

# SEND Newsletter

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Newsletter

April 2024

*In this month's edition:*

- Welcome from Anthony Webster
- Baytree School - new Clevedon campus
- The official opening
- SEND improvements in North Somerset
- SEND initiatives in mainstreams schools
- News from the NSPCWT
- SEND Children and Young People's Council news
- SEND and You
- SENDCAS - news and photographs
- Update from Sirona Care & Health
- NHS Talking Therapies
- Weston College updates
- Springboard Outreach Service

## Introduction

### Anthony Webster Head of SEND at North Somerset



Welcome to the latest SEND newsletter update. We have some exciting news and updates to share with you.

Firstly, we were delighted to officially open the new Baytree Special School site in Clevedon on 19th February. This expanded provision will help meet the growing need for special educational needs places in our area.

We have also recently completed new SEND resource bases at Golden Valley Primary School and Churchill Church of England Primary School. These dedicated spaces will provide enhanced support for pupils with special educational needs.

Our Educational Psychology Service continues to go from strength to strength, now working with 95% of schools across North Somerset to support children and young people's learning and wellbeing.

Collaboration is key, and we are developing a multi-agency critical incident steering group to coordinate an effective response when serious issues occur impacting SEND provision and pupils.

Please make a note in your diaries for the 'A Day of SEND' event organised by North Somerset Parent Carer Working Together on 23rd October at Priory School. Building on last year's success, this will be a fantastic opportunity to come together as a community.

We have much more to update you on, so please read on for all the latest SEND news from North Somerset. As always, we welcome your feedback.



# SEND Baytree - New Clevedon Campus

**Matt Hazelwood - Assistant Headteacher**

We are proud to announce the successful opening of our Baytree Clevedon Campus.

We officially opened on 19th February when we were delighted to welcome the first 19 learners to the fantastic new facility. We've really enjoyed exploring the hydrotherapy pool, sensory immersion room, sensory rooms, and most importantly making new friends and building fantastic relationships with each other!

The state-of-the-art facilities allows us to deliver a bespoke curriculum focusing on the specific individualised next steps of every learner with a particular focus on our golden threads of independence and communication. Baytree learners have been involved at every stage of the journey, from signing the structural beams to choosing the decorative finishes!

Baytree continues to celebrate our learners' achievements, efforts and accomplishments. This ensures a shared sense of achievement, with learners developing and enhancing their self-confidence, self-esteem, and overall well-being.

We are proud of our extended community and look forward to welcoming more learners into Baytree in September, and continuing to enhance the quality of provision for SEND learners across North Somerset. All staff, parents/carers, and governors truly strive to ensure Baytree School continues to 'make the most of everyday' for every learner.



# Baytree School at Clevedon officially open

**Stephen Bishop**

**Capital Projects Team ~ Education Partnerships ~ Children's Services**

**Work at Baytree School at Clevedon came to an end on Thursday 15 February, as the site was fully signed off.**

Around 19 primary-aged children started school at the site on Monday 19th February. Visits from other age groups will be taking place throughout the rest of this academic year. We will work to make sure the transition between sites causes as little disruption to the young learners as possible.

Prior to the site's official opening, several groups including Ward Councillors, Brookfield Walk residents and the Woodcutters Group (\*see later note) had a tour of the fantastic building and its facilities.

The school boasts a hydrotherapy pool with sensory equipment, two sensory rooms with immersive technology and a sunken trampoline for rebound therapy. It is envisaged that many of these facilities will be offered to the local community for hire by negotiation with the school.

Although the school has been handed over, NSC Children's Services will continue to promote its Social Values and Inclusive Clevedon initiatives with their various partners. As part of this, the Clevedon Woodcutters Group will join the final day of social values events. A day of birdbox, bat box and bug hotel-building is being planned with the school and their partner organisations.

\*Willmott Dixon presented the Woodcutters Group with a cheque for £1,000 to help their work in the orchard and the community land in collaboration with Baytree School. The project included the provision of a new fully accessible path to the orchard, alongside the community land.



# SEND improvements

**Guy Clayton - Principal Educational Psychologist**

## Celebrating Progress and Impact in Educational Psychology

In November 2022, we had an exciting opportunity to review our approach and push closer to our goals. The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) returned to North Somerset to review the work we'd been doing. We prioritised impact-led practice, seeking to ensure our work makes a meaningful difference in the lives of children and young people (CYP). This commitment is reflected in our vision: empowering others through psychology to help children and young people learn, develop, and feel a sense of belonging. Our values of compassion, trust, honesty, and respect guide every step of this journey.

## Positive Changes and Innovative Developments

We systematically reviewed our approaches, leading to several innovative developments that are transforming the EPS. Our new Digital Lead and Impact Analyst roles are prime examples, and we're confident these positions will inspire replication in other services across the country.

Additionally, our emphasis on shared leadership means each qualified EP spearheads at least one area of service development. We are also proud partners with other local authorities in rolling out the Analysis of Additional Needs Tool (AANT) initiative and are active members of the AANT Community.

## Thanks to our Impact Analyst, we can now confidently measure and report on the progress we are making:

- Key Achievements
- Major progress addressing our case backlog
- Expanded partnerships with schools engaging with 95% of North Somerset schools through traded work, SENCo Networks, and our VS Conference
- Early Years focus leading to trackable impact via MAISEY and increased support for reception teachers
- Evidence of Impact
- 99% timeliness with EHCNAs
- Significant improvements in belonging and reduced concerns following EP intervention: the average belonging score increased by 93.71% and concerns decreased by 6.46% as measured by the SDQ
- Overwhelmingly positive feedback on AANTs, underscoring the program's effectiveness and usefulness
- Excellent VS Conference evaluation results
- Looking Ahead: Plans for the Next 12 Months
- Further integrate AANTs across our work, especially within Early Years
- Develop multi-agency Critical Incident steering group
- Continue emphasis on impact measurement across all interventions
- Explore ways to expand and monetize our digital training offerings

**The North Somerset EPS is committed to continuous improvement and making a tangible difference for CYP. We are excited to share these updates and look forward to further enhancing our service in the years to come.**

# SEND initiatives in mainstream schools

**Stephen Bishop**

**Capital Projects Team ~ Education Partnerships ~ Children's Services**

In addition to the expansion of Baytree School, North Somerset Council has been upgrading some mainstream schools in the district to enable the creation of nurture hubs and resource bases. Changes have also been made to Golden Valley Primary School and Churchill CofE Primary School so pupils with SEND can continue to attend these establishments. This work means schools and new places are more accessible locally for pupils with SEND.

The eight new nurture provisions and the two new resource bases were detailed in the January edition of this newsletter. More schemes across North Somerset primary and secondary schools are progressing during 2024, for both nurture hubs and resource bases.

As mentioned earlier, Golden Valley Primary School has had some changes made to accommodate pupils with some special needs who wished to remain at the school. The project was completed on time and within budget in December 2023. The school has since worked with the pupils concerned to equip the new spaces, ensuring they met the needs of the young learners.



Councillors Hunt and Cole were present and joined by the Chair of the Governing Body, another school governor, the Chair of Golden Valley School Association, and a member of the North Somerset Council project team.

Councillor Cole was delighted to be able to cut the ribbon to officially open the new rooms.

After this, the pupils gave a presentation about the difference that the new spaces have made to their school lives and their learning opportunities.



# SEND initiatives in mainstream schools

**Stephen Bishop**  
**Capital Projects Team ~ Education Partnerships - Children's Services**

The room has been named The Nest, to link with the fact that all the classes in the school are named after birds.

The young learners were heavily involved in the fittings in the room and the areas which have been created, including the Feeling Corner, which has a circle of chairs, and the Calming Corner, which has bean bags, and a sensory tent, providing places for the students to relax and chill out.

The young learners and staff are clearly delighted with their new facility.

Having been updated regularly about the progress of the project, Ward Councillors were keen to see the rooms finished and in use. The school invited Councillors to see the new facilities on Monday 18 March 2024.



Back Row: Hannah Watkins – GV Learning Mentor, Kate Armstrong – GV SEND & Parent Governor, Cllr A. Cole, Cllr C Hunt, Pauline Davis – GV Chair of Governors, Rachel Sandeman – Chair of GV School Association, Stephen Bishop – NSC Capital Projects Consultant, Harry Clothier – GV Learning Support Assistant, Jack Hamilton – GV SENCO.  
Front Row: Aurelia, Archie, Layla



# North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together (NSPCWT)



North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together are the local parent carer forum, there to support parents & carers of children/young people between the ages of 0-25 that have an emerging need, additional need and/or disability. We represent the collective voice of North Somerset parent carers to key decision makers across the local authority, health and education.



## A Day of SEND

Due to the success of our most recent and largest event we have started the ball rolling for our 2024 plans. Please note the confirmed date of our next 'A Day of SEND'.

**When: Wednesday 23rd October 2024**

**Where: Priory Community School, BS22 6BP**

More details will follow soon....

## News from our team

A huge Thank You to all the people who chose us as their cause this year with the Co-op Community Fund We are overjoyed with the total of £2466.31

A massive thank you to [@coopuk](#) for providing NSPCWT with this opportunity

We have excitingly planned Pottery, Cake icing workshop, Glass making workshop and some 'feel good' Axe throwing for our Parent Carer Wellbeing activities!

"Lovely to be around peers who understand. Can pick up tips and helpful things to try! Nice to just sit and focus on myself with hot drinks and good food - thank you"



"NSPCWT events are the only place where I feel supported and truly understood - this is a vital resource for my and my family's wellbeing"

We are very thankful to the Quartet Express Grant for their funding towards some fantastic Wellbeing Days - We loved our time with Bentley Road Baker, Rookery Manor Spa and running our festive Christmas Brunch and New Year Brunch. We supported a total of 126 Parent Carers  
Thank you [@QuartetCommunityFoundation](#)

# North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together (NSPCWT)



## Training Offer

Our training sessions are fully funded, facilitated by professionals and range across North Somerset as either face to face meet ups or as online Zoom meetings. Our training co-ordinator [danielle@nspcwt.org](mailto:danielle@nspcwt.org) can be contacted with any suggestions or queries.

-ADHD - 18th April (Fully Booked) & 1st May

-Emotionally Based School Avoidance - 30th April

Plus, Sensory, Anxiety, Behaviour and Communication...

## Peer Support

We offer a broad range of safe, supportive meet ups for our community, some within settings, others at our base at The Firs in Weston-Super-Mare or at locations suitable to those living further North. Often these coffees are attended by informative services such as SEND and You - SAY (the local SENDIAS team).

If you would like a peer support session arranged at your school/setting or if you would like to attend to discuss how you could support our community, please contact us at:

[admin@nspcwt.org.uk](mailto:admin@nspcwt.org.uk)

## Useful Links and Contact Information

**Access the NSPCWT calendar here:** <https://www.nspcwt.org/calendar>

**Check out our 2023/24 Annual Survey, Annual Report and Impact Reports:**

<https://www.nspcwt.org/surveys-reports>

**Free Online Resource:** Sensory Processing Difficulties (SPD) Video Created by professionals with Debbie Meintjes, Occupational Therapist; this supportive video covers the 8 senses and provides information and tips: <https://www.nspcwt.org/spd>

### Contact us:

Our Resource base is at: The Firs, 89a Drove Road, BS23 3NX

Telephone: 01934 440844

Website: <https://www.nspcwt.org/> and Follow us on social media @nspcwt



# SEND Children and Young People's Council



**Shelly Smith, SEND Engagement and Participation Officer**

The students met with Jo Arnold the Community Development worker from Off the Record (OTR). Jo had come to discuss with the members the information which was available for children and young people to access called 'The Zines'. These are downloadable online resources by and for young people aged 11-25. Self help on things like loneliness, grief, getting outdoors etc.

**The OTR Hub is at Castle Batch Community Centre with drop ins on Wednesday afternoons 3.30pm - 5.30pm. It is a safe space for young people to explore craft and activities and be able to talk about anything to do with mental health and well being.**

They discussed other websites such as Mind Aid, which is a 7 week online programme about low mood and anxiety and Shameless which is an online OTR's group for anyone feeling impacted by issues around body image and low self esteem: "Know your worth, find your power".

The members thought the information given was good and very useful, and they said that they would pass the information on to their schools and other students.

2 members from the North Somerset SEND Student and Young People's Council have been invited to represent North Somerset at the regional children and young people's self advocacy group (CYPSA) for children and young people up to the age of 25 who have SEND.

This group is focused on looking at SEND and CYP voice within health and has the opportunity for CYP from across the 15 local areas/ 7 Integrated Care Boards, to join and share their voice and represent their local area.

The group has been set up and running now for nearly a year and have had opportunities to have their voices heard at both a regional and national level and continue to have requests from outside organisations for their involvement in SEND leadership programmes, national SEND awards and conferences across the country to name just a few.

Its going to be busy ! 😊





**SAY**  
SEND AND YOU  
SENDIAS

**Jenna Hollywood - Media Officer/ IAS Advisor**

## News from SAY: Our new Head of Service

**We're delighted to welcome Flo Weston to the SAY team as our new Head of Service.**

Flo joins us with a plethora of experience in Business Development, Finance and Leadership from the Mental Health sector and Education.

## Partnership Working

We are proud to have recently renewed our 'Together is better' agreement with **North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together Forum** and [Bridging The Gap Together!](#) demonstrating our collective commitment to provide support to children and young people with SEND and their parents in North Somerset.

You can [view our agreement to learn more.](#)

## Offer to Early Years Settings

We are extending an invitation to early years settings to hold SEND Coffee mornings with our SEN Support advisor. SEND coffee mornings have a naturally relaxed atmosphere with parents / carers providing everyone with the opportunity to meet face to face, which many parents and settings don't always get the chance to do. They can enable parents and carers to meet other parents and carers, to share stories and build friendships which can help them to feel less isolated. In addition, SEND coffee mornings allow early years Inclusion Coordinators and other practitioners the chance to chat informally with parents about their worries or concerns as well as find out what other information and advice is available to them as professionals.

If you would like to talk to us more about the possibility of hosting a SEND Coffee morning please contact

[Charlie.shipp@sendandyou.org.uk](mailto:Charlie.shipp@sendandyou.org.uk)



# SENDCAS

## SEND Clubs & Activities Service

Jennie Little and Laurina Brewer - SENDCAS  
(SEND clubs & activities service)

### Team Leaders

The SENDCAS Team would like to share with you feedback received from Parents/Carers and Young People's experience of our service.



## Valentine's Fun Days



Young people created wonderful crafts and decorated biscuits to share with their loved ones.

### February Outing to Wake the Tiger and Tenpin bowling with our Independent Young Adults

Wake The Tiger is a new fantastical interactive art experience. Buy your tickets now. Step through the portal into another world. Enter a multilayered maze of wonders. The sensory environment offers an amazing experience, and well worth a visit

<https://www.wakethetiger.com>.



# SENDCAS (cont.)

SEND Clubs & Activities Service



Our young adults told us they enjoyed:

The big slide  
at Wake the  
Tiger

My favourite  
thing was  
the slide

Tenpin  
bowling where  
we got to take  
turns

Loved  
everything

This is  
incredible

Exploring  
different  
things

The lights

Friendships  
made



# SENDCAS (cont.)

## SEND Clubs & Activities Service

### Parent Carer Feedback

- The holiday activities, especially the ones where we can drop them and pick up later in the day are a god send.
- It is very difficult to find safe things to do with my son and the freedom these sessions give us are priceless. He has fun, and we can relax knowing he is with people who know him and how to handle his behaviours.
- It also allows us to spend time with his older sibling one on one which we can't do very often.
- My son loves coming to the sessions you run at Ashcombe. It gives him the opportunity to socialise and make friends with other children. He always enjoys himself.
- Myself and my partner both work and during the holidays it means that he gets the attention and time he needs to have fun with lots of the great activities you offer.
- We can relax and know that he is safe and with people who take care to understand his needs. Thank you very much for the great service you offer.
- I am always grateful to the SENDCAS team for the experiences they offer to our young man, helping him to develop his independence and enjoy fun time with others.
- During holiday times they enable me to have a break, knowing that he is safe and enjoying himself.
- Thank you for all of your hard work and understanding of our needs.



## Family Time

**Our Family time members are increasing every week** and it lovely to hear how much this programme is valued. We currently have 250 Families accessing park/venue passes every week.



# SENDCAS (cont.)

SEND Clubs & Activities Service



We would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** for all your kind words and the photographs that you have agreed to share. Our service has an excellent team, who pride themselves on meeting the needs of Children and Young people with SEND. If you are interested in joining our team, seeking SEND employment or experience then please contact us: Jennie Little or Laurina Brewer at [SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk) to find out more.



# Update from Sirona Care & Health



**Gráinne Rogers - Head of Children's Therapies and SEND**

Some of our Health Visitors and Community Nursery Nurses feature in a selection of videos aimed at showing how our Health Visiting Service supports children and families. Each clip focuses on one of the mandated reviews carried out by the team - which take place [before a baby is born](#), [10-14 days after the birth](#), at [6-8 weeks](#), [9-12 months](#) and [two to two-and-a-half years](#).

The team also filmed [one of our videos on the different support available to families](#). These can be viewed below, on our website, or [our YouTube channel](#) and they will also be used on our social media channels to show families what support we offer.

The ASD Assessment Service have secured extended funding until March 2025, maintaining their additional capacity for those CYP waiting for an assessment for a further 12 months.

The Speech and Language Therapy Service has secured additional funding to provide support to early years children on the ASD waiting list and will shortly begin recruiting into these roles.

For up to date information on all of our services, including how to contact a team or make a referral, please visit the [Sirona children's services website](#).



## NHS Talking Therapies in BNSSG



Vita Health group is the NHS Talking Therapies service across;

- Bristol
- North Somerset
- South Gloucestershire

### Who we can support:

People with problems such as low mood or anxiety



Sad, Upset, Depressed



Worried, Scared, Tense



People who also have problems with their health



People aged 16 years old and over



People who have a GP in Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire





NHS Talking Therapies in BNSSG



You can call our admin team on **0333 200 1893**

We are open between:



8am – 8pm Monday to Wednesday

8am-5pm Thursday and Friday

You can also complete an online referral **anytime**



Weblink: <https://www.vitahealthgroup.co.uk/make-a-referral/self-referral/nhs-mental-health-self-referral/nhs-mental-health-self-referral-bristol-north-somerset-and-south-gloucestershire/>



You will be asked some questions about yourself



You can also ask your GP or health professional to make a referral for you



Please let us know if you need any help with your referral e.g., if you need someone to support you or help with reading and writing.



After you have been referred, you will need to wait on a waiting list before you have your assessment

# Weston College Update

## Social Enterprise: Soup for the homeless

Armanda Costa - Specialist Practitioner Autism



**Weston College learners from Weston Bay have embarked on a heartening journey of social enterprise aimed at supporting the homeless community in Weston-Super-Mare.**

Last week (28th February), during a social enterprise session, learners visited Somewhere to Go, who provide day and night support to rough sleepers and disadvantaged vulnerable adults, to donate minestrone, potato, and leek soup, to 35 individuals.

The initiative underscores the essence of social responsibility and community engagement. **Through meticulous planning, budgeting, and shopping, the learners have honed their independent living and employability skills.** Moreover, their collaborative efforts have been instrumental in making this charitable event a reality.

Central to their endeavours are two pioneering projects: 'Soup of the Week' and 'Students Snack Shop'. These ventures are meticulously designed with the sole purpose of extending support to the homeless population.

Through these initiatives, the learners have shown great empathy and altruism in providing essential support to those in need.



# Weston College Update

## Social Enterprise: Soup for the homeless

Armanda Costa - Specialist Practitioner Autism

Armanda Costa, Autism Specialist Practitioner in Employment, at Weston College, said: "Our learners have shown remarkable dedication and compassion throughout this project, and they are so pleased to be able to offer a helping hand to those in the community that need it most.

"Beyond the donation of soup, this project showcases the transformative power of education and community engagement. It underscores the invaluable lessons learned through real-world experiences, instilling empathy, and compassion in the hearts of these learners."

**"A big thank you to all of our learners who have done an amazing job throughout the project – our learners continue to inspire us daily."**



Noreen Nolan-Kendrew, Learning Support at Weston College, added: "Lisa and the team were overwhelmed with the amount of soup they received. The learners spoke about how they've researched online costs to purchase the ingredients needed. Over two to three weeks, they prepared and made batches of soup. Everyone was pleased and happy to see how this project had such a positive impact on vulnerable individuals within our community. Learners and staff are now planning and looking forward to their next project, 'Autism Awareness'!"





WESTON  
COLLEGE

# Weston College Update

Association of College National Football Championships  
Tom Vincent - Subject Area Manager Extension Studies

In November, Weston College Foundation Learning Football Academy displayed their footballing skills at the Association of Colleges South West regional qualifiers for the Association of Colleges National Championships. The event, which took place at Richard Huish College, highlighted the inclusivity and diversity which football offers by encouraging all abilities to take part. Weston College competed against Yeovil College, PETROC College and Plymouth College and were the eventual victors. Weston College now has the prestigious honour of representing the South West region at the 44th AoC National Championship in April 2024.

This month the team also hosted and took part in the AoC Regional Qualifiers for the pan-disability league which also acted as the qualifiers for the Association of Colleges National Cup. Weston College finished the tournament as the league winners; unbeaten after some really competitive matches against Petroc College and Plymouth College. The qualifiers provided learners with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate personal development in a competitive environment and showcase their progress.

Teamwork, leadership, resilience, and communication skills were clearly demonstrated and effectively implemented to ensure the team's progression in the competition. As well as being top of the South West league the team now have the opportunity to represent the South West at the AoC National Cup finals held at St George's Park in May 2024, home of England's national team to compete to become the national champions!

We are all incredibly proud of the team and all they have achieved already this academic year. However, the real achievement is in the change we have seen in the learners and their development as individuals. The confidence, friendships, camaraderie, resilience, and sense of belonging the students gain from being part of the academy is not quantifiable and is a real testament to the endeavour, commitment, and teamwork the players put into their training every week and added further achievements in the professional status of Weston College's Foundation Learning Football Academy.





# Springboard Outreach Service



Supporting early years children with additional needs and disabilities for over 35 years.

**SPRINGBOARD**   
OPPORTUNITY GROUP  

# Springboard Outreach Service

Our Outreach Service can support your key person working with a child with SEND, providing tips, ideas and strategies to be used immediately. You will also receive a follow up report for your ongoing work.

Costs will be dependent on the support requested. A series or block of visits over time can also be arranged.



2a Princes Road, Clevedon  
North Somerset, BS21 7SZ



[info@springboardweb.org.uk](mailto:info@springboardweb.org.uk)



01275 341113



Registered Charitable Number: 1025787

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OPPORTUNITY GROUP

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We are continually developing the SEND Partnership Newsletter. If you have any feedback or would like to contribute, please email: [tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk)

