

SENDIASS NEWS

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

May 2017

EPC appoints new CEO

We welcome Jaspal Dhani as new CEO for EPC. Prior to joining EPC, Jaspal was the CEO of Disability Action in Islington and UK Disabled People's Council. He has a wealth of experience and worked with health professionals, educators, policy makers, carers and families of disabled adults/children, providing them with insights and tools for meeting the needs of people/children with SEN and disability whilst empowering them to take leadership in their own lives.

Jaspal is delighted to join EPC and said that two of his priorities will be to strengthen our networks and community visibility to reach the wider communities so that people know about us and access our services; and to ensure financial sustainability by securing long term funding for existing and new projects that support our members and community.

Jaspal is welcomed by EPC Board of Trustees, 14 staff members and more than 20 volunteers who all share the same vision and are all excited to be working with him.

"I found the caseworker to be 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. I know budgets are always being cut and services evaluated so felt it's important to recognise when there has been a really valuable impact".

- Educational Psychologist

Young People Summer Fest!

We are inviting young people 16 to 25 years old to join our summer celebration **on Friday 21st July at 3.30 to 6.30pm at Community House.**

The event will be an opportunity to meet other young people from the community and share experiences about the services they access. You will also find out about things to do and places to go in Enfield like youth groups and leisure & sports activities.

Different services are also invited to put up displays and promote their services.

If you would like to book, please contact SENDIASS and Independent Support Service via email enquiries@epandc.org.uk or call 020 8373 6273.

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Parents' and Young People's Engagement

Young People's Steering Group

Our Young People's steering group continues to meet every month to advise the service in accessing more young people in the community. They also want to increase their confidence so that their voices can be heard in different forums in Enfield.

At their last meeting, a young person from the Enfield Youth Parliament was present. She discussed the structure of the Youth Parliament and the topics they usually discuss at their meetings. The steering group found the information useful which has encouraged them to present their views as young people with SEND at the next Youth Parliament meeting.



SENDIASS has coordinated with the Youth Parliament officer at the local authority and arranged for young people to attend the Parliament's meeting in July.

We continue to recruit new members of the group. If you know a young person who would like to join, please call Natalia Sali on 020 8373 6273 or email Natalia.Sali@epandc.org.uk

*"I appreciate him because he is polite and speaks his mind".
"He can be a bit quiet but he knows a lot about Enfield".
"I consider her a good friend and she loves writing poems".*

(Young People appreciating each other)

Parents' steering group

Our parents' steering group has continued to expand as new members joined. The group has now 10 members, nine of whom are service users. They advise the service on things like improving the EHCP Process and reaching out to more parents and young people in the community. The group also serves as support system to its members as they share their experiences of services and engaging with different professionals. The members have been trained on the SEND Code of Practice 2014 and are well versed with the issues faced by parents and young people in the community.

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

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, and to deal with the child's behaviour. We offer FREE training to parents on various topics. Two sessions are planned on the following dates:

- Wednesday 24th May, 10am to 12pm - Training on School Exclusions
- Tuesday 13th June, 10am to 12pm - Training on ASD/Asperger and Sensory Processing Problems

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

"Fantastic! Very clearly explained! I liked the way we introduced ourselves and we all spoke about what we are expecting to find out. All questions were very well answered".

- Parent participant

Information session on EHCP for parents

Parents from one primary school attended the EHCP information session on 31st March. They 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. It was also an opportunity for parents to clarify the process relating to their child's Plan, about annual reviews and who should be involved in multi-agency meetings. They also learned about the process of applying for Personal Budget and accessing the Local Offer.



Two FREE EHCP conversion training sessions 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

"The training atmosphere was relaxed and encouraged discussion. It provided support for individual cases. A great and safe environment to talk and to share experiences".

- Parent participant

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
www.epandc.org.uk

"I think this service is absolutely brilliant, and will definitely contact you if I need any further advice or support

- 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

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/>