



Welcome to April's edition of the SENDIASS Spotlight!

SENDIASS UPDATE

We hope you've had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed the beautiful weather we've been having!

There has been some movement within the service, Imogen our current part-time Helpline Advisor will be moving into the role of SENDIASS Advisor, and we are currently recruiting for Imogen's replacement on the Helpline. We will have some more news about the successful candidate for Helpline in next month's newsletter.

Although we have been adding more calls to our Helpline and our wait times have reduced significantly from where they were they are still higher than we would like, we are working to try and combat this. We will also be working to reduce our wait list for casework over the coming months.

In the meantime we ask that if you no longer need your appointment, please

cancel with **at least 24 hours' notice** so that the appointment can be booked by other parent/carers that need to speak with us.

Whilst we are busy on our helpline, please look at other ways you can get information, advice and support from us. We have a vast range of resources, booklets and bitesize training videos on our website:

[Video's, Information and links | Norfolk SENDIASS](#)



Exclusion and suspension from a school

A child or YP cannot be suspended or excluded due to their Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). They also cannot be suspended or excluded due to the school not being able to meet needs, academic attainment, gender, race, pregnancy or parental behaviour.

Before suspending or permanently excluding, the school should ensure needs are being met, and/or if more SEN support is required. Behaviour can be a sign of unmet needs.

'Exclusion from Maintained Schools' Statutory Guidance states:

"19. Early intervention to address underlying causes of disruptive behaviour should include an assessment of whether appropriate provision is in place to support any SEN or disability that a pupil may have. The head teacher should also consider the use of a multi-agency assessment for a pupil who demonstrates persistent disruptive behaviour."

Before suspension or permanent exclusion, the school can:

- Consult an outside professional, such as an educational psychologist

- Apply for an EHC Needs Assessment (if required)
- Seek support, advice, and additional funding from the Local Authority Inclusion team
- Ensure the SEN Support Plan is up to date and accurate
- Call a review of the EHCP (if applicable)

It is unlawful for a school to send a child or YP home to "cool off" or because they cannot meet their needs. This is an illegal suspension. The only valid reasons to ask you to pick up your child or young person are due to illness or a formal suspension/exclusion.

For more information please see below:

Fixed Term Suspensions

[Exclusions from school | Norfolk SENDIASS](#)

[School suspensions and permanent exclusions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Permanent Exclusions (PEX)

[Exclusion and suspension resources | Norfolk SENDIASS](#)

[School suspensions and permanent exclusions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[The School Exclusion Project The School Exclusion Project](#)

[Exclusions from school | Norfolk SENDIASS](#)

Unlawful Exclusions

[Informal exclusions | \(IPSEA\) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice](#)

Norwich Community Health and Care Neurodevelopmental Service Wait list validation

Due to a high volume of missed appointments, the Neurodevelopmental Service will be emailing parent/carers on their wait lists from the beginning of April asking them to confirm if they would still like an appointment and would like to remain on the wait list.

If they do not receive a response from the email they will be sending out a letter. If this letter is not responded to within 3 weeks, they will discharge the child or young person from the waiting list, this letter will also be sent to the

referrer and GP for their records. If any parent/carer feels they have been removed in error from the waiting list they can contact the NDS team within three months and be added back to the waiting list with the original referral date.

Staff Spotlight



My name is Heather Jolly and I have been an advisor with Norfolk SENDIASS for the past 2 ½ years.

I have been working in education for more than 25 years and have worked in a number of mainstream and specialist schools. I am a Level 7 qualified specialist assessor and previously supported applications to the exam boards to ensure fair exam access arrangements were in place.

I am passionate about making a difference for children and young people with SEND, helping to ensure they receive an education which is appropriate for their needs. Part

of this role is to make and develop positive relationships with professionals to ensure we all have children and young people's interests at the heart of everything we do. I feel truly privileged to have been able to make a difference to children and young people along the way.

I am proud to be part of the team at SENDIASS.

If you or your child or young person are aged 11-25 and would like to have your voice heard, register for the Norfolk SEND Youth Forum



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum

We are seeking experts by experience to have your voice heard

If you are you aged 11 – 25 years;

- and you have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- and you would like to meet up online and in person with other young people to share your views and experiences
- and you want to help other young people with SEND

We would love to hear from you and welcome you to our next meeting!!

Visit our website or contact us for more information and find out how to join

 www.norfolksendiass.org.uk
01603 704070
email - norfolksendiass@norfolk.gov.uk



[CLICK TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)




family hubs

Newlife Parents Cafe

Come along and chat to **Emma** from the Family Hub, **Clare** from the Schools & Communities Team, and **Bridget** from SENDIASS who can offer advice and support for families with a child or young person with emerging or diagnosed additional needs.

Laundry Loke, North Walsham

Tuesday 29th April 10:00-11:30
Tuesday 13th May 10:00-11:30
Tuesday 10th June 10:00-11:30
Tuesday 8th July 10:00-11:30



Start for Life



Our Bridget will be attending this cafe in North Walsham to offer advice and support for families with a child or young person with emerging or diagnosed additional needs.

Engagement and Outreach Update

Young people

We are working hard to develop our resources, website and training packages for young people. We can also offer casework support to young people who are going through various SEN processes. We are always looking to gain young people's voice on different projects. If you are a young person, or you work with young people, and would like to find out more, please get in touch!



Making Sense of SEND

Jo and Laura attended the Making Sense of SEND event in Kings Lynn this month. The event was busy as usual and we had lots of good conversations with parent carers, offering information and support around SEN Support, EHCP's and much more. The next Making Sense of SEND event is on Thursday 22nd May at Bawdeswell Village Hall, visit [SEND support groups and events - Making Sense of SEND - Norfolk County Council](#), for more information and to book your free place.

School events

We have attended various school events this month with our SENDIASS stand, including the Easter Fayre at Ormiston Herman Academy in Gorleston. It was great to see the families enjoying lots of fun Easter activities. We took our spinning wheel and gave away lots of SENDIASS prizes. It was great to speak to families about the support their children have in school and transition into other education settings. We have also attended several parents' evenings and school SEN cafes, which are a great opportunity to give next steps advice to parents. If you would like us to attend your next school event, please get in touch: sendiassengagement@norfolk.gov.uk.



Family Voice Conference

Our team was at the Family Voice Conference again this year with the Norfolk SEND Youth Forum stand. Young people had the opportunity to share their views around SEN support and create a fidget with pipe cleaners. If you are interested in joining the SEND Youth Forum you can find more information on our [website](#).



Parent support groups

Laura attended the friendly Family Action Drop-in Group at Gorleston Library at the beginning of the month. Lots of parents came along with different questions about their child's support in school. We chatted about exclusions, school refusal, appealing EHCP's and much more. Family Action run a monthly drop-in session at various locations around Norfolk, you can find out more information about the service here: [Norfolk and Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service - Family Action](#)

If you run a parent group that you would like us to come along to, please get in touch nsendiassengagement@norfolk.gov.uk.

Library drop-ins

Library drop-ins continue to be a popular way for parent carers to get in touch with us. Find out when we are next going to be at a library near you by following this link to our events calendar: [Engagement and Advice Library drop in sessions and outreach | Norfolk SENDIASS](#)

Please be aware that drop-ins can be busy, we will always try to speak to as many people as possible in the time that we have, but sometimes there will be a wait. As these sessions run as a drop-in we will get to parents on a first-come, first-served basis. We appreciate your patience at busy times.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

May 2025					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
27	28	29 ● 1pm Earlham Library Drop-in	30 ● 10:30am Complex transition Ir	May 1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9 ● 10am Mile Cross Library Drop
11	12 ● 10am Dereham Library Drop-i	13 ● 10am Wymondham Library Dr	14 ● 2pm Wells Library Drop-in	15 ● 3:15pm SEN Cafe - Hellesdon I	16
18	19	20	21	22 ● 10am Making sense of SEND -	23
25	26	27 ● 3:15pm SEN Cafe - Teverham I	28 ● 1:30pm SEN Cafe - Thetford Li	29 ● 11am North Walsham Library C ● 12pm Great Yarmouth Library	30

Book Recommendations – Dyslexia focus

Books are a great resource from local libraries in Norfolk. They can help and support children and young people with SEND, whilst creating a safe space for family communication. There are many books that can support this. Below are a few examples, and you can discover even more for free, from your local library.

There are many books available in Norfolk Libraries with Dyslexia friendly fonts.

Ages: 3-6

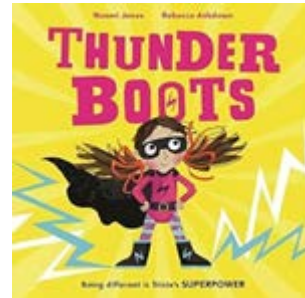
Wiggling Words – Kate Rolfe

"Wiggling Words" is an inspiring story about a child navigating letters, encouraging children with dyslexia and other neurodivergent conditions to solve problems and gain confidence. Verbs can be tricky, but the main character learns that words can be fun, despite the challenges.



Thunderboots – Naomi Jones

Trixie, the smallest but loudest person in Primrose Tower, she is affectionately nicknamed "THUNDERBOOTS" by the residents. She's thrilled to start school, but sometimes finds it hard to focus in class and struggles with reading letters. Perhaps Trixie needs a superpowered plan. This empowering story about starting school with dyslexia celebrates everyone's unique differences.



Ages: 11+

Wider Than The Sea – Serena Molloy

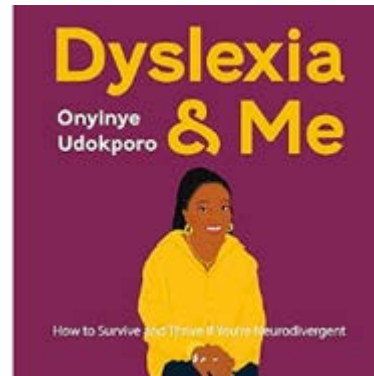
Ró finds reading hard because the words seem to move on the page. She loves drawing and finds friendship with a dolphin named Sunny. A new teacher notices Ró's struggles with reading. Ró doesn't want her parents to know. The book has lots of white space and beautiful pictures by George Ermos, making it easy to read. The author, who is dyslexic, understands these challenges.



Young people and adults

Dyslexia & Me - Onyinye Udokporo

A rising star entrepreneur recounts her experiences as a young, Black person with Dyslexia. Onyinye shares her journey of being diagnosed with dyslexia at 11, starting a business at 12, earning a scholarship to a top boarding school, and completing two degrees by 22. She discusses the challenges she faced, including bullying and anxiety. She provides tips for thriving with dyslexia and strategies for improving reading, writing, staying organised, and speaking confidently.



SENDfest

Registration for SENDfest 2025 is now open!

It's free and it's on Sunday 20 July. Tickets will be issued to those who register on a first come first served basis.

There will be workshops, multisport activities, speakers, a picnic in the park and a musical feast in the afternoon with a Big Sing and a special guest.

From 9.15am to 11.15am it will be chilled vibes for children and young people who need a quieter time. Then it will be open for all and it finishes at 3.30pm.

[SENDfest Families 2025 - Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub](#)



Complex Transition Information Event

We will be attending this event and look forward to seeing you there!

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Complex Transition Information Event
30 April 2025 10:30 - 1:30pm,
Ben Gooch Theatre, NNUH

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 13 - 19 WITH COMPLEX HEALTH NEEDS
PARENTS AND CARERS WELCOME

Moving to adult services in the future?

TALKS ON..
Transition Pathway
Learning Disability and Autism Team
Deputyships/power of attorney
Decision making in adult hood

Free Car Parking
Refreshments available
No need to book just turn up

Any questions contact:
Sarah Cassels, Lead transition Practitioner
Transition@nnuh.nhs.uk

contact *For families with disabled children*

Contact are a national service that offer 1-1 telephone appointments with a family support adviser for parent/carers looking for a listening ear, reassurance, practical and emotional support.

They can also offer support with benefits and sources of financial help including a Family Finances call back service.

[Visit website](#)



*Copyright © *2023* *NORFOLK SENDIASS*, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.