



SUPPORTIVE PARENTS

The SENDIAS service for children, young people and their parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year and welcome to your North Somerset bulletin for January 2021. We hope that you have had a restful time over the festive period and are all safe and well.

Supportive Parents News

We welcome Charlotte West to the team as our new Child and Young Person Practitioner. Charlotte is developing the service we offer to children and young people. If you are the parent or carer of a young person or know someone under 25 who would like to share their views to help us develop our service then please do get in touch. Please take a look at our new ["Youth Matters" newsletter](#) which is aimed directly at under 25s and has lots of useful information.

Please keep an eye out too for our virtual Hub which will go live on 18 January. The Hub is a resource where children, young people and their families can find out about what services are available to them. The information is presented through videos and focuses on the 5 ways to wellbeing: Give/Be creative, Connect, Take Notice, Be active and Keep Learning.

SEND and Education

Government Guidance on [Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings](#) during lockdown was updated on 5th January and now includes:

- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Please note that this is guidance only and does not guarantee that a child will be able to access education. Parents are advised to contact your school and local authority to discuss your situation if this criteria applies.

In its latest report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), published on 20 November 2020 to coincide with International Children's Day, the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), expressed significant concerns about how the pandemic is having a devastating impact on children's rights, well-being and futures, widening educational inequalities and worsening mental health. See the full report: [Children's rights in Great Britain \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](#)

Training and Events

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

[Tuesday 26 January](#) 10.30am-12.30pm. Virtual Coffee morning about EHCP Needs Assessments for parents and carers in North Somerset.

[Tuesday 16 March](#) 10.30am-12.30pm. Virtual coffee morning about EHCP Annual Reviews for parents and carers in North Somerset

In addition we will be holding a number of **SEND Surgery sessions**. Sign up for a free 30 minute 'virtual' appointment or scheduled telephone call with a SEND practitioner, for you to discuss your SEND query or concern.

[Tuesday 19 January](#) Daytime appointments between 11.00am - 1.00pm.

[Tuesday 2 February](#) Evening appointments between 7.00pm-9.00pm.

[Tuesday 9 March](#) Daytime appointments between 11.00am - 1.00pm and evening appointments between 7.00pm-9.00pm

All events are FREE to attend if you are liable to pay Council Tax to North Somerset council or are exempt from this requirement but live within North Somerset local authority area. We do ask that if for any reason you are unable to attend you let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer the space to someone else.

Events of others

[Thursday 14 January](#) North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together are holding a coffee morning between 10.00-11.30am. Email admin@nspcwt.org to attend.

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.

- **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**

With best wishes

Supportive Parents
