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- You can contact our **Membership Secretary Kate** on 07950 302937 or at [membership@familyvoice.org.uk](mailto:membership@familyvoice.org.uk)

- Or message us via:



[www.familyvoice.org.uk](http://www.familyvoice.org.uk)



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



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

- Or write to us at Family Voice Norfolk, c/o Ayton House, 11 Ayton Rd, Wymondham NR18 0QQ

- Or join our **Family Voice Members Chat Room** on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/674209366743395/about/>

*together we are stronger*





Let's talk...



## about looking after your child's teeth

If you are the parent carer  
of a child or young person  
with SEND, join us online to:

- Find out how to help your child develop good dental habits
- Learn techniques and tips to tackle challenging issues
- Ask questions in a relaxed setting

with  
Angela Simms  
Clinical Lead

and  
Gemma Sargent  
Dental Therapist

from Norfolk & Waveney  
Special Care Dental Service

**Monday 26 July 2021**  
**10:00am to 12:00pm**

Email Sally at [events@familyvoice.org.uk](mailto:events@familyvoice.org.uk) to receive full joining details.

### Family Voice events for parent carers

Our online **Let's talk...** events give you a chance to hear directly from professionals on subjects that are important to families with children and young people (CYP) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

There is always an opportunity to ask questions, or to find out where to go next if there are subjects that you are not comfortable with raising during the session.

Many parent carers also find that hearing the experiences of other families can be really helpful. Family Voice representatives and ambassadors are all parent carers themselves. We know that other parents can often be our best source of information and suggestions. And it can be a comfort to find that you are not alone in the challenges you have as a family.

Usually, at our annual Family Voice Conference, we are able to give parent carers the chance to 'speed date' professionals – have a short, face-to-face personal meeting with someone who should know how to help. That hasn't been possible this year, but our Let's talk... sessions are proving a good alternative. Do let us know if there are subjects you would like us to cover.



If you have been handed this newsletter by a friend or know someone else who is not yet a member, it is easy to join on our website at [www.familyvoice.org.uk](http://www.familyvoice.org.uk). Membership is **free**. **Full membership** is open to parents, carers and close family members of children and young people (0–25) with SEND. **Associate membership** is for others wishing to support our work, such as practitioners and extended family. **Affiliate membership** is for groups and organisations.

## Grants for disabled young adults

It can be difficult to find information about all the grants available if you are trying to fund equipment or opportunities for a young adult with disabilities. Go to <https://www.disability-grants.org/grants-for-disabled-young-adults.html> for a varied list of grant-giving bodies to try.

# disability grants

Helping you find the right grant

## How has the pandemic affected your family's finances?

Contact, the charity for families with disabled children, wants to find out about the financial situation for UK families with disabled children (including those with health conditions and additional needs). Tell Contact about it for a chance to win a £100 voucher!

The survey looks at:

- The impact of shielding and furlough
- Extra caring duties and working hours
- Impact on benefits like DLA and Universal Credit
- Going without (or accruing debt)
- Concerns about the future

Your answers will help Contact build a stronger case with government for better financial support for families. Go to <https://contact.org.uk> for a link to the survey, which is open until 7 July.

## Norfolk's carers invited to apply for new round of free wellbeing packs

Two thousand additional wellbeing packs are being made available for unpaid carers, free of charge, after the first round of packs was taken up enthusiastically across Norfolk.

Norfolk Adult Social Services and Norfolk and Waveney CCG used COVID funding to send out special packs to support unpaid carers earlier this year – and now a second batch of packs is available for those who missed out first time around.

The Council is working with Caring Together and Carers Voice to put together the free wellbeing packs, to show their appreciation for voluntary carers across Norfolk and recognise how difficult it has been for many carers during the pandemic.

The packs contain some Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to support recipients in their role as a carer, but also include a range of items for the carer to enjoy, including chocolate and other items to bring a little joy in these difficult times.

Anyone who would like to receive a pack free of charge can register their details online, where their details will be assessed. Those who are eligible will have a pack posted directly to their home. Find a link to the form to be filled in at: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2021/06/carers-invited-to-apply-for-new-round-of-free-wellbeing-packs>

Unpaid carers can also find a wide range of support available via Carers Matter Norfolk, a service commissioned by Norfolk County Council. Details of the personalised support available for carers can be found at <https://carersmatternorfolk.org.uk> or by calling 0800 0831 148 (Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 8:00pm, Saturday 10:00am to 2:00pm).



## Research Project: The Impact of the Covid-19 Lockdowns on Parents/Carers of adults who have Autism



My name is Lucy and I am carrying out a research study into the experiences of parents/carers during the Covid-19 Lockdowns.

It is widely known that the outbreak of Coronavirus/COVID-19 in 2020/2021 has brought major changes for everyone but it has been particularly difficult for many people who have Autism. Now, as lockdown eases, there is an opportunity to consider any lessons we can learn from what has been happening to help prepare and adapt support to accommodate the needs of parents/carers accordingly for the future.

### What does the research involve?

You will be asked to take part in an interview via Phone call or Zoom, at a time which is convenient time for yourself.

### Who can take part?

Parents/Carers who live in the United Kingdom and have lived with and cared for an adult who has Autism, during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

For further information or if you would like to participate in this research project please contact

Researcher: Lucy McMillan

Email: [Roberta.mcmillan.2014@uni.strath.ac.uk](mailto:Roberta.mcmillan.2014@uni.strath.ac.uk)

Supervisor: Jane Essex

Email: [Jane.Essex@strath.ac.uk](mailto:Jane.Essex@strath.ac.uk)

This research was granted Ethical approval by the School of Education Ethics Committee.

## Learning Disability Partnership Board

The Learning Disability Partnership is an independent organisation that works with people who have learning disabilities, parent/carers, the council, health services and other professionals to improve services and opportunities for people with learning disabilities in Norfolk.

The Partnership is always looking for new members who want to share their stories and contribute to the improvement of services. If you or someone you know would be interested, please visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/learning-disabilities/learning-disabilities-partnership-board>.

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the LDPB newsletter each month, please contact Alastair Corrigan at [alastair.corrigan@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.corrigan@norfolk.gov.uk) or phone 01603 223960.

## National study to inform SEND provision for children after COVID-19

The National Institute for Health Research is conducting research aimed at addressing the impacts and inequalities of COVID-19 on children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Researchers will conduct surveys and interviews with children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers, as well as local authorities and policymakers, and education, health and social care professionals.

The project is running from **May to November 2021**.

To find out more about how to take part follow this [link](#).



# SEND Family Roadshow

## Spotlight on SRBs

Join us at our next online event to find out about Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs) and what SEN support services are available for schools to use.

Hear from Specialist Partners and Educational Psychologists, speak to the parent carer organisations and have your questions answered!

Wednesday 14 July  
10.30-13.00

Sign up for your FREE  
ticket on Eventbrite  
<https://bit.ly/3yp2cX7>



## SEND family roadshows

The next SEND family roadshow has a focus on Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs). There will be a chance to hear from specialist partners and educational psychologists about the different SRB specialisms available, including:

- Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH)
- Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)
- Learning and cognition needs (LCN)
- Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Dyslexia outreach service (DOS)



The SEND family roadshows are opportunities for the SEND Local Offer team to share information and hear the views of parents and carers who have a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). They are supported by **Family Voice Norfolk**, Norfolk SEND Partnership, Norfolk SEN Network and SENSational Families.

Parent carers have the opportunity to listen to presentations, ask questions and spend more time with the organisations above in separate breakout rooms to network and share experiences.

- Wednesday 14 July 2021
- Wednesday 17 November 2021
- Wednesday 15 September 2021
- Wednesday 12 January 2022

**All sessions are 10:30am to 1:00pm and take place on Zoom.**

You can find out more at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/about-the-local-offer/news-views-and-reviews/views/get-involved/send-family-roadshows>



## Flourish – what does it mean for children and young people in Norfolk?

Since 2019, organisations who work with children and young people across Norfolk have been working together to agree a shared ambition for everyone growing up in Norfolk – what they will work together to achieve.

Young people themselves have taken part in developing this ambition – called **FLOURISH**.

The word represents what Norfolk wants for all children:

- F**amily and friends  
Children and young people are safe, connected and supported through positive relationships and networks
- L**earning  
Children and young people are achieving their full potential and developing skills that prepare them for life
- O**ppportunity  
Children and young people develop as well-rounded individuals through access to a wide range of opportunities which nurture their interests and talents
- U**nderstood  
Children and young people feel listened to, understood and part of decision-making processes
- R**esilience  
Children and young people have the confidence and skills to make their own decisions and take on life's challenges
- I**ndividual  
Children and young people are respected as individuals, confident in their own identity and appreciate and value their own and others' uniqueness
- S**afe and secure  
Children and young people are supported to understand risk and make safe decisions by the actions adults and children and young people themselves take to keep them safe and secure
- H**ealthy  
Children and young people have the support, knowledge and opportunity to lead their happiest and healthy lives

The working group is now looking to create a logo for **FLOURISH**. A range of ideas has been produced and the group would like the opinions of children, young people and their parents/ carers on these ideas, and for any other ideas about how to create an eye-catching logo that you would remember and recognise in the future. The logo will be used online and in a range of materials for professionals, children, young people and families.

The survey should take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Please click this link to start the survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Flourishlogo/>.

You can take part until **Sunday 18 July 2021**.



## Spotting serious illness in children

You have probably seen recently in the news about a rise in children attending A&E when they have a minor illness that could be treated at home. Just One Norfolk has been promoting information for families to remind them of how to treat illness at home and which symptoms to look out for as they might mean that their child is seriously ill.

For more information, visit: <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/childhood-illnesses>

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/childhood-illnesses/spotting-serious-illness-in-children>

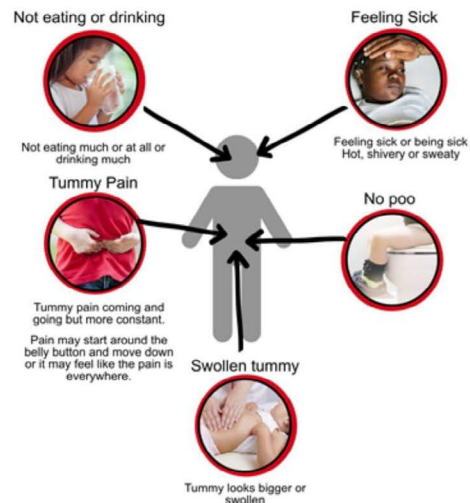
<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/childhood-illnesses/caring-for-a-sick-child>

**One symptom below:** *talk to a health professional for advice today.*

**More than one symptom below:** *contact your GP or 111 straight away.*

- Tummy pain coming and going but becoming more constant.
- May start round the belly button and move down or it may feel like the pain is everywhere.
- No poos or wind.
- Any blood or mucus in their poo.
- Tummy looks bigger or swollen.
- Hot or shivery or sweaty.
- Not eating much or at all or drinking much.
- Feeling sick and being sick.

In boys if they have lower tummy pain, are feeling sick or being sick and maybe a fever (high temperature and feel hot) check if the pain is **coming from the scrotum (balls)**. This is not common but it can happen after exercise or an injury to the groin. The symptoms often start in the night or first thing in the morning.



**One symptom below:** *talk to a health professional for advice today.*

**More than one symptom below:** *contact your GP or 111 straight away.*

- **The headache and/or stiff neck seems worse WHEN WAKING UP or LYING DOWN.**
- The headache or stiff neck may come and go and be worse with bending over or coughing.
- May be feeling sick and being sick.
- **Change in behaviour:** unsettled and clingy / sleepy / difficult to wake up.
- **Eye changes:** crossed / downward gaze – or anything that is different to usual.
- If younger than 18 months the soft spot (on the top of the head) feels full or tight.
- Child or young person may have had an injury e.g. falling off of bed.

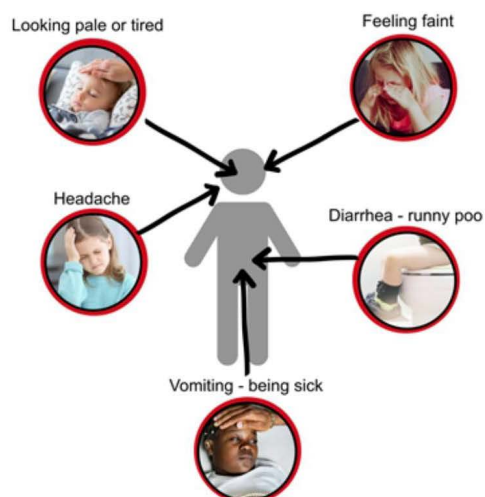


One symptom below: *talk to a health professional for advice today.*

More than one symptom below: *contact your GP or 111 straight away.*

- Vomiting - being sick
- Diarrhoea - runny poo
- Headache
- Looking pale and tired
- Feeling faint

If you also notice **swelling** - including on the legs, feet and ankles or any **unexplained bruises** please contact your GP or 111 straight away.



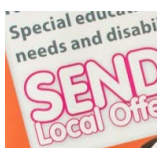
## Very Thirsty & Tired

Contact you GP straight away or 111 out of hours if your child becomes

- More **thirsty** than usual.
- Is weeing a lot more and is going to the **toilet** more.
- Getting **thinner**.
- Is very **tired**.

Call 999/ go to hospital emergency department (A&E) straight away if **as well as** the above;

- Your child's breath smells like pear drops.
- Your child becomes confused.
- Breathes more deeply and quickly.
- May have stomach pains and is sick .

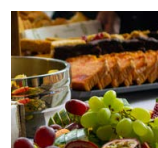
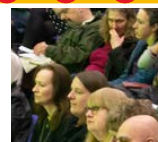


*You heard it here first ... announcing*

**Family Voice Norfolk Annual Conference**

**Saturday, 12 March 2022**

**John Innes Centre, Norwich NR4 7UH**



## Open letter from Vicky Ford to leaders of special schools and alternative provision

On Thursday 24 June, Vicky Ford, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, published an open letter to leaders of special schools and alternative provisions.

The letter provides information about the summer school programme and the holiday activities and food programme. You can download the letter at <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/open-letter-children-and-families-minister>.



**Vicky Ford MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

24 June 2021

### **AN OPEN LETTER TO LEADERS OF SPECIAL AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION SCHOOLS**

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of one of the most challenging and extraordinary academic years in recent history, I wanted to write to you to extend my thanks for your continued dedication. The dedication and adaptability which you and your staff members have shown in uncertain circumstances never fails to amaze me. It has been invaluable in enabling some of the most vulnerable children and young people in special settings and AP across England to attend and re-engage in education, spending as much time in school as possible.

As we look ahead to the summer holiday, I am sure that many of you will all be looking forward to the opportunity for a well-deserved rest. I wish you all the best and hope that you and yours have a pleasant time wherever you choose to spend it.

I am, however, conscious that many of you are already thinking about how the children and young people that attend your settings can be best supported throughout the summer holiday. I want to use this opportunity therefore to remind you of two key areas of support which the government is offering this summer to pupils in your settings and ask for your cooperation:



1. **Summer schools** - Firstly, I would like to draw your attention to the £200m of funding which is available for secondary schools to deliver face-to-face summer schools this year to support children with their mental health and wellbeing and to catch up on missed face-to-face learning. For pupils in your settings (special schools, AP or special units in mainstream schools) funding is £1791 per pupil (3x the standard rate) for a two-week summer school (or £179.10 per day). This is in recognition of the importance and increased costs of providing high-quality support for pupils with additional or complex needs and ensuring that they can access the same opportunities as their peers in mainstream settings. Funding for your settings has now been calculated on the basis of 50% of your year 11 cohort, in recognition that your settings generally have few year 7 pupils. For any special settings or AP whose year 7 cohort is larger than their year 11 cohort, those schools' initial funding allocations will stand.

If you haven't yet decided whether your setting will be running a summer school, I recommend visiting the [GOV.UK page](#), where you can find published guidance and the funding allocation for your setting. The guidance also includes links to potential sources of support in planning and delivering a summer school. You can then confirm whether you will be running a summer school and secure your funding allocation [here](#) by 30 June.

2. **Holiday Activities and Food** – Secondly, I want to remind you of the Holiday Activities and Food programme which will be running once again this summer. We have made up to £220 million available to local authorities to coordinate free holiday provision, providing nutritious food, as well as activities like arts and crafts, sport, and music.

The programme offers free places to children in receipt of free school meals in every local authority in England. Local authorities have flexibility to expand the reach of their programme beyond children who are eligible for free school meals, by using their funding to provide subsidised holiday club places. This may include children who are considered by the local authority as vulnerable or in need of this provision.

Please contact your local authority for further information and consider advertising this to children and young people in your settings. I myself saw first-hand how local partnerships helped to deliver these excellent schemes last summer.

Finally, I would again like to express my appreciation for your continued support, patience and dedication whilst we navigate through these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,



**Vicky Ford MP**



# New BA (Hons) Additional Needs and Disabilities (Children and Young People) degree course



Supporting children and young people who have additional needs or disabilities is a rewarding and challenging career path. City College Norwich has launched a new degree course for those considering this area of work or wishing to take their careers to the next level. There are places available for this September.

The three-year course, validated by the University of East Anglia, covers a broad range of issues, including:

- development and early intervention
- exploring behaviour
- care and education
- transitions and promoting independence
- assistive technology
- inclusion and rights
- creative practice



You can find out more about the course at <https://www.ccn.ac.uk/courses/course-types/degrees-and-higher-education/course/ba-hons-additional-needs-and-disabilities-children-and-young-people/>.

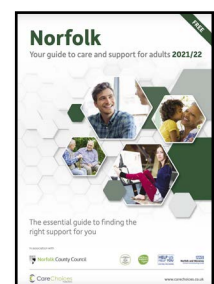
Studying for a degree at City College Norwich is flexible, with most courses requiring two days a week attendance at college. Many students continue their careers alongside their studies and there is an emphasis on linking theory to practice and promoting employability. The course may be of interest whether you've just completed your A Levels or you're returning to study.

There is an online information event on **Monday 5 July** from 6pm to 7pm where you can find out more about the course and ask questions. Email [ann.blackett@ccn.ac.uk](mailto:ann.blackett@ccn.ac.uk) to book a place.

Unfortunately, we were only made aware of this event shortly before this newsletter was produced, so if you are reading this after the information event, do contact the college to find out how you can have your questions answered.

## Your guide to care and support for adults

The latest edition of the Norfolk Adult Care and Support Guide has now been published and is available to view at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/careservices](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/careservices) as either an e-book or as a downloaded PDF. The publication contains lots of useful information to support people to be independent, resilient and well in Norfolk. There is information about how to get help and support, what kind of services are available and details of other organisations that can help.



## If a vulnerable family member goes missing – the Herbert Protocol can help

The Herbert Protocol is a national scheme, used by Norfolk Police and other agencies, which encourages carers to compile information that could be used in the event of a vulnerable person going missing. This could be an older person with dementia, a child or a young person with additional needs.

Carers, family members and friends can complete in advance a form recording all vital details such as:

- medication required
- mobile numbers
- places previously located
- photographs

In the event of your family member or friend going missing, the Herbert Protocol can be easily sent or handed to the police to reduce the time taken in gathering this information. You can download the Herbert Protocol form to fill in at <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/advice/personal-safety/missing-people>.

Norfolk Constabulary also gives the following useful information about how they operate if a person is reported missing.

**To report a missing person** call 101. If it is an emergency and you feel that the missing person may be at risk of immediate harm, dial 999.

There is no time limit on when you can report a missing person – you don't have to wait 24 hours.

### Before you report someone as missing:

- search their home or the place the person was last seen, in case they are hiding or may have fallen and been injured – remember that children can hide in very small spaces
- look out for any notes or clues that may suggest where they may be
- check to see if they have left you a message on your phone, voicemail or online
- contact family members, friends and the person's place of work to verify that they are actually missing and not simply somewhere unexpected

### What the police need from you:

When you call 999 or 101 to report someone as a missing person the police will:

- ask you for details of the missing person
- assess whether the person is at low, medium or high risk (see below)
- begin enquiries straight away where a person is considered at high or medium risk



- ask for your consent to use publicity
- keep you informed of the progress of the enquiry
- speak to the missing person when found, to reduce the chances of them going missing again.

### Risk levels:

When a person is reported missing, the police will assess whether the person is at low, medium or high risk:

**Low risk** suggests there is no apparent threat of danger to either the missing person or the public.

**Medium risk** means it is possible that the missing person is in danger or is a threat to him/herself or others.

**High risk** means the police believe there is a real and immediate danger to the safety of the missing person or to the public.

### How the level of risk is assessed:

The police will assess the level of risk by building up as accurate a picture of the person and their personal circumstances as possible. To do this they will take into account such things as:

- the person's age
- whether they need essential medication or treatment
- whether they are on the Child Protection Register

They will also consider the circumstances of the disappearance, such as whether:

- the disappearance is out of character
- there is a suspicion of murder
- the missing person has financial, employment or relationship problems

Obviously not all of the above points apply to a younger vulnerable person. Few of us have not at some time or another experienced the heart-stopping moment when you realise your child is not where you thought they were. When young people start to gain independence, there are many reasons why they may also not be where you expect. Checking as described above is a good plan, but don't hesitate to call for help if you are still concerned.

## Spread the word about Family Voice Norfolk!

If you have friends with children or young people with SEND, it would be brilliant if you could find a moment to tell them about us. The smallest hints sometimes result in a parent carer gaining access to information and an opportunity to give their views. A member who joined recently told our Membership Secretary, when asked how she heard about Family Voice, 'my decorator had a Family Voice cup!' It was a first for us. See page 9 for early news of our Conference next year. It was at the 2020 Conference, just before lockdown, that the famous cup made its debut.



## Children and young people participating



In the meetings that Family Voice representatives attend to give the views of parent carers, there is an increased interest in the importance of the voices of children and young people, as well as their families. This follows the SEND Local Area inspection in March 2020. Ofsted identified three serious weaknesses, one of which was communication and coproduction with parent carers of children and young people (CYP) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and the CYP themselves.

Norfolk SEND Partnership Information, Advice and Support Service hosts the Norfolk SEND Youth Forum for 11–25-year-olds. It's an opportunity for young people to share their experiences and work together to improve services for all young people with SEND.

New members are very welcome. You can find out more and register to join at <https://www.norfolksendpartnershiassi.org.uk>.

### Your health, your participation

Making Participation Work, funded by the Department for Education and jointly delivered by the Council for Disabled Children and KIDS, hosted the 2021 Children and Young People's Conference: Youth Voice Matters which brought together children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in an online space to learn about their rights and to develop their participation skills. Louca-Mai Brady and Jack Welch co-delivered the workshop 'Your Health, Your Participation' at the conference. Participants were asked two questions:

- If you were a hospital boss, what would you do to improve disabled children and young people's participation?
- What are your recommendations for making sure disabled children and young people have their voices heard, and what they say acted on, in health services?

This is what young people said:

### Accessibility and inclusion

Make sure that if there are criteria for participation that you aren't excluding anyone

Make sure that professionals are trained in working with disabilities and special needs

Don't assume that everyone uses speech – give people other ways to share their views

Don't assume that everyone can use the phone

Ask young people questions they can understand

More opportunities for participation. Advertised well and at sensible times/places that are accessible for as many people as possible

### Improve communication

Have lots of information available online, with photo profiles of all staff who are patient facing



Have an option to email, have easy read info, have communication cards and white boards in each meeting room

Make sure hospital staff talk to each other and other professionals (so young people don't need to keep repeating their story/experience)

Feedback, complaints and patient experience surveys that are accessible to all, easy to find and use and acted on

Have a range of ways to give information

### **Working in young-people-centred ways**

Staff who see people as individuals and not the condition or illness

Make time to really listen to everyone/give people longer to speak

Make sure people with SEND are spoken to in a non-tokenistic, meaningful way

Make sure young people are communicated to in the same way as parents/adults

### **Power and control**

Young people co-design policies

Young people to be involved from the start when setting up services or redesigning services

If a person feels their voice is not heard, respected or they feel discriminated because of their age, gender, disability etc there is someone they can go to who can 'police' this and support them (via feedback/comments options available)

And finally, an important point about learning from what has already been done. There are some great examples of inclusive participation practice already so it's important to learn from these and also share learning from our own work.

### **Conclusion**

A lot of participants felt that to enable young disabled people to have a voice and create a space for their involvement in healthcare, the focus should be on access and inclusion rather than the barriers created by their disability. Accessibility was also an important theme, presenting information inclusively so that more young people can understand it and share their thoughts and opinions (e.g. using Easy Read formats). Making these kinds of reasonable adjustments does not need to be expensive or complicated either and making participation inclusive and accessible makes things easier for all children and young people.

Another key issue is power and control – who decides which children and young people participate, when and how. Involving young disabled people in planning and doing participation, and training and recruiting staff, as well as in designing and developing health services is an important way to address this. Power and control also includes young disabled



people having a say in their individual care as well as anything that will affect the services they use: 'nothing about us, without us'.

And finally – make sure that participation is meaningful and leads to change. In the words of one participant:

*"Show people their voices are heard by giving them examples of things that have been put in place, and also making sure they feel valued and what they say is important and they are not just a participation tick box exercise."*

## Equal Lives



Equal Lives is a disability rights organisation based in Norfolk and Suffolk. It exists to support people of any age who face disabling barriers and to ensure their voices are heard. Equal Lives is led by people who access care and support services themselves – with every member of the board identifying as disabled.

Equal Lives believes in supporting people to empower themselves to live independent lives. It works to the Social Model of Disability. Developed by disabled people, this model is a way of viewing the world that says that individuals are limited by barriers within society and not by their own impairments or differences.

To become a member and receive the Equal Lives newsletter, go to: <https://www.equallives.org.uk/> or phone 01508 491 210 (8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri) or email [info@equallives.org.uk](mailto:info@equallives.org.uk).

### Accessible outings this summer

The June issue of the Equal Lives newsletter has lots of useful information about how to find out about accessible trips and activities this summer.

<https://www.uktoiletmap.org/> A website showing the location of Changing Places toilets.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/access-tested-walks> A series of booklets that can be downloaded, covering access-tested trails across Norfolk.

<https://www.tourismforall.co.uk/> A small charity focussing on accessible travel. There is a free travel planner on their website with a variety of locations in Norfolk, Suffolk and beyond.

<http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/accessible-walks-for-all/1174> This website has a list of accessible walks, giving information about the length of the walk, toilets, seating, hire equipment information and wheelchair access.

[www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk/walk/wheelchair-friendly-walks/](http://www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk/walk/wheelchair-friendly-walks/) The Outdoor Guide's Inclusion and Diversity Expert, Debbie North, has listed wheelchair-friendly walks around the UK, including six in Norfolk.

<https://www.visitthebroads.co.uk/discover-the-broads/about-the-broads/access-for-all> The Easier Access in the Broads leaflet has information about accessible boat trips and easy access paths and boardwalks.

Please note: all these links worked at the time this newsletter was completed, but of course we can't control what happens on other websites.



## Information sessions for people looking after family members and friends



Carers Matter Norfolk  
0800 083 1148

Throughout July Carers Matter will be hosting a series of information sessions specifically designed to help people looking after family members and friends.

If you are a carer, these sessions delivered by Norfolk and Suffolk Care Support will help you to manage your caring responsibilities and know more about the support that is available to you. They will be held on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 11:00am and 12:30pm on 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 and 27 July**. If you are interested in joining one or more of these sessions, please contact Sarah Okatan by email: [educationandtraining@carersmatternorfolk.org.uk](mailto:educationandtraining@carersmatternorfolk.org.uk).

The sessions will cover the following topics and will be delivered on Zoom. Please contact Sarah about which subjects are of interest to you.

### **Navigating the health and social care system**

It can be difficult to find your way around the system and to know who to talk to, and when. This session will help you with this. It will provide you with a map, along with some useful phone numbers and websites, and an explanation of how you can make use of them.

### **The carers assessment**

What is a carers assessment? How can you organise one? Where can you go for support? All of these questions are answered in this session and you'll also learn more about how to access support as a carer, and how a carers assessment can help you get what you need.

### **A checklist for carers**

Are you getting the support you're entitled to? This session provides more information about the support that's available, benefits that you might be entitled to and the support and benefits that the person you are caring for might be eligible to receive. This is a great session to attend if you're new to caring or if you need to top up your knowledge.

### **The care needs assessment**

What is the care needs assessment? Has the person you're caring for received one? This session covers what the assessment is, how you can organise one and information and questions to consider before and after the assessment.

### **Finances and benefits**

Are you getting the benefits you're entitled to as a carer? Do you need information and advice about finances? This session goes into the various benefits for carers and the person you are caring for. You'll be signposted to organisations and helplines to help you to get the information and support you need.

### **Choosing and paying for care**

This session looks at your options if you need to access emergency or respite care for the person you care for along with more long-term options. You'll also learn more about the different care provisions (residential and homecare) in Norfolk and how your loved one's needs will be assessed as part of their care needs assessment. You'll learn more about the criteria used to assess a person's eligibility for support from Norfolk County Council and will have the chance to learn more about organisations that can support you in choosing care.



### Further sessions...

Carers Matter are also looking to hold sessions covering topics such as wellbeing, isolation and loneliness, positive thinking, moving and positioning, seated exercise and assistive technology next month. The dates are **5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27 August**.

## New chair appointed to Norfolk and Waveney Health and Social Care Assembly

Emma Ratzer has been appointed as the first Chair of the Norfolk and Waveney VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector) Health and Social Care Assembly. The appointment was announced by the Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership, which brings together the NHS, local government and the voluntary sector to improve health and care in our area.

The idea for the VCSE Health and Social Care Assembly has been developed by representatives of the VCSE sector – including Community Action Norfolk, Community Action Suffolk, Voluntary Norfolk and Momentum – working together with NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Norfolk County Council. As Chair, Emma will now lead the next stage of the work to develop an effective VCSE Assembly that can build stronger partnerships between the voluntary sector and NHS and social care organisations.

## Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing



The Children and Young People's mental health service reports:

Mental health services in Norfolk and Waveney are being redesigned to place children and young people at their very heart. This year, possibly more than ever, we are aware of the toll that can be placed on our mental health and how important it is to have the right support and services in place if we need them.

Young people have been working together to define what are the most important aspects of Mental Health Services for them. They have started to develop a Charter – or set of promises – that will help guide MH services in Norfolk and Waveney.

All children and young people are invited to have their say and we are keen to hear from as many as possible. Visit [This is how... #WeveGotThis](#) and tell us what the most important aspects of Mental Health Services are for you. Or you can email Jo Hand at [johand@map.uk.net](mailto:johand@map.uk.net) or call/text 07384 214 590.

### Help improve crisis care

An area of services that is working hard to improve is that which helps children and young people when they are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Staff from A&E departments, the ambulance service, mental health professionals, social care and local charities are working on this together. They would love to hear from young people (aged 12–25 years) who have experiences of crisis care that they would be willing to share and ideas of how to improve services.



You would be part of a small group of young people working on this project and will have the opportunity to help make real improvements for others experiencing a mental health crisis and shape future services. Our first meeting will be later in the summer and the time, date, venue and frequency of future meetings will be agreed with the group.

If you, or a young person you know, would like to be involved in this work, contact Jo Hand on the email above or by text or phone.

## What is an Integrated Care System?

In recent months, Norfolk and Waveney's health and care services have become an Integrated Care System. Local people are promised better, more joined-up care.



Integrated Care Systems, which require all parts of the NHS to work with each other, local councils and other partners, are being rolled out across the country from April 2021. The Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership will be one of 42 systems across England, and involves our local hospitals, community and mental health trusts, GP practices, local councils and other care providers.

Local health and care services have been working together over the past few years to really break down barriers between organisations and improve people's care. And from April this year, an interim Partnership Board has begun to oversee the work of health and care organisations. This will enable greater collaboration, which is essential for improving services, preventing people from getting ill and addressing health inequalities.

Find out more at <https://www.norfolkandwaveneypartnership.org.uk/news/new-integrated-health-and-care-system-to-be-launched-for-norfolk-and-waveney.html>.

## Norfolk Autism Partnership and Learning Disability Partnership survey

The Norfolk Autism Partnership and Learning Disability Partnership (see also page 5) are trying to improve services in Norfolk. Complete this online survey and they will use your feedback to inform decisions and help people and families.

Click the green button to fill in the survey. If you would prefer to talk to them in person,

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FU82DQ/>

or want to email your views, please call 01603 306832 or email [tom.bassett@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:tom.bassett@norfolk.gov.uk). You can also find out more about the Norfolk Autism Partnership and Learning Disability Partnership at these websites.

[www.norfolkautismpartnership.org.uk](http://www.norfolkautismpartnership.org.uk)

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/learning-disabilities/learning-disabilities-partnership-board](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/learning-disabilities/learning-disabilities-partnership-board)



## NSPCC helpline for anyone concerned about sexual harassment or abuse in education

The NSPCC has launched a dedicated helpline to offer support to:

- all children and young people making current or non-recent disclosures of sexual harassment or abuse on school grounds within school time, and incidents linked to school in any way
- any children or young people who want to talk about being involved or witnessing any incidents
- any adults who have experienced non-recent abuse
- parents and carers who have any concerns about their own or other children
- professionals who work in schools and need support for this or related issues.

Contact the NSPCC helpline, Report Abuse in Education, on 0800 136 663 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

The helpline has been commissioned by the Department for Education from NSPCC following serious reports of sexual abuse and harassment in education, including in our own area.

You can also find out more about the helpline and make contact at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>.

## SENCO workforce survey – findings

Any parent who has a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities at school or college knows the huge difference that a skilled SENCO can make. The National Association for Special Educational Needs (nasen) has issued a new report, **The National SENCO Workforce Survey: time to review 2018–2020**, which estimates that 55% of primary SENCOs and 70% of secondary SENCOs are not allocated enough time to complete their role effectively – with 75% and 79% of primary and secondary SENCOs highlighting that they were routinely pulled away from their role to perform other duties.

The report, which examined responses to two SENCO surveys in 2018 and 2020 to create a clear picture of the national SENCO workforce, revealed other concerning statistics including:

- two-thirds of SENCOs (66%) report not being part of their schools Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- a SENCO in a primary school is twice as likely to be part of SLT than a SENCO in a secondary school, but they are less likely to receive any additional pay for undertaking the role
- only two in five primary SENCOs and one in five secondary SENCOs felt their role was manageable for one person
- the proportion of SENCOs who feel their role is understood by the wider education workforce stands at 30% for primary SENCOs in 2020 and only 17% for secondary SENCOs
- over a quarter of SENCOs in primary and secondary phases cite workload as a reason for leaving the role, however those citing workload as the main reason for leaving reduced



significantly between 2018 and 2020 at both primary (52% to 27%) and secondary (54% to 35%)

- significant upheaval within the SENCO workforce should be anticipated with an estimated 12% of SENCOs at primary and 14% of SENCOs at secondary leaving the role every year.

Professor Adam Boddison, lead author and CEO at nasen said:

“Meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND must be a national priority. We cannot risk them falling through the cracks, particularly following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In England alone, we are talking about over 1.3 million children or 15.5% of all pupils.

“SENCOs are highly specialised in their ability to support children and young people with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) and those requiring SEN Support. Yet our report with Bath Spa University clearly shows three key areas where SENCOs’ progress has been hampered. This includes providing SENCOs with more time, resources and support; supporting senior school leaders and the wider workforce to better understand the vital role of the SENCO and ensuring that SENCOs routinely have the opportunity to influence strategic decision-making in schools and settings.

“It is critical that changes in policy and statutory guidance are urgently accelerated. The forthcoming SEND Review presents an important chance to make much needed progress and we are calling on the DfE and wider policy makers to make this opportunity count for our learners with SEND.”

## Transition to employment toolkit for autistic young people

Ambitious about Autism and The Autism Education Trust have launched a new employment toolkit to support autistic young people into the job market.

The **Transition to employment toolkit** is free to download and aims to prevent autistic young people falling out of education, employment or training when they leave school.

The toolkit is not just for young autistic people to use, but also for careers professionals and employers, to help them better understand the needs and skills of young autistic people and support them into further education or work. Sections of the toolkit can be easily downloaded and edited and are designed to be used flexibly.

The toolkit can be found at <https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/what-we-do/employment/toolkits>.



**BBC**  
**RADIO**  
**Norfolk**



**Equal Lives &**  
Free From Disabling Barriers  
**Suffolk Independent Living**

Are you passionate about  
**disability rights?**

Have you ever wanted to go on  
the radio but held back  
because you didn't feel  
confident?

Equal Lives has partnered up with BBC Radio  
Norfolk to support disabled people to feel  
comfortable to contribute to the news and join in  
on radio shows when calls come through.

To find out more or to join the list email us at [membership@equallives.org.uk](mailto:membership@equallives.org.uk)  
with your full name, age and whether you're interested as an individual or  
member group.

## Self-esteem and believing in yourself

Self-esteem is how you think and feel about yourself. It isn't just about how you look, but also how confident you feel in who you are. If you are struggling with your self-esteem, Young Minds has lots of tips that can help you feel better. You can find them at [https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/believe-in-yourself/?utm\\_source=e-newsletter\\_june\\_2021&utm\\_medium=email](https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/believe-in-yourself/?utm_source=e-newsletter_june_2021&utm_medium=email). The website also has a wealth of other advice, suggestions and young people telling their own stories about managing their mental health and wellbeing.



## Webinar: approaching the cliff-edge of 18

The National Mental Capacity Forum (NMCF) hosted a webinar in June to explore the challenges associated with the transition to adulthood for persons with impaired decision-making capacity and their families.

The meeting, in the form of a Zoom webinar, was chaired by Baroness Illora Finlay, with hosting provided by the Autonomy Project at the University of Essex.

You can now view the webinar and related documents on the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) website at <https://www.scie.org.uk>. If the link does not take you directly to the webinar, simply put National Mental Capacity Forum into the search bar.

## Norfolk Early Childhood Community Fund

You may be aware that funding is available to set up or expand groups and projects for 0–5-year-olds. But did you know you can also use the funding in other ways?

Find out more at an online information session via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday 13 July 11:00am–12:00pm**.

To find out more or register your interest for an online information session please email: [ecabs@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:ecabs@norfolk.gov.uk)



## Wellbeing courses, online webinars and workshops

Norfolk and Waveney Wellbeing Service offers a range of courses, webinars and workshops to help you recognise and develop strategies to cope with the stresses and strains we all experience in life, mental health and emotional issues.

Courses will help you learn relevant cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) techniques to help you break out of negative patterns and make positive steps forward. Different courses focus on unhelpful thinking styles, physical symptoms of anxiety and panic, and patterns of responding to thoughts and feelings that can keep us stuck. The strategies you learn will be useful well beyond the duration of the course to prevent and manage bouts of stress, anxiety and depression.

The Wellbeing Service also runs workshops focusing on some common long-term conditions like diabetes, coronary heart disease and chronic pain. These workshops are free to access but the service would like to have an opportunity to talk to you first!

To find out more, go to <https://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk/get-support/courses/>

**wellbeing**  
Helping you live your life



## Free workshops for parent carers

Contact, the charity for families with disabled children, is running further virtual workshops for parent carers. All are accessible online via Zoom. These are stand-alone events – alternative dates are just that, not continuations of a course. Full instructions for using Zoom and accessing the workshops, together with booking forms and further information, is available if you click on the links below.

### How to handle meetings – for parents/carers of young children with additional needs

It is very natural to feel overwhelmed about attending a meeting to discuss your child's specialist needs and get the right support for them. You may be finding this even more challenging during the disruption of COVID-19.



This workshop will help you to :

- develop your skills for online and face-to-face meetings to help you make the right decisions for your child
- feel more confident and better able to express yourself in meetings with professionals
- understand how to prepare for and how to get the best from a virtual meeting
- recognise your strengths when communicating and remember that you are the expert!

**Wednesday, 14 July 2021, 19:30–21:30**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighter-beginningshandling-meetingsa-contact-workshop-for-parentscarers-tickets-158558921001>

### Encouraging positive behaviour in children with SEND

During the disruption of COVID-19, it can be extra challenging to manage the behaviour of your child. This online workshop gives the opportunity to hear other parents' experiences, learn new strategies and share as much or as little of your story as you wish.



It is common for some young children to have challenging behaviour. This webinar will explore some of the issues around behaviour and will look at ways of supporting and encouraging your child.

Participants will gain a better understanding of why children behave the way they do and learn ways to handle difficult situations in a calm, stress-free manner.

Group discussions will explore what might help and how to get support and help.

**Wednesday, 21 July 2021, 10:00am–12:00pm**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighter-beginnings-encouraging-positive-behaviour-in-children-with-send-tickets-158569935947>



## Money matters

During the disruption of COVID-19, many families may have changes in their financial circumstances.

This online workshop will help you to maximise your finances, hear other parents' experiences and share as much or as little of your story as you wish.

This workshop gives an overview of benefits, DLA, Carers Allowance, grants available, discounts on utilities, leisure and discounts for carers.

We will also cover accessing services for support with applications, local information and helplines and dispelling myths around benefits.

**Friday, 9 July 2021, 10:00am–12:00pm**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighter-beginnings-money-matters-for-parentscarers-of-young-children-tickets-158400918411>

**Thursday, 15 July 2021, 19:30–21:30**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighter-beginnings-money-matters-for-parentscarers-of-young-children-tickets-158399299569>



## Support for speech, language and communication (suitable for parents of young children aged 0–5)

During the disruption of COVID-19, it can be extra challenging to cope with your child's communication needs.

This online course gives the opportunity to hear other parents' experiences, learn new strategies and share as much or as little of your story as you wish.

This workshop will help you to think about how you can best communicate with your child and how you can share this knowledge with those in their Early Years and school settings.

Written and delivered by a very experienced speech and language therapist and adviser to the children's communication charity, I CAN.

**Wednesday, 7 July 2021, 10:00am–12:00pm**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighter-beginnings-support-for-speech-language-issues-in-young-children-tickets-158388138185>

**Thursday, 8 July 2021, 18:30–20:30**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighter-beginnings-support-for-speech-language-issues-in-young-children-tickets-159399824165>

**Wednesday, 21 July 2021, 19:00–21:00**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighter-beginnings-support-for-speech-language-issues-in-young-children-tickets-159400891357>



## Early Years education for children with SEND

It is very natural to be concerned about getting the right educational support for your young child, particularly if they have additional needs. You may be finding this even more worrying during the disruption of COVID-19.



This workshop will help you to understand:

- how an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP) could benefit your child
- how to apply for one and what is involved in the assessment process and the timescales involved
- when an EHCP is not appropriate and what support is available for children who do not have an EHCP
- how to challenge decisions about your child's educational support

**Tuesday, 20 July 2021, 10:00am–12:00pm**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighter-beginnings-early-years-education-for-children-with-send-tickets-15856822282>

## Carers' locality meetings

These meetings are for carers and people working with carers to come together and share information about services and support for carers. They are an opportunity to identify what could be improved and to co-develop solutions to gaps in support.



Carers Matter Norfolk  
0800 083 1148

All meetings are from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

For more information, please email [info@carersvoice.org](mailto:info@carersvoice.org)

West Norfolk	Wednesday	7 July 2021	20 October 2021
South Norfolk	Monday	12 July 2021	25 October 2021
East Norfolk	Wednesday	14 July 2021	27 October 2021
Norwich	Wednesday	21 July 2021	3 November 2021
North Norfolk	Wednesday	28 July 2021	10 November 2021



# Review of children's social care

An independent review of children's social care, led by Josh MacAlister, has been actively seeking evidence and consulting a wide range of relevant groups since the spring.

The review is operating independently of government, drawing on a wide range of expertise, and putting the voices of those with lived experience of children's social care at the heart of the review. An Experts by Experience Board will guide the review's approach to hearing from children and young people, families and adults.

The first major step in the review, only three months after it began, has been the publication in June of *The Case for Change*. The publication sets out the biggest problems in the children's social care system and will be a jumping-off point for the review's work.

The language and systems around children's social care, with an emphasis on safeguarding, has never felt comfortable for families whose children with special educational needs and/or disability need support rather than protection. It has long been recognised that for many families the idea of social services being involved causes anxiety rather than relief.

As a member of the Eastern Region of Parent Carer Forums, Family Voice Norfolk was able to send a representative to a webinar, only a week after the publication of *The Case for Change*, in which Josh MacAlister himself described the preliminary findings of the first stage of the review. It was clear that he not only understood the point of view of parent carers of children and young people with SEND, but found it a useful way to look at all support needs.

You can read the whole report by searching for Children's Social Care Review in your browser but key points are summarised below. At this stage, the report poses questions rather than giving answers, but it gives a direction of travel for the final report and recommendations, to be presented to the prime minister, Secretary of Education and the Treasury in spring 2022.

Going forward this summer, the work has four main themes:

## 1. Helping families

- Most families in children's social care enter the system because they are struggling to parent in conditions of adversity rather than because they have or are likely to cause significant harm.
- The current approach is safeguarding rather than supportive. The focus should be support not investigation. This is true for children with SEND, too.
- Poorer families are disproportionately affected, and there are also racial disparities that need to be better understood.
- More money alone is not a silver bullet. Just investing in family help will help but it's not the whole answer.
- We need a clear definition of what 'family help' should look like and how it can be accessed.



- Community is the first line of defence but we do not utilise its full potential to help families.

## **2. More effective intervention**

- Decision making and risk assessment related to harm is too inconsistent and often isn't good enough. Supervision of social workers is not of a consistently high quality.
- Professionals and parents trying to safeguard teenagers facing harm outside the home are being failed by a system that was not designed for the task.
- When cases escalate there needs to be more decisive action and the right support. For example, when they reach the court system for taking into care. Not enough is known about whether parents are able to change and what needs to happen to ensure this.
- We should find stability and permanency for children where they cannot remain with their families and kinship should be prioritised and supported.
- More needs to be done to support parents whose children are removed.

## **3. Children in care and care experience**

- Care does not do enough to strengthen relationships.
- There are not enough homes in the right places with the right support.
- Care for children who need secure accommodation reflects short-term siloed thinking across government. Disrupts their life then returns them to a situation they previously found difficult.
- The state is not the pushy parent children in care need.
- Important birthdays are accompanied by unequal and insufficient help (16, 18, 21).
- Care experience carries stigma and can weaken identity. Leaves too many YP entering adulthood without the strong, warm relationships that will support them through life.

## **4. System factors**

- Children's social care is under significant financial pressure and urgent action is needed. Money, certainly.
- There is insufficient national coordination and accountability is confused.
- Multi-agency arrangements don't take a multidisciplinary approach to working with children and families. Failing to take collective responsibility. Particularly this lets down teenagers.
- The system is complicated, bureaucratic and risk averse.
- There is more to do to recruit, retain and support a high-quality workforce.
- We are good at describing the challenges in the system but progress improving the system has been slow.



## What parent carers have already told the review

- They are looking for support, not safeguarding. Seeking help often leads to an assessment of parenting – and little support is offered for disabled children.
- Thresholds are unhelpful. Issues reach ‘crisis point’ before meeting the threshold for support. Thresholds are not consistent nationally.
- Multi-agency working – education, health and social care systems don’t join up effectively.
- There are some excellent social workers who understand SEND, but many don’t. The relationship between the social worker and family is key.

In the ERPCF session, Josh MacAlistair went on to ask for our views on questions such as:

What do you think the purpose of children’s social care should be?

How do we address the tension between protection and support in children’s social care that families describe?

## Family help

The session finished with discussion around a possible definition of ‘family help’. As an interim definition, Josh MacAlistair proposed:

The aim of Family Help should be to improve children’s lives through supporting the family unit and strengthening family relationships to enable children to thrive and keep families together, helping them to provide the safe, nurturing environments that children need.

Family Help should be high quality, evidence-led and delivered by skilled professionals who are able to engage families and build trusting and supportive relationships with them. In delivering this support, Family Help should recognise that all families need help at times, and that does not mean there is a child protection concern.

This help should be available to any family that is facing significant challenges that could pose a threat to providing their child with a loving, stable, safe family life.

## How you can contribute to the debate

On page 6 of the report there is a form that you can fill in to give your views on any of the questions asked throughout the document. This will be open until **13 August 2021**. You can feed back as an individual, as a family, or as a group. At any point you can email the review team at [review.childrensocialcare@education.gov.uk](mailto:review.childrensocialcare@education.gov.uk).

In addition to this there will continue to be a variety of online, in person and interactive engagement opportunities for people with lived experience and for people working in children’s social care to input into the review. A plan about how you can input has also been published alongside this document. You can find more details about these events at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-review-of-childrens-social-care>, and if you are part of a group that the review needs to hear from but hasn’t yet, please let them know.

The final report of the national SEND Review is, as we know, imminent and links between the two reviews will be important.

