



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your North Somerset bulletin for November 2020.

## Supportive Parents News

We hope you had a restful half term break and are ready for another busy term ahead.

This term we have been pleased to welcome Jay, our first ever supported intern to the team. Jay has been familiarising himself with the office equipment and systems and is helping us to improve our website. We also welcome Amran as a volunteer and thank her for providing a voice over in Somali for our presentation on moving on to school. Thank you Amran!

We couldn't operate without the help of all of our amazing volunteers.

Keep an eye out for our new volunteer page on our website that will be launching soon! If you are interested in volunteering please do get in touch with Jane Franklin, volunteer coordinator on [Jane.Franklin@supportiveparents.org.uk](mailto:Jane.Franklin@supportiveparents.org.uk).

## Training and Events

**Click on the event dates to book your FREE space:-**

[Tuesday 10th November](#) - **Choosing a primary school for children with SEND** - Our Local area lead will be joined by Anthony Webster (SEND Manager, North Somerset Council) for this virtual information session aimed at parents and carers of Children with SEND applying for a school placement September 2021 intake. The session will cover the duties on schools to assess, monitor and review the needs of those children with SEN as well as looking at the application processes.

[Tuesday 24th November](#) - **Annual Review Day**. Parents and carers can book a 1:1 virtual appointment with a trained advisor to discuss their child's Annual Review. We are offering daytime and evening appointments for this event. Throughout November we will also be launching our recorded workshop on Annual Reviews and looking at key legal points surrounding Annual Reviews through an information series. These will be available to view on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

**Save the Dates for 2021:**

**Tuesday 26th January - EHCP Workshop**

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## Tuesday 16th March - Annual Review Workshop

### Resources

#### Exclusion

Our back to school series of posts on Facebook and on our website was very popular and had a reach of 3520 and over 150 engagements. Following on from this we have launched a fresh series looking at exclusion. Exclusion continues to be on the national and local agenda. Although most children have only been back in school since September, we have already had a number of enquiries relating to exclusion. We hope that this series is helpful. Click [here](#) to view our exclusion series.

#### Future topics

We have a further series planned on Annual Reviews and Elective Home Education but would like to know if there are any other topics which you would like us to cover. Please give us your views in this very quick survey [HERE](#).

#### Tribunal toolkit

A refreshed version of our [tribunal toolkit](#) is available on the website. This is a practical guide which we hope will help to guide you through the process of appealing to the SEND Tribunal. We are working on a guide to virtual hearings.

#### Recorded Webinars

There is a new section on our website, where you can access recorded webinars, events and presentations. [Click HERE](#).

At the moment you can see:-

Moving on to School (English)

Moving on to School (Somali)

Transition to Secondary School

SEN Support in Schools

### Events of others

[Tuesday 17th November](#) - North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together are looking for new steering group members. If you'd like to find out more about the invaluable work of the Forum and find out how you can join in they have two information sessions from [10am-12pm](#) and from [7-9pm](#).

[19th January 2021- 7.30-9pm – ADHD talk](#). Hosted by Bridging the Gap Together and being delivered by Vicki Bates (Community Paediatric Nurse) at St Barnabas Centre, Portishead.

#### Like to Be – Careers events

Like To Be will be hosting a series of online career events over this academic year. The events will include career talks, live chat with employers, workshops, activities, competitions, and work experience opportunities. The events are free to attend. Supportive Parents will be at them or have resources which are accessible there. See the [Like To Be website](#) for more information.

- **25th – 26th November: The West of England Career Inspiration Show Years 10 & 11**
  - **20th – 21st January: The West of England Career Inspiration Show Years 5 & 6**
  - **2nd – 4th March: The West of England Career Inspiration Show Years 8 & 9**
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## Consultation and Feedback

[The New North Somerset Local Plan 2038: Choices for the Future](#) - have your say on the second stage consultation of the Local Plan for North Somerset which will guide housing, jobs and business investment, transport, community facilities and supporting infrastructure in the area until 2038.

### Give me A Break

Together for short Lives has just published a report which emphasises how important short break service are in providing respite for seriously ill children. You can read the full report [here](#).

## Local News

**Autism Family Liaison Service Pilot** – a new 6-month pilot in North Somerset for Parents, Carers and Young People – run by Bridging the Gap Together. To provide primary support for families living with the effects of autism and its associated conditions through the pandemic. From November 2020 to April 2021 – Mondays and Wednesdays 10am-4pm and Fridays 10am - 1pm. Support via Zoom, Skype, Teams or telephone with Liz Kelly. Email [support@bridgingthegaptogether.org.uk](mailto:support@bridgingthegaptogether.org.uk).

### School place application dates for admission September 2021

Please note that the forms for applying for a school place for primary school for admission in September 2021 are now available [here](#). Even if you are applying for a place at a school outside of North Somerset, you will still need to apply using the North Somerset application system if you are a North Somerset resident. The deadline for submission is **15th January 2021**.

**Gympanzees** – Gympanzees have launched some new services including a new lending library and online advice, exercises, activities, and tips from qualified therapists. Please find more details on their website [HERE](#).

## National News

The Education Select Committee is holding an inquiry into Elective Home Education.

The inquiry will seek to understand the extent to which current arrangements provide sufficient support for home educated children to access efficient, full-time and suitable education, and establish what further measures may be necessary in order to facilitate this.

It will also explore the impact of COVID-19 on home education, and any particular needs arising from the pandemic that need to be addressed. The committee wants to hear your views. You can submit evidence [here](#) until **Friday 6 November 2020**.

### Report: stress among children in England during the Coronavirus lockdown

As the Covid-19 crisis unfolded, the Children's Commissioner's Office wanted to understand in greater detail how school closures and weeks at home had affected children's levels of stress and anxiety. They therefore conducted surveys of around 2,000 young people aged 8-17 in England in March and June, to establish the frequency and causes of children's stress in lockdown. Read the full report [here](#).

## Children and Young People

Did you know that North Somerset Council have a **SEND 0 to 25 years Facebook group**? They are

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currently looking for input from young people to help with their website design. email [Katie.Warren@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.Warren@n-somerset.gov.uk) for further details.

### **Training opportunity**

#### **Rio Ferdinand Foundation and Coop 'Amplifying Youth Voice to Drive Social Change'**

Offering a range of FREE training workshops and talks giving young people the tools to create their own impactful campaign pieces and social action project

With best wishes for a successful term,

Supportive Parents

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