



# SENDIASS NEWS

EPC Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service

April 2017

## SEND Reform Update

Since the introduction of the SEND Reforms in September 2014, the total number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement is now in excess of 2,000. We have also seen an increase in applications for needs assessments in the 0-5 years age range and for those young people over 19 years old.

As of Feb 2017, 460 final EHCPs have been issued following conversion from a Statement, 210 are underway, and 636 Statements are yet to be converted to EHCPs. With regard to Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs), 21 have been converted to EHCPs whilst 18 are underway.

The local authority continues to improve the quality of the Plans. A sub-group of the SEND Quality Assurance and Accountability Group has been set up to specifically look at the quality of EHCPs. This is also a national focus for 2017/2018 and London Region peer reviews are being facilitated by the Department for Education. To support this work, parents were requested to complete a questionnaire on their experience of the EHC Process. Findings will be reviewed later in the year.

We at SENDIASS and Independent Support Service also work with parents and young people, helping them in the process of conversion including making a request and completing Section A. In the last quarter, we have supported 179 parents and young people. We also offer free training and information sessions on the EHC process and work on one-to-one basis with parents and young people.

If you need help with your child's Plan, please contact SENDIASS and Independent Support Service via email [enquiries@epandc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@epandc.org.uk) or call 020 8373 6273.

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*"The caseworker was a real asset at a meeting we held and wanted to recognise that she has made a great effort to bring about positive outcomes for this family as they work through the EHCP process. The school staff also commented on how valuable it was to have her involved".*

*- parent*

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# Parents' and Young People's Engagement

## Young People's training on Communication

Members of the SENDIASS Young People's steering group attended the second session of Communications training on Wednesday, 1st March 2017 at Community House.

They learned how to do presentations to a large audience and how to give and receive feedback. All participants said that they enjoyed the session and that they have gained confidence in communicating their ideas.

We would like young people with SEND to be able to express themselves in various ways so that they are able to participate in discussions, meetings and events. We aim to enable them to build their confidence so that they can represent the other young people with SEND in the community.

If you know a young person who would like to join the steering group, please call Natalia Sali on 020 8373 6273 or email [Natalia.Sali@epandc.org.uk](mailto:Natalia.Sali@epandc.org.uk)



*"The presentation was excellent and useful. I know I need to build my confidence but I know that you will help and support me".*

*- Young person*

## Parents' steering group

Our parents' steering group attended training on SEND Code of Practice 2014 which was delivered by Mary Mannion, SENDIASS Caseworker on 8th March 2017. The training was aimed at enabling the steering group members to effectively advise SENDIASS as we offer information, advice and support to parents and young people. They also help in determining the right approach to reach parents who might have not heard about the service.

If you are a parent/carer of a child or young person with special educational needs, and have a few hours to spare, please consider being a part of the group. Using your own experience, you can inform the service to respond to the needs of families.

For more information, please call Natalia Sali on 020 8373 6273 or email [Natalia.Sali@epandc.org.uk](mailto:Natalia.Sali@epandc.org.uk)

# LOCAL SEND NEWS

## Training for parents

SENDIASS would like to enable parents in dealing with the issues of the child or young person at school or college. We offer FREE training to parents on various topics. Three sessions are planned on the following dates:

- Thursday 27th April, 10am to 12pm - Training on Outcomes & Aspirations
- Thursday 4th May, 10am to 12pm - Training on Annual Reviews
- Wednesday 24th May, 10am to 12pm - Training on School Exclusions

If you have questions on any of those topics or would like to book your place, please call 020 8373 6273.

We encourage parents to tell us the learning needs they have. If you are a parent and feel you need training on any topic, please don't hesitate to call us on 020 8373 6273 or email:

[enquiries@epandc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@epandc.org.uk)

*"The topics were clear and direct. The session was very relaxed, encouraging and enabling. It permits parents to talk. It is a safe and great environment to share experiences.*

*- a parent participant*

## Information session on EHCP for parents

Parents and professionals attended the EHCP information session on 22nd March. The participants learned about the conversion process of Statement to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), starting from making the request to reviewing the draft plan. There was also a discussion on the different parts of an EHCP and what each part contains, the Local Offer, and Personal Budgets



Free sessions on EHCP conversion will be held on **Tuesday 16th May and Thursday 15th June at 10am to 12pm at Community House.**

Schools and colleges can also request our Independent Supporters to speak at coffee mornings. If interested, please get in touch. Call us on 020 8373 6273 or email at [enquiries@epandc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@epandc.org.uk)

# Our services

SENDIASS offers impartial and independent information, advice, and support to children and young people from 0 to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents.



We will help you with the following:

- Give you law-based information which you can use to make informed decisions.
- Help you access different services for you and your child.
- Assist you in communicating with education, health and care services so that they can address your issues.
- Assist you and your child with the transfer of the Statement or LDA to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

## Contact Us

Give us a call for information about our services.

**SENDIASS and IS**  
Every Parent & Child

Community House  
311 Fore Street  
London N9 0PZ

Tel. 020 8373 6273

[enquiries@epandc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@epandc.org.uk)  
[www.epandc.org.uk](http://www.epandc.org.uk)

*"Thank you for offering help and advice. It certainly highlighted areas for me to pursue on my child's education".*

*- parent*



## Volunteer with EPC!

Do you have the passion to volunteer with children and young people and their parents? Can you spare a few hours each week?

Do you want to acquire new skills and work with dedicated staff and volunteers?

Then, why not join us!

We are recruiting Independent Parent Supporters, Independent Support volunteers and Helpline advisers to help us provide the service to parents and young people.

An intensive training programme will be available to prepare you for the role.

For more information, please get in touch with:

Renata Carlet, Volunteer Coordinator

Phone: 020 8373 6246

Email: [Renata.Carlet@epandc.org.uk](mailto:Renata.Carlet@epandc.org.uk)

## Enfield Local Offer

The Local Offer is part of the SEND Reform which allows parents and young people to easily navigate the services in Enfield and surrounding boroughs. The local authority continues to improve the information for parents, young people, and professionals.

The LA is currently working to produce some "easy read" downloads for children and young people with the help of SENDIASS Young People's Participation Group and the West Lea School Council. They have also worked with parents of CYP with sensory impairment, and are currently improving the "health and emotional well-being" section. They will soon consult with the CAMHS Children and Young People's Participation Group with regard to the headings.

You can access the Local Offer via this link:

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/local-offer/>