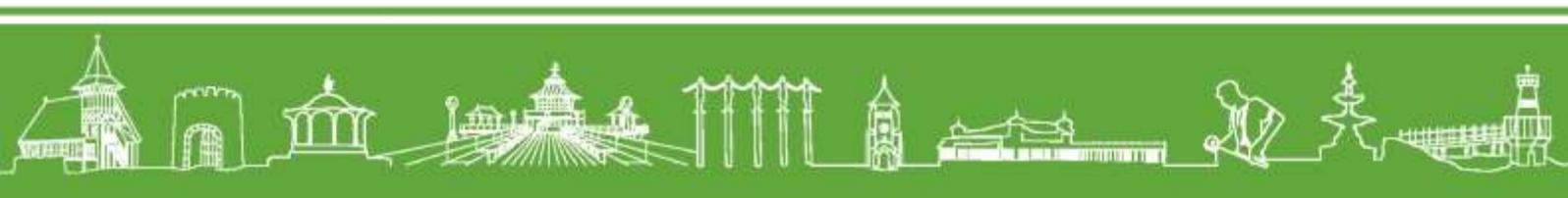


# SEND Newsletter

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Newsletter: May 2025

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## Welcome

**Pip Hesketh**  
**Assistant Director of Education Partnerships**



Dear SEND Community,

The sun is shining and the gardens are all in bloom. I hope as many of you as possible are enjoying the fine weather since we live in such a beautiful area. But with the fine weather, comes an important reflection that many of our children with SEND aren't able to access our communities and our countryside in the way their peers do. For some, this is due to anxiety and mental health needs that make participating in social activities really challenging. For others, activities or venues can be inaccessible. Our SEND Council of children and young people tell us that they don't want to go to a party with their dads (apologies to dads) but their friends instead. Our parents and carers tell us that the lack of accessible social activities for their children can hold the whole family back from participating in their communities. This can be isolating and stressful. We are committed to breaking down those barriers. This year, I hope you will see positive steps towards building inclusive activities and informing families about what already exists.

On the morning I'm writing this, the SEND Improvement Board became the SEND Local Area Partnership and members and advisors joined us from a wider group than normal. We agreed to make sure our strategy for SEND takes full account of the views of children, young people, parents and carers. The North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together (NSPCWT) and SEND and You (SENDIAS) representatives shared findings from their annual survey which made for difficult but crucial reading/hearing. As well as hearing about the challenges I've highlighted of being able to fully connect and belong in local communities, we heard about the difficulties children and young people are experiencing at school. In particular, we heard about those children who are experiencing emotional health challenges. There are an increasing number of children in this situation. We have committed to work with NSPCWT to understand a lot more about what they are experiencing and in which areas, so that we can work directly with the schools concerned. We know there is some very inclusive practice in schools so we also want to highlight where things are working well and why they are working well so that across the system, we can learn and grow.

The direct engagement we have with our members of the Children and Young People's SEND Councils does work very well. Extend Network Learning Academy (ELAN Muti Academy Trust) has its own SEND Council of primary aged children who have voted to do a piece of work to help other children improve their sleep. They have met specialists and done some research, and they are ready to embark on a campaign of video and visual advice. We hope to update you very soon on this. In the main Council, Members are working with our Principle Educational Psychologist Guy Clayton to break down some of the myths about Special Educational Needs, starting with Neurodiversity. Their

aim is to help improve the inclusivity of schools and settings. Inspiring stuff! I hope that later this year, we will be able to say more about this work.

Finally, I want to say to all of you taking exams right now, and to all the family, friends and teachers supporting you that we are thinking of you and wishing you the very best. I know this can be a really stressful time so remember this: you are your own, unique and beautiful blend of brilliant things and we are already so proud of you. Take it steady, look after yourself and look out for others. The holidays are just around the corner.

Until the next time....

With very best wishes, Pip.



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## Events

June 2025



Tuesday 3 June: NSPCWT [Managing the Red Zone](#) 7pm to 9pm on Zoom

Thursday 5 June: SEND and You EBSA Information Session. This is an online session on Zoom from 12pm to 1pm. [EBSA Information Session booking here](#).

Tuesday 10 June at 9am: HAF activity days booking launch for the summer holidays. [Make your bookings here](#).

Thursday 12 June: NSPCWT [An Introduction to ADHD](#) 7pm to 9pm on Zoom

Thursday 12 June: SEND and You [1:1 EBSA appointments for parents and carers](#) in person from 10am to 12pm at The Firs Resource Centre, 89a Drove Road Weston-Super-Mare BS23 3NX

Thursday 12 June: SEND and You [1:1 SEND appointments for parents and carers](#) in person from 10am to 12pm at The Firs Resource Centre, 89a Drove Road Weston-Super-Mare BS23 3NX

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## News from North Somerset

### Improvement Board Update: Progress on SEND Support Services and Attendance from Anthony Webster, Head of SEND

The latest SEND Improvement Board meeting held in March provided valuable updates on several key areas of service delivery and highlighted positive trends across North Somerset's SEND provision.

The Board received a comprehensive update on the vital work that SEND and You SENDIAS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service) continues to provide for families across North Somerset. Their ongoing support helps ensure that families can access the information and guidance they need to navigate SEND services effectively.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to examining attendance data for children and young people with SEND across North Somerset. The board explored current trends and discussed collaborative approaches to improving attendance rates. One particularly encouraging insight was the positive impact of nurture-focused interventions on attendance figures. The data demonstrated that when nurture principles are embedded in support strategies, children and young people with SEND show improved engagement with education.

The board acknowledged the cross-system efforts to enhance the timeliness of Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments. The improvements have been substantial:

- 36% compliance in 2023
- 63.2% compliance in 2024
- 89.6% compliance in January

This significant progress reflects the dedication and collaborative work taking place across the SEND team and partner agencies to ensure children and young people receive timely assessments and appropriate support.

The recent coffee transition morning, jointly hosted by the SEND team, NSPCWT, and SEND and You, was reported as highly successful. Families found the session both welcoming and informative, providing them with valuable guidance during important educational transitions. The SEND Improvement Board continues to monitor progress and work collaboratively to enhance services for children and young people with SEND across North Somerset.

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## News from North Somerset

### Baytree School Update

#### Stephen Bishop - Capital Projects Consultant

Since it opened last year, the expansion of Baytree School in Clevedon has offered modern and inclusive facilities to children with profound and complex learning difficulties.

The building takes Baytree from a single site providing places for 72 children to two-sites offering around 120 school places, helping to address the growing need for SEND school places. It also provides adaptations inside the building with integral hoists for children with limited mobility, a hydrotherapy pool, sensory rooms and provision across a single storey for those unable to use stairs.

The new school building was delivered by North Somerset Council and project contractors Willmott Dixon and it is a bright, calming environment which is making a real difference in the lives of local children and families.

This fantastic achievement has been recognised by Constructing Excellence who have shortlisted the school in the 'client of the year' category at their annual awards. The category, which is decided by public vote, commends organisations delivering construction projects that navigate challenges and benefit wider community. We're really proud of what we have achieved at Baytree and are pleased to be shortlisted. [You can cast your vote and help us win the award here and select the Client of the Year tab.](#)



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## News from North Somerset

### Brightspots Update

#### **Tabitha Pollard, NGDP/Impact Graduate Management Trainee**

In Term 4, children and young people in care across North Somerset were supported to complete the Coram 'Brightspots' 'Your Life, Your Care Survey'. The survey was developed by Coram Voice in partnership with Professor Julie Selwyn at the Rees Centre, University of Oxford, to measure the subjective wellbeing of children in care and understand what they feel is important to have a good life.

This year, we have achieved the highest response rate that we have ever had – with 71% of children and young people having completed the survey, and 80% being presented with the opportunity. Our children and young people with SEND were supported to complete the survey in schools with either their Designated Teachers, the Virtual School Team or our Engagement and Participation Officers, and in residential settings with Key Workers and Support Workers. The results from the survey are really valuable, as they allow us to make meaningful, child focussed, service improvements – and so we are pleased that we have received responses from such a wide range of our children in care.

We look forward to receiving a report of this feedback from Coram Voice by the end of summer and intend to have produced plans for improvement that we can share with our children and young people in the autumn. We would also like to say a massive thank you to anyone who may have supported a child or young person with this survey!



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## News from North Somerset



**North Somerset Children's Centres What's Ons for 22 April to 11 July 2025!**

**Emily Walker, Communications and Engagement Officer**

The new what's on calendars for North Somerset Children's Centres are now available for next term, beginning Tuesday 22 April.

North Somerset Children's Centre groups are inclusive to all children, including those with SEND, as well as running a joint stay and play with Springboard on a Friday at the Healthy Living Centre that is specific to those with additional needs (no diagnosis needed).

There are three what's on leaflets below for different areas within North Somerset:

Orange = Weston-super-Mare Central Area

Green = Nailsea, Clevedon, Yatton, Congresbury, Pill, Portishead, Long Ashton

Pink = Worle Area

If you would like a paper copy of the what's on please ask the reception at your local centre.

Children Centres run groups such as sensory fun, muddy boots and let's play. They are all term-time only. If you have any queries about what groups are on please don't hesitate to contact us.

**Please note that these guides are likely to have changes. The most updated version will always be shown here on our social media pages.**

[Find out what's on leaflets on Facebook here.](#)

Or find the Children's Centres on:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

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**Are you a parent/carer of a child under the age of two? Join the Children's centres  
NEW Parent/Carer Ideas group!**

Are you a parent/carer of a child aged 0 to 2 or expecting a child soon? Join our new ideas group!

We have recently launched a new parent/carer ideas group for our Children's Centres.

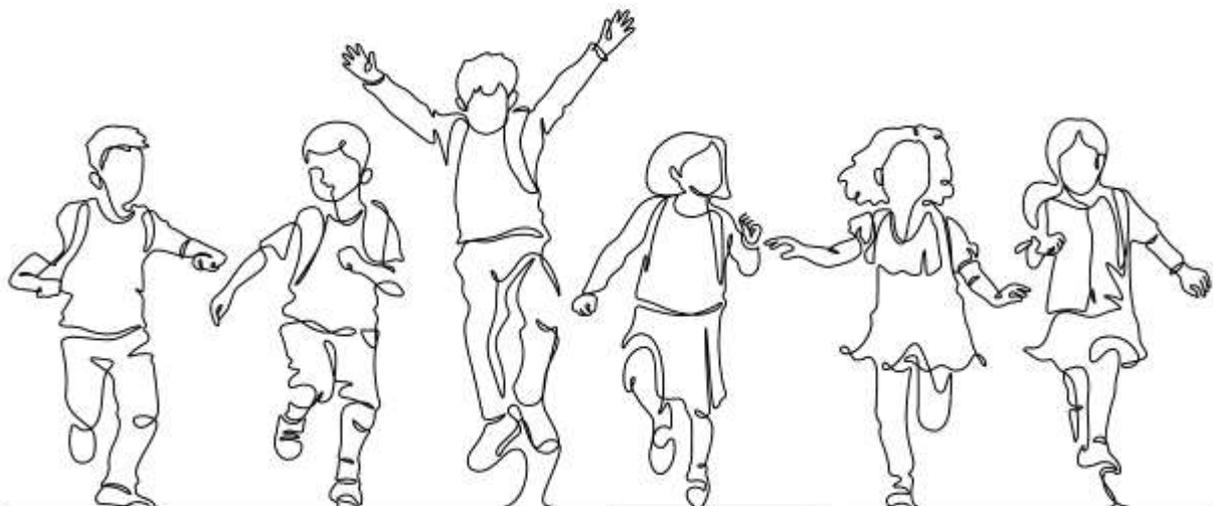
This group will allow us to work together to shape the future of our centres.

The parent/carer ideas group will involve 3 to 6 meetings per year and will be held in a relaxing space at one of your local Children's Centres.

If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact: [ccideasgroup@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:ccideasgroup@n-somerset.gov.uk).

[Find out more about the parent/carer ideas group by watching our video.](#)

[Please see our what's on pages on Facebook.](#)



## News from North Somerset



### Trauma Informed Practice

#### Steve Davis, Children and Young Peoples (5-19) Advanced Public Health Practitioner

I was lucky enough to be part of the latest Trauma Informed Practice training organised by the Virtual School and led by Dr Karen Treisman. The training lasted six days in total: two days in person in January, two days online in late February/early March and two days in person in early May. Over this time, I was joined by around fifty colleagues from the education community with a wide variety of roles but all with the same goal of learning how best to support some of our most vulnerable pupils. We formed a learning community of our own during this period and we learned a lot from each other as well as from Karen.

Over the course of the six days, we looked at a wide range of themes which relate to this complex subject area: relational and developmental trauma, the power of language, emotional regulation tools and skills, creative ways of exploring feelings and the importance of organisational culture. Karen provided lots of opportunity for us to explore ideas and themes within table groups and as a larger group. There was a good balance of theory and practice, and I came away with a much better understanding of the impact of trauma on child development and how children and young people who have experienced trauma can be best supported in our settings.

Karen was clear to emphasise that every child is unique and there is not one approach that will work for all children who have experienced trauma, but one theme shone brightly throughout the six days: the importance of relationships and connection. Key phrases were repeated to strengthen this point and will stick with me: 'Every interaction is an intervention', 'Being curious, not furious' and 'We can leave a heart print'.

In Karen's own words, 'At the heart of it all: relationships and connection. This work is human work. It's messy, thorny, layered, beautiful, and full of possibility- and it is through relationship that we repair, restore and grow.'

The training was extremely rewarding, and I will take this learning forward in my work and life. If you have the opportunity to attend any future training with Karen, I would grab the chance.



## NSPCWT Update

**Francesca Betts (she/her), Senior Business Lead  
Media and Resource Lead**



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 to 25 that have an emerging need, additional need and/or disability.

### Our Peer Support Coffees:

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 (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](mailto:admin@nspcwt.org)

[Find out what else is coming up on the NSPCWT Calendar.](#)



## Our Upcoming Training

Parent Carers and Professionals are welcome to access our training offers covering topics such as An Introduction to Understanding & Supporting Communication, Exploring Benefits, Grants & Resources, Emotionally Based School Avoidance, An Introduction to Understanding & Supporting Anxiety, Autism & Mental Health and more.

## 2023/24 Annual Survey, Annual Report and Impact Reports here

Recently we carried out our Parent Carer Survey. The responses are currently being collated and will be released soon on our website and social media channels.

[Check out 2023/24 Annual Survey, Annual Report and Impact Reports on our website.](#)

## 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. [Watch the SPD video on our website.](#)

## Contact details

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

01934 440844

[The NSPCWT website.](#)

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

## SAY: SEND and You

Jenna Hollywood, Media Officer/IAS Advisor



### 1:1 EBSA appointments for parents and carers

SEND and You are holding a FREE face to face **EBSA** support session for parents and carers living in North Somerset who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) **but do not have an EHCP**.

**Date:** Thursday 12th June 2025

**Time:** 30-minute appointments available to book between 10am to 12pm

**Location:** The Firs Resource Centre, 89a Drove Road Weston-Super-Mare BS23 3NX

EBSA stands for **Emotionally Based School Avoidance**. EBSA is a term to describe children and young people who experience challenges in attending school due to negative feelings (such as anxiety).

You can use these appointments to talk about your family's own experience of EBSA and discuss strategies to support your child.

[Book a 1:1 EBSA appointment on Eventbrite.](#)

### 1:1 SEND appointments for parents and carers

SEND and You are offering FREE face to face appointments for parents and carers living in North Somerset.

**Date:** Thursday 12th June 2025

**Location:** The Firs Resource Centre, 89a Drove Road Weston-Super-Mare BS23 3NX

This is an opportunity to speak to one of our trained North Somerset SENDIAS practitioner on a confidential, one-to-one basis and receive help and support with your query about your child's special educational needs or disability. We're happy to discuss paperwork, processes, give you guidance about filling in forms and talk through next steps with you.

[Book a 1:1 SEND appointment on Eventbrite.](#)

### EBSA Information Session

This information session is open to parents and carers in North Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire, whose child or young person has or may have special educational needs and is experiencing emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA).

The next session will be online (Zoom) on Thursday 5th June, 12 to 1pm.

[Book an EBSA Information Session on Eventbrite.](#)



**SEND Children and Young Persons' Council**  
Shelly Smith, SEND Engagement and Participation Officer

The Children and Young Persons' SEND Council came together in May for a highly engaging meeting, co-hosted by Broadoak School. Broadoak Academy were delighted to welcome Pip Hesketh, Guy Clayton, Anthony Webster, and Shelly Smith, alongside special guests Susie Weaver, Executive Lead for SEND at the Cabot Learning Foundation, and Assistant Executive Lou Coles. Attendees were warmly greeted—with some amazing pastries to start the day!

**Language Matters: The North Somerset SEND Children's and Young Persons' Council Telling a different kind of story.**

Over several years, our SEND Council has voiced concerns about the language used around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Words matter and for our young people, the term “disability” has often felt limiting, focusing on what they can't do rather than celebrating what they can. That's why we're proud to share the SEND Children's and Young Persons' Council's first official step toward change: the adoption of the term “different abilities” in place of “disability”.

This new term has not only been embraced by the SEND Council members but was also voted on by students across North Somerset. “Different abilities” reflects the unique strengths and potential of every individual, promoting a more positive and inclusive way of thinking about SEND.

This is just the beginning. The Council will continue to work on developing language that supports and empowers all children and young people in North Somerset. We're incredibly proud of their leadership in creating a more inclusive future one word at a time.

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## Talking About Different Abilities and Privacy!

Guy Clayton has been working closely with the SEND Council to talk about different abilities. They've had some great conversations about ADHD and Autism. Guy has shared lots of helpful information. You can read about in The Buzz magazine written and created by the SEND Children and Young Persons' Council.

[The Spring edition of The Buzz](#) is now online. You can read it or download it for free. It's full of useful information and is a great read for all children and young people.

As well as their work on language, the SEND Council also helped to write a new privacy policy which is easy for children and young people to understand.

Council members helped from start to finish. Shelly Smith visited several schools to ask children and young people what they thought. Their ideas and feedback shaped the final version.

Thanks to their hard work, children and young people in North Somerset now have a privacy policy that truly speaks to them which is clear, honest, and written with their voices at the centre.

The new privacy policy is as follows:

1. Who are we? We are North Somerset. We help families with children aged 0 to 19 (or up to 25 if they have special needs). We provide services like children's centres, family support, social care, adoption, fostering and more to help children grow and thrive.
2. Why do we keep information about you? We keep some information to keep you safe and provide the right support for you.
3. What information do we keep? We may keep your name, address, birthday and family details. We also have notes about visits, services you've used, or activities you've joined like libraries or events.
4. How do we collect it? We get information from you, your family and others like your doctor or school.
5. How long do we keep your information? We keep your information as long as needed to support you or as required by law. Some records stored longer for future access.
6. How do we use it? We keep it safe and only share it when necessary like with schools, courts or the police.
7. Your rights. You can see, fix or ask about your information on the North Somerset website.

### What's it like to grow up in North Somerset?

Win 2 x £50.00 Amazon vouchers.

If you are between 5 and 19 years old, we want to hear from you.

You have until June 1 2025, you can send us a creative response to the question, "What's it like to grow up in North Somerset?" for the chance to win an Amazon voucher!

Tell us your story – your way!

We love a bit of creativity.

You can send us your letters, poems, music videos, paintings, drawings, posters, podcasts, animations, or any other way you can think of to tell us your thoughts, you can even create a rap and perform it!

But! Don't forget to record it, draw it or write it! And send it. If it's over 20mb don't forget to zip it in a file before sending:

[Engagement.Participation@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Engagement.Participation@n-somerset.gov.uk)

Closing date 1 June 2025, masterpiece winners announced 30 June 2025.

We want to hear it all. Your thoughts, your vibes, your take on everything happening around you. What's on your mind?

## Who? Where? When? Information and activities for children with different abilities

### ***Super Culture – Paint the Stage Creativity unleashed***

Super Culture and WEMA West of England Music and Arts

**Who:** young people aged 14+ who identify as disabled, neurodivergent or SEND.

**Where:** Weston super Mare.

**When:** Thursdays 6pm to 7.30pm

**Contact:** [takepart@superculture.org.uk](mailto:takepart@superculture.org.uk)

### ***Orchard Club for children with SEND***

Gardening, art, play, mindfulness

**Who:** children with SEND who are out of education/home educated

**Where:** Portbury BS20 7TR

**When:** Weekly sessions.

**Contact:** Email: [sendsenses@gmail.com](mailto:sendsenses@gmail.com)

### ***Robins Foundation Pan Disability football***

**Who:** Children and young people aged 6 to 15 with SEND

**Where:** Various venues

**When:** depending on venue

**More Information:** [Robins foundation](#)

### ***Hutton Comets Disability Football***

**Who:** children aged 5 to 11 with SEND

**Where:** Hutton North Somerset

**When:** Email for further information

**Contact:** [huttoncomets@gmail.com](mailto:huttoncomets@gmail.com)



If you have any information on clubs and activities that you would like to add to this page then please email [tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.humphris@n-somerset.gov.uk).

## News from SENDCAS

**Lenna Harris (she/her), SENDCAS Team Leader of Children with Disabilities Team**



SENDCAS offers term-time clubs and holiday activities for young people with SEND (ages 5 to 18) residing in North Somerset. We are committed to providing meaningful, enjoyable experiences that help build skills, friendships, and confidence in a nurturing environment.

### Easter Holiday Highlights

SENDCAS had an exciting Easter Holiday, offering a programme of enriching activities and outings for young people with SEND. Each day was carefully planned to offer a variety of engaging, social, and creative experiences.

### Complex Needs and Fun Days

Highlights of the Easter Holidays were the Fun Days and Complex Needs Days, held at The Firs Resource Centre in Weston-Super-Mare. These Days provided hands-on activities with an Easter/Spring theme, offering young people the chance to:

- play with friends in a relaxed, supportive environment
- engage in cooking activities and themed crafts
- participate in games designed to be inclusive and accessible

Staff, including dedicated buddies and playworkers, helped create a warm and inclusive atmosphere, allowing children and young people to engage at their own pace and feel fully supported.





### Independence Outing

During the Easter Holiday, SENDCAS organised an Independence Outing for a group of young people to foster social skills and confidence. The outing included a coach journey to Crealy Theme Park where we enjoyed the attractions, rides and entertainment on a very warm and sunny day. Luckily, the British Weather was on our side!



## Stay and Play Session

The Stay and Play session was a popular event held at Kidsville, where families could relax and have fun together. This session was designed to be inclusive, welcoming both young people with SEND and their siblings, allowing families to enjoy quality time and shared activities.

The session fostered a sense of community, allowing families to support each other and build connections in a relaxed, fun setting.

## Saturday Club and Wicked Wednesday Offer

Our Saturday Club and Wicked Wednesday Club continue to thrive, offering young people carefully curated programmes in a safe environment alongside their peers. Recent activities have included creating Cookie Ingredient Jars and preparing ingredients for cooking and sharing meals together.

SENDCAS was delighted to receive some positive feedback from a parent regarding the provision our clubs offer. The parent shared:

*“Saturday Club is an essential and much needed place for children with additional needs. For my daughter, she can be in a safe, engaging, fun environment that is free from judgment. It’s a space where she can be amongst peers & have opportunities to build upon her social skills. All those involved in making Saturday Club possible are truly Godsend. It means as parents we know that our children are being supported & encouraged by skilled & compassionate professionals. Words can’t express how grateful we are for these individuals & the space they provide for our daughter & other children with additional needs.”*

This kind of feedback not only affirms the hard work our team puts into creating engaging and nurturing activities but also motivates us to continue delivering high-quality experiences for every young person in our community.



Clubs run term time only, please scan the QR codes or email [SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk) for further information.

### Wicked Wednesday



### Saturday Club



### How to access SENDCAS

SENDCAS are always happy to answer queries, please email [SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SENDCAS@n-somerset.gov.uk) for help.

## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)

Tracy Humphris and Shelly Smith,  
HAF Coordinators



The HAF Team were delighted to be able to offer a range of fun holiday activity days during the Easter holidays for children who receive benefits-related free school meals.

More than 400 children and young people booked on to more than 1,300 of the free HAF activity days in North Somerset. Most of our provisions are considered universal with SEND support. However, over 150 of the children who attended enjoyed days at specialist SEND provisions.

Councillor James Clayton visited the HAF provision at Bournville Primary School with HAF Coordinator Tracy Humphris for a morning. He said, "This was my first visit to a HAF project, and I was really impressed with Future Stars and the way they engaged with the children. It was clear that the children were actively involved with the staff and thoroughly enjoying their time."

Councillor Catherine Gibbons visited Westhaven Special School with HAF Coordinator Shelly Smith for a morning. She said, "It was such a pleasure to visit Westhaven School yesterday morning and meet the children who were enjoying the fun and food on offer as part of the HAF programme. The weather is beautiful and that certainly helps - as it's perfect for enjoying the wonderful outside spaces. But there are plenty of other activities inside - and places just to be quiet. A huge thank you to all the staff running the programme for their dedication and commitment - they enjoy it all as much as the children do ❤️"

The HAF Team are now making plans for the Summer Holidays. There are some new providers who are now on board, along with many of the existing favourites there too.

[You can find out more information about North Somerset HAF from our webpage.](#)

[Live booking can be made on our Eequ booking platform from 10 June 2025.](#)

Should you need any help to make your bookings then please email [HAF@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@n-somerset.gov.uk) or phone 07385 017565 or 07385 978806.



## Vita Health Group

**Alicia Powell, Partnership Liaison Officer at  
NHS Talking Therapies (Vita Health Group)**



**Bristol, North Somerset  
& South Gloucestershire  
Talking Therapies**

Are you experiencing excessive worry, low mood, depression, anxiety or a lack of motivation?

Here at NHS Talking Therapies, 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 groups).

Our easy 3 step approach:

1. Self-refer using our website, or by scanning the QR code on this leaflet, or giving us a call
2. You will be assessed by a friendly member of our team. Together, we will agree the best support for you.
3. A fully qualified therapist will support you throughout your treatment.

Contact us today, it is a FREE and confidential service.

- [Check out the Vita Health Website.](#)
- 0333 200 1893
- Text 'YOU' to 88802

Making people better in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

**Scan to  
self refer**



## Calibre Audio



**Helen Mee, Head of Communities and Learning**

Calibre Audio's Inclusive Voices writing competition is back in celebration of HiVis fortnight launching on 1<sup>st</sup> June! HiVis fortnight gives libraries across the UK the opportunity to highlight services and support for those with a vision impairment.

This year the theme of HiVis is Audio, Braille, Community (ABC) and we want you to write a short story or poem including one or more of those themes. Your entry should be:

- 550 words or less
- Feature Audio, Braille and/or Community in the story or poem
- Submitted in written, audio or video format

Open to all ages and abilities with prizes for first place and runner up in each category and entry is FREE!

Entries to be received by midnight of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

[For more info and how to enter go to the Calibre Audio website and visit the Inclusive Voices page to fill in the entry form.](#)



## Update from Sirona Care & Health

### Grainne Rogers, Lead for Therapies and SEND



**Autism Assessment Service:** The neurodiversity pilot has been extended to the end of May 2025. Evaluation was completed in March and is being reviewed by the Neurodiversity key stakeholder group.

The ND pilot was conducted with some of the children on the Autism and ADHD waiting lists to review the potential positive impact of early identification of needs and support through neurodiversity profiling. 177 profiles have been completed across BNSSG including CYP who are EBSA and home educated. 39 of these were completed by the neurodiversity support team, and 138 by education staff. Concept paper 2 is currently under development and thanks for the recent NS deep dive on neurodiversity.

**Children's Therapies:** Children's OT and PT are at a crucial stage of their service review, writing new clinical pathways and support packages for children and young people. They are preparing to share with stakeholders in May for feedback before launching in September 2025.

**SEND Training for Health Staff:** Sirona is rolling out packages of essential SEND training to all children's services staff. With the correct level of training across our children's services we can continue to build on our knowledge and expertise, ensuring we have the right people in the right places, delivering care

Preparation for Sirona's SEND staff conference is under way. This event supports the training of staff in supporting children and young people with SEND. The team are in discussion with some excellent new speakers who we are sure will enrich the development of those attending and in turn the families and children we support

**Public Health Nursing:** As part of the service transformation, the School Nursing Service has developed group sessions for parents and young people on health-related topics such as vaping/smoking, healthy eating and a healthy bladder and bowel to compliment the one-to-one work with children, young people and families. The nurses are currently talking to schools to discuss how the groups will be arranged and the priority sessions for each school which forms part of the School Nurse/School Agreement.

## The Poetry Basket

“Pitter Patter” the Early Years Poetry Basket Poem for May.



*Pitter patter falls the rain,  
On the roof and window pane.  
Softly, softly it comes down,  
Makes a stream that runs around.  
Flowers lift their heads and say,  
“A nice cool drink for us today.”*



[Use this link to watch “Pitter Patter” signed using Makaton language.](#)

[Check out the Poetry Basket on the Helicopter Stories website.](#)

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## Key SEND Partnership Contacts

### The Early Years Team

Contact details for the early years team, SEND support for early years settings:

[Ey.send@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Ey.send@n-somerset.gov.uk)

Sarah Evans and Karen Jarvis have an overview of SEND support in early years and their individual email addresses are:

[Karen.jarvis2@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.jarvis2@n-somerset.gov.uk)

[Sarah.evans@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.evans@n-somerset.gov.uk)

### 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.

## Calibre Audio

Calibre Audio is a national charity providing a collection of over 17,500 audiobooks for anyone who finds it difficult to read print. Membership is completely free of charge for children and young adults (0 to 25 years) with SEND. We support anyone who is unable to see, read, manipulate or comprehend printed text due to difficulty or inability.

[Find out more about membership by visiting the calibreaudio website.](#)

Telephone: 01296 432 339

## North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together: NSPCWT

We are here to support parents & carers with children between the ages of 0 to 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

Tel: 01934 440844

Email: [admin@nspcwt.org](mailto:admin@nspcwt.org) or visit [the NSPCWT website.](#)

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).

This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.