newsletter says:

The Government is making Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools; Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory in all secondary schools; and Health Education in state-funded schools compulsory for primary and secondary schools.

The DfE are now consulting on the draft regulations and guidance and are keen to hear from anyone with experience of, or an interest

in, the teaching of these subjects. We would especially welcome feedback on how it will work in the classroom.

We want to identify particular issues relating to SEND and so want to invite SEND stakeholders to respond to the consultation.

The consultation closes on **7 November**, and further details can be found here <https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education>