

# SEND Newsletter

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Newsletter

July 2024

## *In this month's edition:*

- Welcome from Anthony Webster, Head of SEND at North Somerset
- "Your opinion matters" - Proposal to change the format of the SEND newsletter
- Events
- NSPCWT update, the Day of SEND, training offer and useful contacts
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## Introduction

### **Anthony Webster** **Head of SEND at North Somerset**



Dear SEND Community,

I'm delighted to bring you our latest newsletter. This edition is packed with exciting updates ranging from health and social care colleagues to our young people and parent carers.

One of the highlights of my year is attending the SEND Young People's Council. It is truly inspiring to hear directly from our children and young people about their experiences and their vision for positive changes in the SEND community. I encourage you to check out the "Buzz" link they've put together for more insights.

Our SENDIAS service, SAY and our parent carer forum NSPCWT, continue to be pillars of support, offering training to schools and families and peer support to families. Their work is crucial in empowering our community with knowledge and resources. For example, NSWPCT are actively supporting the Neurodiversity Transformation Project and the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity within schools. This initiative is making great strides in creating more inclusive educational environments.

Mark your calendars for the Day of SEND on October 23rd at Priory School. This event promises to be an excellent opportunity for learning and networking.



We'd like to extend a hearty congratulations to Sam, who was named the BBC Young Reporter National Winner. What an incredible achievement!

I'm also thrilled to highlight the Supportive Internship Programme. It's been a rewarding experience for Dan, who has been working within the SEND team. This programme has not only supported Dan's learning but has also enriched our team's perspective of the Supportive Internship programme.

Lastly, we want to hear from you! We're seeking your thoughts on the most effective ways to communicate with professionals and practitioners in the SEND world. Your ideas and experiences are invaluable in helping us improve our communication strategies.

Best regards,

Anthony Webster  
Head of SEND, North Somerset



***We're revamping our communications with regards to this SEND newsletter for professionals and practitioners. What is your opinion on how we should do this?***

***Please send your thoughts and comments to:***

***[tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk)***

***by Friday 6th September 2024. Many thanks!***



# EVENTS

## July 2024

### 10th July: SEND Parent Event at Broadoak Academy from 4.00pm - 5.00pm

This is an opportunity for parents of children and young people in Years 6 to Year 10 to come along and learn about the SEND provision at Broadoak Academy, meet the team and external agencies.

### 15th July: SAY's Annual General Meeting (AGM) starting at 7.30pm

At Royal Oak House, BS1 4GB. Spaces are very limited but having guests join us would be great. Book a place to join us [HERE](#).

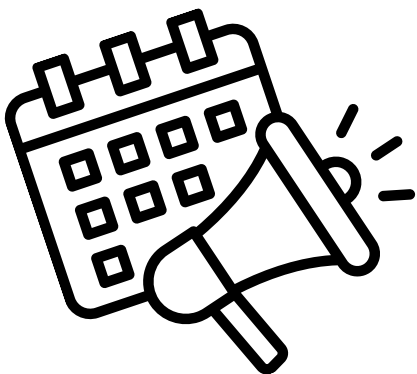
## September 2024

### 30th September: SAY's Charlie Shipp will visit World of Stuff and Story (WOSAS) from 10am - 3pm

This is a drop in session in Weston-super-Mare for parents and carers, so no need to book.

## October 2024

### 23rd October: Day of SEND at Priory Community School Academy



This will be an ongoing feature on the SEND Partnership Newsletter, so please do send me in details of your forthcoming events.

[tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk)



# 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.



## News from our team

★ Excitingly, we have recently recruited to build on the capacity of our team. We have expanded to include a Finance Lead, an Administrator, an Engagement, Participation and Co production Representative plus a Peer Support Worker! ★

## Carers Week 2024

Carers Week raises awareness of caring and highlights the challenges unpaid carers face, recognising the contribution they make to families & communities throughout the UK. We loved treating our Parent Carers to two delicious brunches & hosting a fish & chip evening!



## Neurodiversity (Autism & ADHD) Transformation Project Update

The transformation project was created to co-ordinate the review of the Autism and ADHD Pathways and is led by the ICB and co-chaired by the three Parent Carer Forums (PCF) across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) who have been working with the three local authorities, professionals across health, education, social care, and voluntary sectors, to ensure the voices of parent carers and children and young people inform the future model.

We are providing a project update specifically for our parent carers to ensure they are fully informed about the status of the project, and to provide an opportunity for questions.

- [Online 7pm-9pm Tuesday 9th July 2024](#)
- [Or In person 10am-1pm - Thursday 11th July 2024](#) at BAWA, 589 Southmead Rd, Bristol, BS34 7RG

## Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

The PINS project is a National initiative funded by the DfE and led by NHS England which will test a new model for supporting good outcomes in mainstream primary schools for Neurodiverse students and to strengthen parent carer and school partnerships.

PINS will bring health and education specialists and expert parent carers into mainstream primary settings to: help shape whole school SEND provision, provide early interventions at a school level, upskill school staff & support strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent carers. [Read More Here.](#)

List of North Somerset schools involved with the PINS project: Ashcombe Primary School, Becket Primary School, Corpus Christi School, Crockerne Church of England Primary School, Golden Valley Primary School, Kingshill Church School, Mary Elton Primary School, Milton Park Primary School, Sandford Primary School, St Anne's Church Academy, Walkscote Primary School, Woodbury Primary School, Yeo Valley Primary School, Yeo Valley Primary School.

# Event!

Free event for parent carers and professionals across North Somerset!



## A Day of SEND



23rd October 2024. 9am-8pm. Priory Community School, BS22 6BP

- **This is the second & largest SEND\* Event of its kind that we have held in North Somerset!**
- **A fantastic opportunity to gain access to support!**

\*Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

What makes this day different from our other events?

What can you expect to see at the event?

- **Keynote speaker at 5pm with the fantastic Andrew Lewis MBE, Paralympic, World & European Triathlon Champion & Lead Mentor and Ambassador for Bespoke Mentoring!**
- **A stage performance from the phenomenal Misfits plus a Q&A session 🎤**
- **Nearly 100 stall holders from organisations, charities & services that offer SEND support. Marketplace opens at 10am to start browsing those stalls!**
- **Informative training sessions**
- **Drop in clinics with professionals to get specific 1-1 support such as Financial Planning, DLA/PIP and more...**

Drop in anytime, as many times as you want, so you don't have to miss a thing!

Come and speak to Weston College about your young persons' transitions!

Travel Section providing information on accessible transport in our local area & beyond...

Have a question around education? Speak to the SEN team from North Somerset Council, or SEND & YOU!

Wellbeing Support for the family from local services & charities

Further details will be shared on our social media, @NSPCWT

# 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.

- Masking in Autism 8th July
- How to Support Your Child/Young Person with Transitions 10th July
- Emotionally Based School Avoidance - 11th July
- Exploring Benefits, Grants & Resources - 11th July

## 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). We regularly run our popular Autism & ADHD Support Coffees! 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](#)**

**Check out our 2023/24 [Annual Survey, Annual Report and Impact 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.

**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

## Good News story from Hans Price Academy

Kerry Mullinder  
SENCO



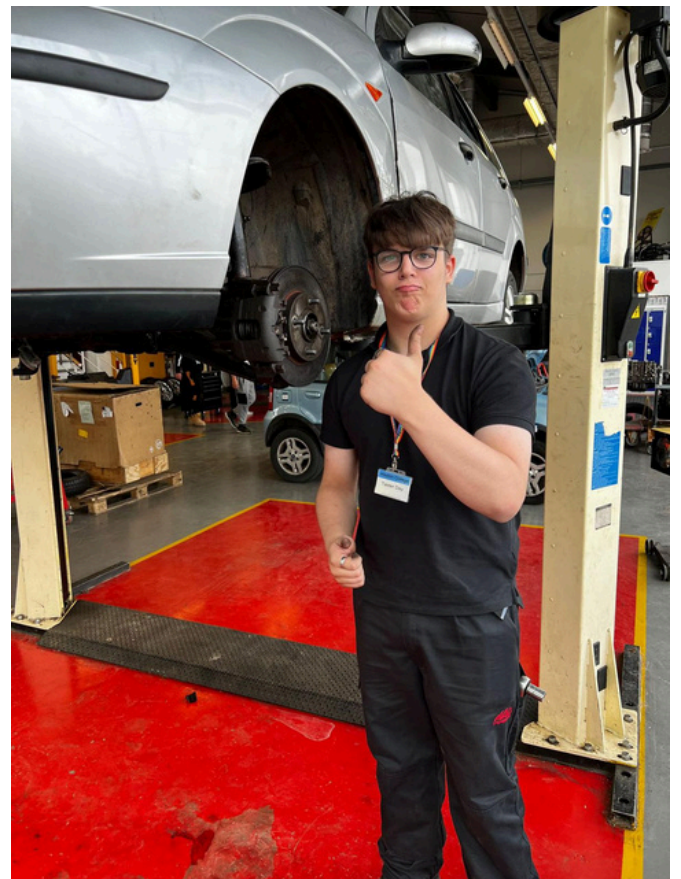
**Hans Price**  
Academy

### Local student is selected for a national award from the BBC

Included in this year's winners of the BBC Young Reporter Competition was local student, Sam Thorne, of Hans Price Academy. This prestigious competition is in its sixth year and gives 11 to 18 year olds across the United Kingdom the opportunity to produce their own stories.

Sam's story, "How mentoring can be 'life-changing'" was selected as a national winner and has been shown across the BBC including on BBC Radio 5 Live with Naga Munchetty and also on BBC Radio Bristol.

You can [see the young reporter award winners on the BBC website.](#)



## News from North Somerset

Louisa Jacobs

### Employer of Choice Project Co-ordinator

#### Do you see me? Will you work with me?

We'd like to showcase Daniel James, our first Supported Intern, who works in the SEND team at North Somerset.

#### What's a supported internship?

It's for 16-24 year olds with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to gain experience, develop skills, and help them move into sustainable paid employment.

#### What new skills have you learnt on your internship?

I feel my communication skills have developed, and I have more confidence. My ability to pull out key pieces of information has grown since attending a weekly panel and recording decisions. I have a natural aptitude for retaining information, and the amount I've retained since learning my new role has been fantastic. This means I learn from my experiences.

#### What have you enjoyed doing?

One of my biggest achievements is inputting new cases on to the SEND Portal. This involves contacting parents via email. I learnt the process quickly and feel very comfortable carrying out this task. I have become an independent worker, successfully working in the office without support on a few occasions and also working from home.

#### How has the team supported you?

I feel that the SEND Team has supported me by:

- showing me how things are done so that I can memorise the instructions and giving me written instructions which I then adapt to suit me
- arranging break times to have a routine that works for me



Pictured is Daniel James

- giving me a fixed desk after a short period of hot desking so I know where I will be when in the office.

When working from home, the team makes regular pre-agreed check-ins and makes sure I know who to contact if I need help. In the early days, my job coach was very supportive and added value to the role by enabling the team to discover what adjustments might need to be made.

#### What are the benefits for the team of a supported intern?

Dan's manager, Dawn Hedges says: "Dan is a valued member of the team and is a wonderful example of how a Supported Internship can be successful. Dan carries out meaningful work which has helped with relieving some pressure from a very busy team. I felt extremely proud of Dan when he went back to visit his old school to talk about his experiences with the Supported Internship programme. He hoped to inspire others to reach their full potential and fulfil their ambitions."





## News from North Somerset

Julia Burgess

Schools Capital Projects Support Officer



### New Resource Base at Locking Primary

Treetops Resource Base pupils at Locking Primary School can enjoy brand new facilities, following completion of a two-classroom building that can accommodate up to ten children with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD).

The new building is another step forward for SEND provision in North Somerset, offering a specialist intervention programme within a mainstream school, providing the children with a bespoke environment where they can access additional support and learning tailored to their needs.

North Somerset Council delivered the new building in partnership with Locking Primary School & ELAN, Chris Goodsall Architects and Wernicks Buildings Ltd. The project was constructed using modern modular building techniques, undertaking most of the construction off-site to help avoid disruption to the school day.

The Weston Mercury reported on the new building: [You can read more about the new building in the Weston Mercury article about it available here.](#)



Images show the delivery of, then the exterior and interior of the new classrooms at Locking Primary School which have been created for children with SEND.



# SEND Children and Young People's Council

Shelly Smith, SEND Engagement and Participation Officer



## The Buzz



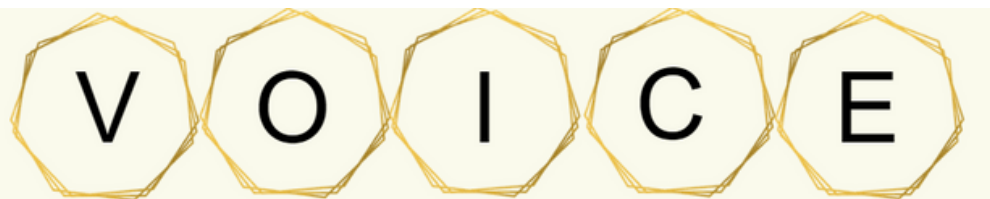
Written in Co-production with the voice of The SEND Children and Young

Read the latest edition of [North Somerset's SEND Children and Young Peoples Council](#)

if you have anything you would like included please let shelly Smith know she can be contacted on [shelly.smith@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:shelly.smith@n-somerset.gov.uk)

The last meeting of school year 2023/24 was held in June. The members had a busy July ahead in school. We would like to thank our members 🙌 for their hard work; they have been inspiring, determined and enthusiastic.

The next SEND Children and Young People's Council meeting is the 1st October 2024. If you are in a school and feel that your students could take part in the council or would like any advice or guidance regarding starting a student council please contact [Shelly Smith](#)



Voice, conVey, Organize, Influence, Co-produce, Empower.



## Santie Human External Strategic Lead

We are very happy to have Flo Weston now permanently in post in the role as head of service for SEND and You. We also have Cherise Carrington newly employed in the IAS team alongside Louise Tonkin who changed roles from area practitioner to IAS practitioner.



### SAY's Annual General Meeting (AGM):

- 15th of July, 7:30pm, at Royal Oak House, BS1 4GB, SAY's annual general meeting (AGM) will take place. Spaces are very limited but having guests join us would be great. [You can book a place to join us for SAY.](#)

### Save the date:

- 30th of September, SAY's Charlie Shipp will visit World of Stuff and Story (WOSAS) for a drop-in session in Weston-Super-Mare, 10am to 3pm.

### SAY operates All-Year-Round

Remember that the SAY team continues working over the Summer break. We will continue to offer bookable appointments during the week. This is for people who used our service within the last 6 months. [You can see more about booking a slot during the week or Thursday evening.](#)

For first time users of SEND and You SENDIAS service, [you can use the contact form to get in touch.](#) Anyone with access needs with filling out forms can always call us on our IAS number 0117 9897725.

### Information and Resources

This time of the year it may be helpful to know about some resources that tend to be popular this time of the year.

- Preparing for starting or moving school, including starting Reception, Year 7 or Post 16, is available [Preparing for starting or moving school, including starting Reception, Year 7 or Post 16 is available.](#)
- [Anyone with a child with an EHCP with placement issues a recording of placement options is available.](#)



# SENDCAS

## SEND Clubs & Activities Service

**Lenna Harris** Sitting Service Team Leader  
Children with Disabilities Team

SENDCAS enjoyed a busy, fun-filled week of May half-term activities. We enjoyed our complex needs and fun days at The Firs, with curated zones matched to the interests and needs of the young people including a craft area, sensory room, large well-equipped cooking area, and safe outdoor space.

Our 4-week summer holiday activity offer has been released and we have been blown away with the request for places. As well as our days at The Firs, you may see SENDCAS in the community enjoying trips to Brean Leisure Centre, Mendip Outdoor Pursuits, Crazy Golf, The Pier, and Ten-Pin bowling.



Our Family Passes continue to be very popular; this offer allows a family to visit several attractions free of charge. Our new family passes offer will be released soon.

To request passes please register on the Disabled Children's Register and email [SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk). We love hearing from and receiving photos from families who have enjoyed a day out at one of the venues.

We would like to celebrate the news that former North Somerset Council SENDCAS (Special Educational Disabilities Clubs and Activities Service) Buddy, Leanne Bryant has received a Silver Pearson National Teaching Award, for Teacher of the Year in a Primary School. Here is the link to the news story:

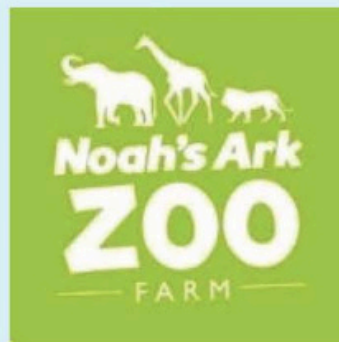
[Christ Church Primary School teacher wins award | Weston Mercury \(thewestonmercury.co.uk\)](https://www.thewestonmercury.co.uk)



# Family time passes

The SENDCAS team understand the importance of spending quality time as a family.

In collaboration with the Supporting Families Fund, we are excited to offer families of young people with additional needs, living in North Somerset, passes to visit the attractions below.





# Booking process

1. Choose a place to visit.
2. Choose a date when you'd like to go.
3. Email: **SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk** with your request.
4. We will check our calendar for pass availability.
5. SENDCAS will confirm your booking by email.

## Important information

- Passes are available for families who have registered their young person with additional needs on the North Somerset Disabled Children's Register (DCR). To register please visit: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/dcr](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/dcr).
- Passes are available on a first come, first served basis. Please note you may not get your first choice.
- Please allow **10 working days** to process your request.
- The venue may ask you to show proof of carer status.
- We can only offer one pass per week to a family of a child with additional needs.
- Please check access arrangements directly with the venue before arrival.



# Update from Sirona Care & Health



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

The Children's occupational therapy service had a range of online resources and guidance for a range of needs, including sensory processing. This can be found on our website.

[Occupational Therapy Resources & Links Children and Young People's Services \(sirona-cic.org.uk\)](https://www.sirona-cic.org.uk)

The Speech and Language Therapy Talk to Me campaign provides online support for children's language development by encouraging families to chat, sing, play and read to their child throughout the day. Our Talk To Me campaign offers tips on ways that families can interact with their children so they can develop their communication skills.

Making time to chat, play, share books and sing together with a child will support their language development and can be lots of fun too. When is your best 'together time'?

[Early Years Speech & Language Therapy resources Children and Young People's Services \(sirona-cic.org.uk\)](https://www.sirona-cic.org.uk)

The Community Paediatric service has improved the ADHD referral to make it a simpler and smoother process. A summary of the changes can be found on our website: [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD\) referrals for schools Children and Young People's Services \(sirona-cic.org.uk\)](https://www.sirona-cic.org.uk)



# 'The Fox', the Early Years Poetry Basket Poem for July



The Poetry Basket is a project which aims to develop children's language, learning and development in a fun and effective way. The Poetry Basket scheme was launched by the Early Years Team in partnership with [MakeBelieveArts](#) in 2020. Each month children in early years settings across North Somerset learn a new poem and how to sign it in Makaton.

The fox is smart,  
And sly as can be,  
And a great big bushy tail has he.  
He can run very fast,  
And his fur is red,  
And he lives in the woods in his tree trunk b



[Access this link to watch 'The Fox', signed using Makaton language.](#)

This video of the **The Fox**, our poem from the Poetry Basket for July, was made as part of a series for the Early Years Team to publish on Facebook.

If you publish the poems, please acknowledge their source: The Poetry Basket was created by MakeBelieve Arts and can be found at

[www.helicopterstories.co.uk](http://www.helicopterstories.co.uk).





## 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



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**



<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



**Are you feeling low, worried  
or stressed?**


**We are here to help you**


At NHS Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Talking Therapies, we provide a range of support to thousands of people to help them to improve their mood and find ways to manage.

If you are 16 years and older and live in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire we can support you by providing the tools you need to get life back on track.

**Contact us  
today - it is a FREE  
and confidential  
service.**

 [vitahealthgroup.co.uk](https://vitahealthgroup.co.uk)

 0333 200 1893

 Text 'YOU' to 88802

**Scan to  
self refer**



Service provided by

## Are you experiencing:



Excessive worry



Low mood



Depression



Anxiety



Lack of motivation

We provide a range of evidence based talking therapies and new ways of coping to help you better manage your mood.

Our therapies are available via secure video, text-based therapy, webinar, phone or face to face (one to one or group).



## Our easy 3 step approach

01

Self-refer using our website, or by scanning the QR code on this leaflet or by giving us a call.

02

You will be assessed by a friendly member of our team. Together, we will agree the best support for you.

03

A fully qualified therapist will support you throughout your treatment.



**Contact us today - it is a FREE and confidential service.**



[vitahealthgroup.co.uk](http://vitahealthgroup.co.uk)



0333 200 1893



Text 'YOU' to 88802

**Scan to self refer**



**Making People Better in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire**



## Key SEND Partnership Contacts

### SEND and You

SEND and You provides the statutory Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) in South Gloucestershire, Bristol and North Somerset.

Our role is to help parents carers, children, and young people build their knowledge, understanding, and confidence in SEND procedures, policies, practices, and law. We work to enable people to communicate their own needs, wishes, aims, and rights. This means people playing an active and informed role in making decisions about their education, health and social care.

SAY SENDIAS service is free, confidential, impartial, and independent from the local authority and health services. We work with professionals, organisations and services in delivering our function as a SENDIAS service with a team of trained practitioners, based on and within the legal SEND framework.

Contact SEND and You in the following ways:

- New or first-time users can use our [web-contact form](#).
- Call on 0117 9897725 (24-hour answerphone)
- Email - [support@sendandyou.org.uk](mailto:support@sendandyou.org.uk)

Please be aware that young people aged 16 and older will need to give consent and permission for their parent carer to speak to SAY on their behalf.

### North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together: NSPCWT

We are here to support parents & carers with children between the ages of 0-25 that have an emerging need, additional need and/or disability. We signpost families to relevant organisations, host regular coffee mornings, training sessions & events plus we previously organised free wellbeing days out for parent carers to enjoy.

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together aim to improve the service, provision and the quality of life for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs by being the collective voice of parent carers and a strategic partner for the Local Authority, Education and Health.

The Firs, Parent Carer Resource Hub, 89a Drove Rd, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, BS23 3NX  
01934 440844

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

[www.NSPCWT.org](http://www.NSPCWT.org)

**Please note this list will remain on the SEND newsletter. Please send any additions or amendments to this list to [tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk)**



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)

