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What a conference!

The 2024 annual conference was a great success and we will bring you more news on what the day entailed in our next newsletter, which will have a conference focus. Thank you to everyone who came along, you helped to make it a superb event. Thank you to the Family Voice Norfolk team, in particular to Gita Bose, our conference co-ordinator, for bringing it all together in such a successful way.





On the day, we asked 'what do you think of the conference so far'

[To view the responses as plain text click here](#)





SENDfest 2024

Dates – Saturday 1st June 2024 'Chilled Vibes'
Sunday 2nd June 2024 'Festival Vibes'
* Families are able to book one day only that best suits their individual needs

Location – Easton College

Timings – 10:00am until 3:00pm

SENDfest will bring together children and young people, and their families.

Choose your vibe from either a more chilled day with quieter activities or a full-scale festival style experience - have it your way! Both days will feature workshops, exploration activities and a picnic in the park with a retro feel.

- ➔ Track & Play
- ➔ DJing
- ➔ Shadow Puppetry
- ➔ Football Fun Factory
- ➔ Yoga Rap
- ➔ Circus Skills
- ➔ Deaf Rave
- ➔ Baking
- ➔ Board Game Cafe
- ➔ Sound Bath
- ➔ Floristry
- ➔ Plus loads more...



SIGN UP HERE ➔



Picnic in the Park

- ➔ Bring your own picnic or explore our food village
- ➔ Big stage with screens
- ➔ Saturday Chilled Vibes - Puppetry, Circus and Magic performances
- ➔ Sunday Festival Vibes - Musical feast including a Big Sing and Special Guest
- ➔ Mystery 'Guest Author' on both days
- ➔ Fully signed performance

'This is inclusion'
SENDfest participant 2023

SIGN UP HERE ➔



SENDfest is back for 2024- and it is going to be even bigger and better

SENDfest is an event for young people under the age of 25 and will feature multisport activities, musical workshops, vocational opportunities, PFAL workshops and keynote speakers for families, children and young people with SEND.

Following all your feedback from last year, this year it's bigger and better with a digital inclusion option.

SENDfest will bring together children, young people and their families across two days. Choose your vibe from either a more chilled day with quieter activities or a full-scale festival-style experience – have it your way! Both days will feature workshops, exploration activities and a picnic in the park with a retro feel.

A trade area, live demonstrations and even a fully functioning railway will mean the day will be one not to forget!

Dates:

Saturday 1st June 2024 'Chilled Vibes'

Sunday 2nd June 2024 'Festival Vibes'

* Families can book one day only that best suits their individual needs

Venue: Easton College Bawburgh Rd, Easton, Norwich NR9 5DU

[For more details about SENDfest click here](#)

[To book tickets for SENDfest click here](#)





RevoLOOtion- Accessible changing places at The Old Buckenham airshow

Over the last few year's Old Buckenham airshow has been delighted to welcome an ever increasing number of people with disabilities and their carers. To do this we've more than doubled the facilities available for them.

This year, thanks to the kind suggestion from a member of the Airshow audience, we've become aware of another leap in improving our facilities for disabled people; [Revolootion](#). The initiative of the Vehicles for Change charity, RevoLOOtion enables disabled children and adults to use the toilet or be changed with dignity and respect, the service helps to break down barriers that often exclude them from participating in activities and events.

It is important to recognise that lack of appropriate facilities can be a major obstacle for disabled individuals and RevoLOOtion can make a real difference in their lives.

Inside each unit, which has a full time attendant, there are toilets, hoists and changing tables, all with plenty of space and hot water.

The RevoLOOtion will be based in the main disabled toilet area of the [Airshow](#) on both the 27th and 28th of July 2024.

Old Buckenham airshow offer free carers [tickets](#) and reduced rate tickets for disabled people (with the relevant proof).



Norfolk Family & Community Connections Facebook groups

Hey there! 🙌 If you're a parent or guardian looking for information, events and activities in your local community we're here to help support you.

Most of our updates will be in these Facebook groups, but occasionally we'll also post information here on the main page if it's available across all of Norfolk, so make sure to give this [page](#) a follow too.

📌 We're a team working at Norfolk County Council, so we can help link you to all sorts of different council services available in your area.

Join the relevant group to get useful updates from our team on useful info and things happening in your area:

📍 [Breckland](#) Family & Community Connections

📍 [Broadland](#) Family & Community Connections

- [Great Yarmouth](#) Family & Community Connections
- [North Norfolk](#) Family & Community Connections
- [Norwich](#) Family & Community Connections
- [South](#) Norfolk Family & Community Connections
- [West](#) Norfolk Family & Community Connections



Contact Family Hubs- they are there to support your family

Our [Start for Life](#) and family hubs approach supports a shared ambition that Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can [flourish](#). By joining up and enhancing existing services, we want to ensure all children, young people and their parents and carers can access the early support they need when they need it.

Our family hubs approach supports parents and carers of children and young people from conception up to the age of 19-years-old (25 for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities).

We can also help with the worries adults may have, such as finances and mental health, which may impact on children.

If you have difficulties in your family, or if you are worried about your children, there are people who can support you. If family life feels difficult to cope with, contact us to ask for help and support.

Families can access support:

Within their community in places they already visit that are part of our Start for Life and family hub network.

Virtually through [online and digital](#) platforms.

By visiting a family hub site, and talking to a relevant professional or practitioner in person.

From another parent or carer, as we develop more volunteer peer support opportunities.

Family hubs are in:

- Great Yarmouth
- King's Lynn
- Norwich
- Thetford
- Hellesdon
- North Walsham
- Long Stratton

[To find out more click here](#)





Are you a kinship carer?

A kinship carer is someone who is raising a relative's or friend's child.

Kinship Group for kinship carers in or around Norwich to come together.

We are a friendly group of kinship carers who meet once a month to help each other. We have an array of speakers coming to talk in 2024 so there is never a better time to join us. I am the group leader, Carole, and I look forward to speaking to new members.

CONTACT ME ON THE EMAIL BELOW and I will tell you all about the group. If you prefer a virtual meeting, we have started these recently and I can invite you to join us at Zoom.

We are free to join, and you are not committing yourself to anything by coming along, there will be a warm welcome, a cup of tea/coffee, and plenty of biscuits.

We do not allow children at the meetings due to our conversations' personal nature, but we look forward to getting the families together during the summer holidays.

We meet at The Vauxhall Centre, Johnson Place, Norwich NR2 2SA on the 3rd Monday of each month from 10.30 – Midday



Interested to find out more?

Scan with your phone camera for more info



compass.kinship.org.uk
kinship.org.uk

norwichareakinshipcarer@outlook.com

Kinship is the working name for Grandparents Plus, which is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 4454103 and registered as a charity under number 1093975

Kinship group for kinship carers in or around Norwich to come together

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We meet at The Vauxhall Centre, Johnson Place, Norwich NR2 2SA on the 3rd Monday of each month from 10.30 – Midday.

[For more groups and information click here](#)



Norfolk County Council

Important consultation on the Non-Residential Charging Policy, in particular the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG)

Norfolk County Council adult social services are writing to tell you about an important consultation on the Non-Residential Charging Policy, in particular the Minimum Income Guarantee.

Residents from across the county can get involved by filling in an online survey (large print and easy read versions also available) or taking part in a drop-in session at one of libraries across the county.

The Council faces difficult decisions to deliver on its ambitions for the people of Norfolk against a difficult economic climate and more than a decade of reduced funding. Each year, the Council reviews its budget and proposes the savings it will need to make for the following year to balance its budget.

We conducted our annual budget and council tax consultation for 2024/25 between October and December 2023. However, the Government's autumn statement and provisional funding settlement, which followed our budget consultation, set out a worse funding position for local authorities than had previously been anticipated.

As a result, the Council is £4m worse off than it had expected to be. We are now running consultations and one of them is about the Minimum Income Guarantee.

The consultation will run until Friday, 17th May and the council is asking people for their views on two proposed changes to the Minimum Income Guarantee.

We would value your feedback on the proposals, and we would also value your help in highlighting the consultation and encouraging people to feed back.

You can take our survey, find details of the drop-in sessions by visiting [here](#). (Apologies some of the in person events have already taken place) or you can [email](#) us or phone our Call Centre 01603 306864 for help and support with the consultation.





Norfolk AUTISM

Acceptance Week

2nd - 8th April 2024

Show your support for Norfolk Autism Acceptance Week

- Free training and downloadable resources for educational settings
- Take part in fun family-friendly activities and events that aim to raise awareness of autism

For more information,
scan the QR codes below.

Educational
settings:



For parents/carers
and young people:



Norfolk Autism Acceptance Week

The Local Offer team are thrilled to announce that information about Norfolk Autism Acceptance Week is now LIVE! Taking place from 2nd - 8th April, Norfolk Autism Acceptance Week aims to increase awareness and acceptance of autism, to help build a more inclusive world.

Educational settings are being encouraged to take part from 18th March, which coincides with Neurodiversity Celebration Week. Teaching resources, free training and useful links are available on the Norfolk Schools and Learning Providers website.



For families this year, there's a range of events, activities and signposting to services and support, which are published on the Local Offer website.

Highlights include:


- A whole host of [autism-friendly events](#) at Norfolk attractions for families to enjoy
- Free Making Sense of Autism [training](#) for educational professionals
- Norfolk Music Hub are inviting educational settings to learn and perform the song '[Let Me Shine](#)' to be part of an online performance page
- Norfolk Libraries have put together a [booklist](#) that's full of books about autism, both fiction and non-fiction, and will have book displays in selected branches to raise awareness


If you have any best practice you would like them to know about please click here to email the team



Aylsham

Healthy Town Event

 Town Hall, Market Place,
Aylsham, NR11 6EL

 2pm - 6pm

APRIL
18

A **FREE** forum is coming to the Town Hall offering help, support & ideas on:

- Improving physical and mental health
- Caring for a loved one
- Fitness and wellbeing
- Meeting new people

Healthcare professionals and representatives from service providers, local groups, classes and organisations will be on hand for a chat.

**Pop in, have a free cuppa
and see what's on offer!**

Scan the QR code for more details



Aylsham healthy town event - April 18th 2pm-6pm

Aylsham Town Council are hosting a healthy town event, at the Town Hall, Market Place NR11 6EL from 2pm - 6pm on April 18th.

A free forum is coming to the Town Hall offering help, support and ideas on:

- Improving physical and mental health
- Caring for a loved one
- Fitness and wellbeing
- Meeting new people

Healthcare professionals and representatives from service providers, local groups, classes and organisations will be on hand for a chat.

Pop in, have a free cuppa and see whats on offer. Scan the QR code for more details.

[For more details click here](#)



FAMILY FUN DAY
DOWN SYNDROME NORFOLK

SUNDAY
12TH MAY 2024
11AM - 3PM

BOUNCY CASTLE
BALLOON MODELLING
CRAFT STALLS
FOOD VENDORS AND REFRESHMENTS
ICE CREAM
DANCE DISPLAY BY MICHALA JANE SCHOOL OF DANCE
AND MORE.....

VENUE :
HALL FOR ALL
WESTON LONGVILLE
NORWICH NR9 5JU

DSN
Down's Syndrome
NORFOLK

Family Fun Day Down Syndrome Norfolk

On Sunday May 12th from 11am -3pm Down's Syndrome Norfolk are hosting a family fun day at the Hall for All, Weston Longville Norwich NR9 5JU.

There will be a bouncy castle, balloon modelling, craft stalls, food vendors and refreshments, ice cream and a dance display by Michala Jane school of dance and more!

For further details contact Down's Syndrome Norfolk here



SENDIASS upcoming training events April/May/June 2024

April 2024

18th Apr
2024

Overview of an EHCP training for parent/carers

This training is for parent/carers to give an overview and understanding of the processes related to an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

[Book Tickets](#)

22nd Apr
2024

FACE TO FACE - How to appeal a final EHCP for parent/carers

This face to face training is for those wanting to know more on the process of appealing a final Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), it focuses specifically on appealing needs (section B), provision (section F) and placement (section I).

We will not be able to discuss personal circumstances during the training.

Harford Community Centre, Norwich
Limited places available

[Book Tickets](#)

30th Apr
2024

Suspension and Exclusion training for parent/carers

An understanding of the legal tests and processes around fixed term suspensions, illegal suspensions, permanent exclusions and managed moves.

[Book Tickets](#)

May 2024

16th May
2024

SEN Support online training for parent/carers

This training is being run virtually by Norfolk SENDIASS for parent/carers wishing to learn more about:

- What is SEN support
- What should settings do?
- How can settings support children and young people?
- Examples of SEN Support

[Book Tickets](#)

22nd May
2024

Appealing a final EHCP

Help in understanding how to appeal a final EHCP to the SEND Tribunal including looking at what can be appealed, what forms need to be completed, timescales of the processes, what evidence needs to be submitted and what a hearing is like.

[Book Tickets](#)

June 2024

6th Jun
2024

Who are Norfolk SENDIASS?

Find out more about who Norfolk SENDIASS are and how we can help.

[Book Tickets](#)

14th Jun
2024

EHCP Annual Review online training

This training is for parent/carers to help in understanding the processes and legal framework of Education, Health and Care Plan Annual Reviews.

[Click here for the Norfolk SENDIASS website](#)



Carers Matter Norfolk

SUPPORTING PARENT CARERS

ARE YOU A PARENT CARER?

Parent carers are parents who give extra support to their child/ren

PARENTS GROUP FOR PARENT CARERS IN THE DOWNHAM MARKET AREA

A chance to meet, share and listen to one another...



Date
**1st Monday of
the month**



Time
10am-11:30am



Location
**ECFS, Paradise Road, Downham
Market, PE38 9HS**



More Info
parentcarersmatternorfolk.org



Find out more



Carers Matters Parent Carer group in Downham Market

Carers Matter Norfolk - supporting parent carers.

Are you are parent carer?

Parent carers are parents who give extra support to their child/ren.

Parents group for parent carers in the Downham Market area.

A chance to meet, share and listen to one another...

They meet on the 1st Monday of the month at The Early Childhood and Family Service base (ECFS) Paradise Road, Downham Market, PE38 9HS between 10am – 11:30am.

[For more information click here](#)



Zero Suicide Alliance new Autism and Suicide Awareness Training

Register to find out about the ZSAs new Autism and Suicide Awareness Training

The Zero Suicide Alliance and NHS Greater Manchester are excited to be launching a new Autism and Suicide Awareness Training as part of World Autism Acceptance Week (2 to 8 April) and invite you to join the online launch event on:

- Date: Tuesday 2 April
- Time: 12noon-1pm
- Online platform: Zoom (please check you can access this platform from the device you will be joining us from)

Register your place to learn more about this new training course. You'll find out more about why and how the course was developed, personal stories from steering group members and see a preview of the training before it goes live.

Unfortunately the places have already been filled, but if you click the link below you can still register for the recording to be sent to you.

[To register your place click here](#)



Hello, my name is James, and I am a Complex Needs nurse based at Just One Number.

This is the single point of access for Norfolk & Waveney Children & Young People's Health Services.

I am available for families of children with complex needs, at special schools, mainstream schools or out of education. I can help with questions or concerns about their child's health.

Additionally, school staff can call me to discuss a child or young person if their parent has given their consent. The following are some examples of the topics I can help with:



This list is by no means exhaustive, and parents and school staff can seek advice about other aspects of health and wellbeing as well.

Meet James- the complex needs nurse, an update

Previously, when we shared James' details, you told us how disappointed you were with a service limited to children and young people in complex needs schools. We passed this valuable feedback on and, as you can see from the new flyer, James will be available to help families who have children with complex needs, irrespective of place of education. You said... and we did pass your collective message on to make a difference for you. Your voice matters.

"Hello my name is James and I am a complex needs nurse based at Just One Number. **03003000123** This is the single point of access for Norfolk and Waveney Children and Young People's Health Services.

I am available for families of children with complex needs, at special schools, mainstream schools or out of education to call me with any questions or concerns about their child's health.

Additionally, school staff can call me to discuss a child or young person if their parent has given their consent. The following are some examples of the topics I can help with:

Accessing universal health services and reasonable adjustments

Behaviour and emotional needs

Sleep difficulties

toileting

fussy eating

supporting with key transition stages

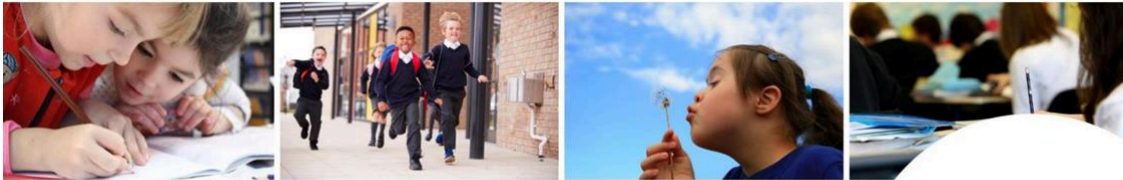
This list is by no means exhaustive, and parents and school staff can seek advice about other aspects of health and wellbeing as well."



www.ipsea.org.uk

Understanding home to school/college transport

Lisa Coaten and Liz Devlin, IPSEA Legal Team



IPSEA - understanding home to school/college transport

Please find a [recording](#) of IPSEAs webinar 'Understanding home to school/college transport' here.

The slides which accompanied the presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

Here is the [link](#) to the LGSCO transport decision mentioned during the webinar.

[Click here for the IPSEA website](#)



contact *For families
with disabled children*

The Helpful Guide for families with disabled children

Whatever stage you're at, we're here for you.

The Helpful Guide is our all-in-one book full of the information and help you need to enjoy family life.

[To order a copy of the guide click here](#)



**The National Centre
for Post-Qualifying
Social Work and
Professional Practice**



**National
Mental
Capacity
Forum**

**Next of Kin: Understanding decision
making authorities**



Next of Kin: Understanding decision making authorities

"The term 'Next of Kin' is often used in Health and Social Care as a euphemistic shorthand for 'Who is the person we communicate with about you and who do we contact when you are dead?' In law the term has no status when you are alive - it is misleading too because it does not clarify if this is the person who is your nearest relative or the person most important to you. Indeed, these are often different people. This helpful leaflet clarifies how people can plan ways, with those they love, to ensure their wishes are taken into account if through illness they cannot take decisions for themselves. I cannot stress enough how important it is to plan ahead and let our wishes be known, in the event we cannot express them.

As Chair of the National Mental Capacity Forum I commend this advice leaflet; we all want the best care provided in accordance with our wishes and this leaflet helps everyone understand how to ensure that happens."

Baroness Ilora Finlay.

[To read the Next of Kin leaflet click here](#)



Norfolk Reading Pathway

FREE

**1-2-1 support
in Norfolk libraries
... helping you to be a better reader**



**Take that first step
and get involved
today!**

Pop into any public library in Norfolk for more information
or telephone 0344 800 8020
or email nrp@norfolk.gov.uk

#NfkReadingPathway



Norfolk reading pathway- for adults

One in six adults struggles with reading. Research shows that when people read for pleasure they benefit from far greater opportunities in everyday life, education and employment.

The Norfolk Reading Pathway is a free programme which is available across Norfolk and is open to any adult who would like support to become a more confident reader.

We match learners with one of our volunteer coaches and they work through the 'Yes we can read' handbook together. Coaching sessions are usually weekly for up to an hour.

The Pathway is available in all Norfolk Libraries.

[For more details click here](#)



NHS
Norfolk and Suffolk
NHS Foundation Trust



Summer Term Timetable



Beginning
Building
Understanding
Growing

Recovery college summer term timetable

The Discovery College offers bespoke courses for 16 – 25-year olds. They are designed so that 16 – 25-year-olds can become an expert in discovering themselves and their self-care alongside others their age.

They will be guided by Peer Tutors who may have been in a similar position, and Practitioner Tutors who understand.

1. Practitioner Tutor - a professional who uses their clinical and learned experience to deliver the session.
2. Peer Tutor - a student who has attended Recovery or Discovery College and uses their lived experience to deliver the session.
3. Volunteer Peer Tutor - could this be you?

[For the summer timetable click here](#)



Family Information Service Easter Newsletter 2024

The Easter Holidays are almost here and the Family Information Service have some family activities to entertain you over the holidays. Not to mention helpful information about our service and more.....

[Click here for the newsletter](#)



There are so many ways you can get in touch with Family Voice Norfolk...

- You can contact our **Membership Secretary Kate** on **07950 302937** or at membership@familyvoice.org.uk
- Or write to us at Family Voice Norfolk, c/o Ayton House, 11 Ayton Rd, Wymondham NR18 0QQ
- Or message us via:
 - 🌐 www.familyvoice.org.uk
 - 📘 [FamilyVoiceNorfolk](#)
 - 📞 [familyvoicenfk](#)
- Or join our Family Voice Members Chat Room on Facebook [here](#)

Family Voice Norfolk Ayton House 11 Ayton Road Wymondham Norfolk NR18 0QQ

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