

SEND Weekly Newsletter

27 February 2019



Issue 29

Who do you turn to when you need advice and support?

As part of the Local Area SEND provision all councils must arrange for children with Special Education Needs or Disabilities to get the information and advice they need.

Somerset SENDIAS offers just that working in partnership with the local authority, health agencies and other services.

It provides information, advice and support about SEND for parent carers, children and young people.

The service is free and confidential. It can offer:

- ◆ General support by phone or email
- ◆ An independent supporter to help you through the EHC Needs assessment (Education, Health and Care) and offer advice on EHC Plans
- ◆ One to one support and help to understand information, write letters and prepare for meetings

SENDIAS can also provide information on resolving disagreements, legal advice and complaints and it can offer valuable support for young people in the transition process (16-25).

There are a whole raft of other areas it can help with, please visit www.somersetsend.org.uk

*SENDIAS is carrying out an important survey on how parent carers want to receive information and it needs your views! Visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2V8LFH7



Have you heard of Talking Cafés?

Are you a young adult with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, thinking about how to get involved in your local community?

Maybe you want to connect with activities and opportunities. In Talking Cafés there are advisors who can help with information on benefits, housing, training or joining the parish council. So far Somerset has 13 talking cafes:

**Bridgwater * Burnham-on-Sea * Chard *
Cheddar * Dulverton * Langport *
Minehead * Porlock * Street *
Taunton * Wiviliscoombe *
Williton * Yeovil**

Here's a short video about talking cafes:

<https://youtu.be/jpj4rKwEPM> For more info visit www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/



Music-making for everyone

Fancy taking part in a free fun, interactive concert for children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities and their families?

South West Music and Live music Now are putting on a concert by K'antu, a professional Live Music Now ensemble at Selworthy School in Taunton.

It takes place on Wednesday 17 April, between 1.30pm and 3pm.

You'll be able to meet young musicians from South West Music School, learn about their instruments and get involved with playing, dancing and singing.

Tickets are free but booking is essential.

Visit www.trybooking.co.uk/IPC to book. For more information about Live Music Now, visit www.livemusicnow.org.uk or to find out about SWMS visit www.swms.org.uk

Hearing support service

What happens if you're a parent carer of a young child diagnosed with a hearing loss?

Within 24 hours you should be contacted by the Hearing Support Service.

The team works closely with other health professionals to ensure prompt support.

Someone will visit the family in their home to advise on development and issues brought about by the hearing difficulties.

The team consists of qualified teachers of the deaf, teaching assistants and audiologists.

Call 01823 334475.

Take part in the Healthy Parent Carers Programme



Parent Carer's health is overlooked. Take some time for **YOU** this year.

Register to take part in the Healthy Parent Carers programme, funded by the NHS and National Lottery.

The programme aims to empower parent carers and promote better health and wellbeing.

It will be running in Minehead throughout the Summer term and it is free to take part in.

But places are limited!

The healthy parent carers team will be in Minehead on Thursday 7 March and Tuesday 12 and 19 March to meet interested participants.

They will need to speak with you, so please send your contact number to healthyparentcarers@exeter.ac.uk

Or, get in touch on **01392 722968** if you'd like to find out more details.

Other dates to meet are available on request.

The Healthy Parent Carers programme is being delivered as part of a research project being conducted at the University of Exeter Medical School, PenCRU childhood disability research centre.

For more information, please see the project website at <http://sites.exeter.ac.uk/>

