



NW SEND Regional Network Newsletter

May 2020

The network is keen to provide support for children, families and practitioners during the Covid-19 pandemic. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries you may have. If you would like to be added to the newsletter circulation list just send an email to the address below.

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NW SEND Regional Network co-ordinator
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Temporary legislative changes relating to coronavirus

On 30th April 2020 the DfE published [Education, Health and Care needs assessments and plans: guidance on temporary legislative changes relating to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). The notice referred to in the guidance is available here [Modification notice: EHC plans legislation changes](#).

Minister Ford, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, and Minister Whatley, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care, [have written a joint ministerial letter to children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers](#).

Guidance

19.4.20 Help children with SEND continue their education during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Advice for parents and carers looking after children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): SEND risk assessment guidance

Updated 7.5.20 to reflect the SEND regulations changes. Also added information about how the guidance affects children/young people with an EHC plan and a social worker and new information on how to keep staff and pupils safe and reduce the risk of infection in educational settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance>

Guidance for children's social care services

6.5.20 Guidance updated to reflect the temporary changes made in the Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services>

Phased wider opening of schools, colleges and nurseries – from 1st June

Government plans for schools, colleges and early years settings across England to potentially open from 1st June:

11.5.20 Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers, in the form of a Q&A which sets out the government's position on more pupils returning to school from 1 June.

12.5.20 Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020 sets out the overarching aims and principles of the next phase, and sets out the next steps for education and childcare providers.

[Implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)
[Initial planning framework](#)

14.5.20 Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care – guidance about preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings during the coronavirus outbreak. This guidance reflects advice from Public Health England, and builds on the Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings guidance published on 12.5.20.

Unpaid carers now added to list of essential workers

The government has now included unpaid carers, like parents with disabled children, to its list of essential workers and those prioritised for Covid-19 testing in England. You can find out more about who is eligible for testing, how to get tested and the different types of test available [at gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

NW SEND Regional Network event

10.6.20 Improving access and inclusion in the early years and responding to Covid-19

10am-2pm (exact timings and agenda will be confirmed nearer the time)

The Council for Disabled Children and the EYSEND Partnership invite you to a North West Virtual Regional Action Learning Set.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE](#)

The day is designed to support you with the review and development of local plans, to share information about the training and resources being made available from the partnership and dealing with issues around Covid-19 in your local area.

For more information contact eysend@ncb.org.uk

Other events

Soundabout's Hello songs

Join Becca and Georgie every weekday morning at 9.30am for a bright and cheery musical welcome to the day. For people of all ages with SLD and PMLD

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/SoundaboutUK/events/>

Nasen CPLD webinars – Information on all of the following is available at
<https://dmtrk.net/2F68-1L7VL-527KZLHGDE/cr.aspx>

22.5.20 How can teachers support the transition back to school for pupils with SEND?

3 & 10.6.20 SEND – Two sessions

23.6.20 Early Years – Working together with parents to identify SEND

25.6.20 Governance of SEND: Part 1

1 & 8.7.20 Effective support for children and young people with SEND – Two sessions

Webinars, and more, from Southend Educational Psychology Service

Educational Psychology Reach Out

This is a new online space where Educational Psychologists from across the country will be sharing information and ideas. The space has been set up in response to the Coronavirus pandemic as an innovative way to connect with others as widely as possible. It is a space which offers something of interest to EPs, school staff, parents and carers, children and young people and other professionals. To find out more go to:

<http://www.southendlearningnetwork.co.uk/educationalpsychology>

18.5.20 8am The Inclusive Classroom with Jules Daulby

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YZobNqH2QxWMSEwqthX4hw

18.5.20 2pm Dana and the Doom Merchant – Thinking about Transition with Sue Roffey

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UpIZzI2kTg2QsFiDL2VeSQ

19.5.20 8am The importance of schools in supporting identity and connectedness in COVID with Dr Kieranjit Sangha

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uZgpf5xHRnKG2Y1ZXIrBYw

20.5.20 8am Promoting Healthy Sleep Routines with Dr Patrick Sullivan

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cXeizXkdRJ26Z6dT3FSpvg

21.5.20 8am Let's Play! Games to Build Communication Skills with Sarah Wendland

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_isE9BfcaQK2MFEF9CFtfng

21.5.20 2pm Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) in EP Practice with Dr Stephanie Satariano

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fv82J9cdSkW-o5aZBwujFg

22.5.20 8am Creating a Supportive Space for our Stories from these Recent Times with Sheila Mulvenney

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-kARkOG3Ssu-Jbbs6WPhdA

25.5.20 8.30am Teacher Wellbeing in Challenging Times with Dr Sue Roffey

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GvD0COJ9Rmyd2myQqjN4Uw

2.6.20 8am What is Babywatching and how does it support children's emotional development in schools? With Michele Crooks

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XgznmyQUQne18bRBnfg6cA

4.6.20 8am Unlocking the Autistic Mind during Lockdown – the Opportunities and Challenges with Anita Hughes

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MxoUIQI3Rh2XdyZJc7_BmQ

Recorded webinars or pre-recorded videos of the above can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLhV-d1BFLFCLvCsgY8WIVA/featured>

Call for evidence

The impact of Covid-19 on education and children's services

This inquiry will look at how the outbreak of COVID-19 is affecting all aspects of the education sector and children's social care system and will scrutinise how the Department for Education is dealing with the situation. It will examine both short term impacts, such as the effects of school closures and exam cancellations, as well as longer-term implications particularly for the most vulnerable children.

The inquiry is currently accepting evidence. The committee wants to hear your views and welcomes submissions from anyone with answers to the questions in the call for evidence. You can submit evidence until Sunday 31 May 2020.

https://committees.parliament.uk/work/202/the-impact-of-covid19-on-education-and-childrens-services/?dm_i=4R3K,BSON,10I01T,1B4FU,1

An Opportunity: Outcomes Based Commissioning

Over the last 2 years the Council for Disabled Children have been working with colleagues across the country through an accelerated working group focusing on Outcomes Based Commissioning. The aim of this group has been to gather learning and advice from the sector to co-produce resources that can be shared and used nationally. This year they will be continuing our work in this area and would like to ask for volunteers to represent their local area at this group. Members of the group will be expected to attend two meetings (currently planned to be virtual) with some possible input on the development of resources in between. They are particularly interested in hearing from areas who either have a background or experience in outcomes based commissioning or would be interested in developing an approach for your area. A possible focus for this year is support around developing an Alliance or Framework contract with providers. Numbers will be limited so they will not be able to accommodate everyone. If you are interested, please contact Dan Ellitts (dellitts@ncb.org.uk) with a brief summary of why you would like to take part by Monday 25th of May.

Sharing practice in the North West:

Andy's Top Five

Andy Smith, Inclusion Ambassador/SEND Advocate for Bury, realised there was 'so much information out there it can be overwhelming to navigate', so he created some Top 5 lists:

Top 5 'misc' useful resources

1. Coronavirus Tech Handbook: The current biggest compilation of information, support and resources (It is HUGE!)
<https://coronavirustechhandbook.com/>
2. A huge summary of working from home resources
<https://www.notion.so/Digital-Working-COVID-19-39e55d0f6024e7f85560ea7b2632997>

3. Sensory Stuck at Home – Facebook group to offer advice to help children stay regulated while indoors
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sensorystuckathome/>
4. Quarantine Chat – Chat on the phone with someone else who is stuck at home:
<https://quarantinechat.com/>
5. A simple social story explaining the coronavirus
<https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf>

Top 5 COVID-19 explanation and support resources

1. A huge home learning resource list
<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning>
2. Supporting children and young people with COVID-19 worries
https://lookaside.fbsbx.com/file/COVID19_advice-for-parents-and-carers_20.3_.pdf?token=AWzeUyN_pnEKdOmcGE54N8lBYciSAmxSGVb-DM0O4Dt2xL7l6Kk0XR6XhyzYA5khTMAWVauRMND4IkBWSqDR_3G3alNjo9Pe0eaNdGZcWhSFxJ_BhJfelJqrzKSnJvpCLrq671fTXcNUcCkz-YfgTNTsHddLak9utVdK5rKR9lrMkQ
3. MIND Coronavirus and your wellbeing
https://lookaside.fbsbx.com/file/COVID19_advice-for-parents-and-carers_20.3_.pdf?token=AWzeUyN_pnEKdOmcGE54N8lBYciSAmxSGVb-DM0O4Dt2xL7l6Kk0XR6XhyzYA5khTMAWVauRMND4IkBWSqDR_3G3alNjo9Pe0eaNdGZcWhSFxJ_BhJfelJqrzKSnJvpCLrq671fTXcNUcCkz-YfgTNTsHddLak9utVdK5rKR9lrMkQ
4. 9 ways to stay positive during the pandemic
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/williamarruda/2020/03/15/9-ways-to-stay-positive-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/#3c5d00b05a8e>
5. BBC Newsround Coronavirus information for children
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456>

Top 5 Free Indoor Exercise Resources

1. Yoga with Adriene
<https://www.youtube.com/user/yogawithadriene>
2. 9.00am on weekdays - PE with Joe Wicks
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>
3. Greater Sport ways to keep moving
<https://www.greatersport.co.uk/ways-to-keep-moving>
4. Sport England stay in, work out
<https://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout>
5. England Athletics - Athletics at Home resources
https://www.englandathletics.org/about-us/athletics-at-home/?fbclid=IwAR1SGFa5wdC88ZGhfM2inMV8eo1eax3eqVNcd92_xRuVfOYy3o0NIWTIF8k

Top 5 Boredom Buster Indoor Activities

1. Scouts – The Great Indoors Resources
<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>
2. A list of virtual tours, including museums and zoos
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SvldgTx9djKO6SjyvPDsoGlkgE3iExmi3qh2KR_Rku_w/preview?fbclid=IwAR2lN47dK-NtjWUJUPchpdxJSS_kvqLn2kTa_Oa3q1WWvEIZGiEEZ1J4KoQ&pru=AAABcQQzAQc*j_OXW40DQiYeT7z8baqfiA
3. Audible, free to use during this period
<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>
4. A really useful home learning ideas book
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y3ni3ymgtlbrndd/AABDqPQS9fopyDIIT9VnFlnWa?dl=0&fbclid=IwAR1y_qXqQoSIG3gn3493Uujll0KRN-12R-QByln7opkvJoPac-QQixKATc&preview=Catcote+Futures+Home+Pack+updated+.docx

5. Find a useful, more expansive list here
<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/list-of-online-resources-for-anyone-who-is-isolated-at-home>

Top 5 education classes by celebrities

1. 10.00am - Maths with Carol Vorderman
www.themathsfactor.com
2. 11.00am - English with David Walliams
<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>
3. 1.00pm - Music with Myleene Klass
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrixYBn6jFXsXQ>
4. Science with Professor Brian Cox, Robin Ince & Guests
<https://cosmicshambles.com/stayathome/upcoming-schedule>
5. 9.30am Every Wednesday - Geography with Steve Backshall
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm-URP49TgSgyIU1rgh2m7A/>

St Vincent's School

Specialist **School** for Sensory Impairment and Other Needs. Liverpool,
One of the school's pupils wrote a peace essay 'The Journey of Peace' and read it in both the UN in New York and at the Palace of Westminster. It celebrates Liverpool heroes and iconic statues in the City. The clip of him reading at the UN is attached here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPpbO4Qd_lw&authuser=0

The peace essay itself has been split into 7 themes in 7 comics which are being shared with communities to use whilst in isolation. Last week the theme was 'health and wellbeing'.

This week, it is 'laughter' introduced by none other than Sir Ken Dodd. Tweets are sent each week from @stvincentsL12 to highlight a comic ...the themes are health, happiness, wisdom, peace, friendship, bravery and justice.

If you are on twitter a Retweet would be greatly appreciated.

The comics collectively feed into how pupils at St. Vincent's help other visually impaired pupils around the world with educational resources and teaching and learning. Their pupils are the 'trainers of the trainers'. This project is shared here with each of the 7 comics. It would be wonderful if you were to join the project detailed here:

<https://www.stvin.com/journey-for-peace-2020for2030>

Youth Focus NW

Youth Focus NW are EXCITED to be launching our Youth Voice awards.

They've made a decision to go ahead and launch the awards as they still need to hear and share amazing stories and achievements of young people, youth projects, and youth workers.

As it stands they are still working towards having their awards evening on 5th September @Totally Wicked Stadium in St.Helens. (please save the date) However, they are closely monitoring the COVID situation.

Therefore, please see attached a short video from their steering group about the awards, a short 2-page information pack explaining the categories and time frames, and a link to the online google doc for submitting a nomination.

[Nomination form](#)

[More information](#)

This year there are a number of new exciting categories that have been included by the Youthforia Steering Group. This year's categories are:

YOFO Legend Award 2020

Outstanding Contribution Award 2020, age 11-14

Outstanding Contribution Award 2020, age 15-25

Most Committed to Saving the Planet Award 2020

Best Social Action Project 2020

Making Connections Award 2020

Inspirational Youth Worker of the Year 2020

Youth Council of the Year 2020

Please share far and wide, the Youth Focus North West Awards are not only for young people and services that currently access their services. They are for young people and services from across North West England. Youth Focus NW firmly believe that now is an important moment to celebrate the contributions that both young people and services for young people make towards an inclusive forward-thinking society.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Lesley Dixon, Regional articipation Worker, Office number: 01744 810838 Mobile number: 07702 858490

Council for Disabled Children: Frequently asked questions

SEND support during the coronavirus pandemic

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/frequently-asked-questionsResources>

Resources: Covid-19

Resources and Information for Parents, Carers, Schools and Supporting Professionals During the Coronavirus

With thanks to Educational and Child Psychologists in the UK for your contributions. Compiled with Additions from Dr Dawn Bradley: www.summitpsychologyservices.co.uk

Talking to children and young people about coronavirus

Support and resources for parents / carers

Media for children and young people

Explaining the Coronavirus to children

Information for Young People about the Coronavirus

ASC

Help for Children and Young People

Mindfulness / Relaxation

Bereavement and Grief

Online Education

Recommended reads for Parents/ Carers home schooling

https://2950c04d-206b-4c18-b42f-9cec21f46c7d.filesusr.com/uqd/ec3214_ba0712a3d251419294cb129d0151e17d.pdf

A fabulous collection of resources covering a wide range of topics from East Midlands: Education Support Service – Educational Psychology Service.

Topics include:

Coronavirus: The road to recovery

Therapeutic story: The Little Elf who missed his Birthday Party

Transition, Recovery and Learning in the aftermath of a pandemic

FACE COVID video for adults

And many many more

<http://www.em-edsupport.org.uk/Page/7730>

More resources collated by EPs

Coronavirus – Supporting children and young people collated by Psychological Services

https://nlandeducation.padlet.org/gill_finch2/SupportForChildrenandFamilies

Coronavirus – Resources for additional needs, mental health and wellbeing, etc.

<https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/patients-and-parents/coronavirus-resources-for-children-and-families/>

Coping with Corona – 4 webinars

- 1 - Coping with Corona
- 2- Maintaining Wellbeing
- 3- Resilience
- 4 - Moving Forward

can be viewed on the Adams Psychology Services YouTube channel, the link for which is:

https://eur06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUCIM_7SWWYsHMyNNUVv68Kg&data=02%7C01%7C%7C97fa0e95b86f47f96d2708d7f806a554%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637250579728237811&data=H%2FKUtYScMHEu5jAV3XszzKZVGeEbBZXIOaBgSkO5TcQ%3D&reserved=0

Coronavirus and autism

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/coronavirus-resources>

Website for coronavirus for people with learning disabilities, families and staff

Information for people with learning disabilities as well as useful things for staff teams and families

<https://sites.google.com/view/learningdisabilitycoronavirus/home>

COVID-19 Guided Self-help Booklet Series

[The University of Glasgow](#), with assistance from colleagues at [Lancaster University](#) and the [University of Warwick](#), have published a series of guided self-help booklets developed to support people with mild to moderate learning/intellectual disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Printed versions are available both to reach and include people with learning/intellectual disabilities who do not have internet access.

<https://our.learningdisabilitieshealthnetwork.org.uk/t/covid-19-guided-self-help-booklet-series/1855>

FOCUS: Supporting families during Covid-19

WellChild – The National Charity for Sick Children

Covid-19: Direct response service

<https://www.wellchild.org.uk/coronavirus/direct-response/>

Covid-19: An ACT approach to parental burnout

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW5l_bX-7hk

Emergency planning during the Coronavirus outbreak

Together Matters has written a guide with essential information to help family carers plan to get the support they need during the current crisis.

The guide has information and ideas for:

- coping with staying at home
- family carer/paid carer becoming ill
- their relative becoming ill
- their relative going to hospital

It's designed for family carers to use with others, such as wider family, neighbours, friends, support organisations, carers' centres or social workers who can give support with finding solutions and putting practical things in place.

<https://www.togethertomatters.org.uk/resources-and-information/>

Parenting through the Pandemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNnXutm7p4g&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1ggA38QBLEff1ZofyAilk6EX5rGGk608ldL5Inq8oX5VcXGaJwNSHR4Js>

COVID-19 Support Videos by NWTDT & Pathways Associates

[Coronavirus daily update videos](#)

Recent topics have included:

Staying Safe from Scams

Guidance for Support Staff

Ramadan & COVID-19

Looking after yourself at home

Advice to Parents and Carers during COVID 19 – Selective Mutism and Information Research Association

SMIRA – many of whom have family members who have SM themselves – know that it is very hard to juggle all that is expected of them in terms of their own work, home schooling and so on. So they want to say – if you can only focus on one thing with your SM youngsters during this lockdown period it would be to prevent them from withdrawing completely to the small comfort zone of home.

Read more here:

[OPEN](#)

Tips on home schooling for families etc

<https://www.afasic.org.uk/2020/04/tips-on-home-schooling-from-other-parents/>

Having fun at home:

50 things to do with kids

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids-news/50-fun-kids-activities-home-17975046>

Kids hub activities – Royal Mint

<http://content.royalmint.com/?dHaLr0x6mTXLYma7eITBtY6H9lvFtbNjd>

Focus: Preparing for Adult Life

The key topics to consider as your child moves into adulthood.

[Making a plan](#)

[Making decisions](#)

[Benefits & money](#)

[Wills & trusts](#)

[Education, health & social care](#)

[Getting a job](#)

[Independent living & housing](#)

[Growing up, sex & relationships](#)

<https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/preparing-for-adult-life/>

Focus: Mental Health

Calming down worries for children

<https://production-shop-tts.demandware.net/on/demandware.static/-/Library-Sites-TTSSharedLibrary/default/images/blog/Calming%20down%20worries%20-%20children.pdf>

Calming down worries for adults

<https://production-shop-tts.demandware.net/on/demandware.static/-/Library-Sites-TTSSharedLibrary/default/images/blog/Calming%20down%20worries%20-%20adult.pdf>

Childline: Calm Zone

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

A menu of activities to structure routine and time

https://2950c04d-206b-4c18-b42f-9cec21f46c7d.filesusr.com/ugd/ec3214_b557c2d1086f40438da7af49cc02ab58.pdf

Other Resources

Please see below some brand new SEND Guidance videos from nasen/Whole School SEND

https://www.sendgateway.org.uk/whole-school-send/find-wss-resources/nqt-videos.html?utm_campaign=2649682_Consortium%20Partners%20update%20-%20Summer&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Nasen&dm_i=2F68,1KSIA,9B2A5T,5CCNE.1

Developing emotional resilience and wellbeing: A practical guide for social workers

<https://markallenassets.blob.core.windows.net/communitycare/2020/04/Community-Care-Inform-emotional-resilience-guide.pdf>

Making your own Sensory Kit at home!

This guide is for parent carers of children and young people for whom sensory activities will help them to manage their sensory inputs more effectively.

<http://www.variety.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/downloads/Variety%E2%80%99s%20guide%20to%20making%20your%20own%20sensory%20kit%20FINAL.pdf>

Recorded webinar

Webinar for parents – supporting your child to ask for help

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ5ZYt4QbM&feature=youtu.be>

Support for teachers

Operation Encompass, Domestic Abuse charity: National Teacher Helpline

Psychology Associates supports Operation Encompass

Providing free advice and guidance for teachers following an Operation Encompass call (meaning there has been a Police attended incident of Domestic Abuse).

Supporting children and young people as victims of Domestic Abuse

The helpline is available from 8.00 am - 11.00 am, Monday to Friday

The helpline number is: 0845 646 0890 Calls are charged at local rates.

For further information, please see the Operation Encompass website:

<https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.operationencompass.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Ca93e29966f4f44fd934208d7f18aa482%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637243450067225241&:sdata=zsYBfi4jbxANKLc5zGeGO7nwMDMwBW5IW4OAtj%2FHIJQ%3D&:reserved=0>

A training opportunity

New learning package to support Allied Health Professionals helping to tackle COVID-19

Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be able to access e-learning covering how to support the delivery of care to COVID-19 patients thanks to the Health Education England (HEE) led development of a new resource <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/news-blogs-events/news/new-learning-package-support-allied-health-professionals-helping-tackle-covid-19>

Focus: Early Years / SEND resources

https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/early-years-send/resources/eysend-resources?utm_source=EY+SEND+Partnership&utm_campaign=d4706f7076-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_27_11_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_707116925a-d4706f7076-321529569&mc_cid=d4706f7076&mc_eid=59c28d4a77

Focus: Launch of Regional Learning Disabilities & Autism Future NHS Platform Workspace

The Future NHS Platform has now gone live after a few months of development work. You do not need an NHS email account to access the site, just a working email address. Sections on the site include; **Children & Young People, Housing & Accommodation, Our Experts by Experience, Personalised Care, Quality, Shared Learning, Support & Advice in your Area, and Training & Events.**

The site of course still in its infancy, so some sections will have more information in than others, so please bear with them whilst they continue to add content. Feedback on the site would be very welcomed to help them to continue to improve it. You can join the site via <https://future.nhs.uk/NRLDA>.

If you do not have an account you will be asked to set one up before being directed to the workspace, contact mhldacovid19-manager@future.nhs.uk

A Funding opportunity for special schools and colleges

The Wolfson Foundation Funding for Special Schools and Colleges Grants programme
Deadline: There is a 2-stage application process and the next stage 1 closing date is the 1st July 2020.

Details: Special needs schools and colleges can apply for grants of £15,000-£75,000 through the Wolfson Foundation's Funding for Special Schools and Colleges grants programme. The funding is available for projects that are focused towards helping pupils to develop skills which would help them to gain employment or live independently after leaving school or college. Funding covers capital costs such a buildings and equipment. The applicant organisation should meet all of the following criteria: be a registered charity, local authority and be registered with the relevant regulatory authority, where applicable, and have at least a good rating. Projects requesting £50,000 or more need to have matched funding in place. The project should be for a new building, refurbishment work or equipment

and aim to produce one or more of the following outcomes: • Increased access to services for new and existing users. • Improved quality and range of services. • Improved financial stability of the organisation.

How to apply: <https://www.wolfson.org.uk/funding/funding-for-places/funding-for-special-schools-and-colleges/>

Spotlight: Sensory processing

What do we mean by sensory processing?

Child development and learning disabilities lab

https://mcusercontent.com/d155dd3868ae027bf56443605/files/3a6fa38f-299e-4c84-8e2c-8e43ca1409da/Newsletter_spring_2020_new.pdf

Research and Reading

A Children's Commissioner report

[Children's Commissioner: Lockdown babies - Children born during the coronavirus crisis](#)

Education and Covid-19: What can the UK Government learn from other countries?

<https://r1.dmtrk.net/4R3K-C9BS-8310I01T75/cr.aspx>

Reports

Support for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in England.

Last week a group of cross-party MPs on the influential Public Accounts Committee [published their report into support for children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) in England.](#)

Information

How to join a hearing by telephone or video

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-join-telephone-and-video-hearings-during-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Local area profiles of vulnerability during Covid-19

<https://mailchi.mp/148e427c6761/local-area-profiles-of-child-vulnerability-during-covid-19?e=2e1429be57>

Delivery of Disability Support Assessments for adults (18+) during Covid-19 lockdown

Division of Occupational Psychology, British Psychological Society

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Member%20Networks/Divisions/DOP/Delivery%20of%20disability%20support%20assessments%20for%20adults%20during%20Covid-19%20lockdown.pdf>

Alignment – Joint Working

Alignment from the Council for Disabled Children's Delivering Better Outcomes Together (DBOT) Accelerated Working Groups (AWGs).

To watch the recorded webinar go to:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4921563985876169228>

Other resources mentioned in the course of the webinar, or which you may also find useful are:

- [Using the NHS Number to share Data: Why and how?](#) briefing
- [Disabled Children: A Legal Handbook](#)
- [Bedford Borough Council's SEND JSNA](#)
- [CDC Data Bulletin #1](#)
- CDC's new [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) guidance resource.

Focus: Giving feedback

About your health services as a child or young person

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have made a video for children and young people around giving feedback for their experiences of health services. The video was made and narrated by Joseph, an RCPCH volunteer, aged 11.

They have also created a template letter and an example letter for giving feedback.

To view the video and letters the link is <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/giving-feedback-about-your-health-service-child-or-young-person>

Your experience of Care for people with learning disabilities, their family, carers and advocates

The Care Quality Commission's **Declare Your Care** campaign is encouraging people with learning disabilities, their family, carers and advocates to speak openly about their experience of care, good or bad.

Research shows people with a learning disability are more likely to regret not complaining about poor care than those without. They are also twice as likely to have concerns about maternity services and mental health services.

Lack of information given about health conditions and treatment options were revealed as the main reasons for people with a learning disability or their carer to want to raise a concern.

Find out more about the campaign and hear people talk about how they shared their experience of care

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/help-advice/your-stories/declare-your-care-people-learning-disabilities>

Focus: Bereavement

http://www.nurtureuk.org/sites/default/files/bereavement_box-booklet-cov19-edition-2020-web.pdf

Bereavement what to do is a colourful 3 page guide (printable) offering helpful tips on how to relate to someone who is bereaved. View at:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Bereavement-How-other-people-can-help.pdf>

Grief after bereavement or loss

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/coping-with-bereavement/>

Helping young people with bereavement: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stressanxiety-depression/bereavement-and-young-people/>

The NHS (Wales) offer compact guide covering range of concerns and particular needs. describes some of the feelings that can arise from losing someone, and where you can go

for help and support.

<https://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/encyclopaedia/b/article/bereavement/>

The charity Mind provides information on bereavement, where to go for support, and suggestions for helping yourself and others through grief. Clear and accessible advice and on dealing with bereavement can be found at:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/bereavement/useful-contacts/>

The Good Grief Trust provides signpost to other useful information for people who are bereaved at: <https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/>

'At a loss' states it is the UK website for the bereaved. Here you will find access to a range of articles and resources at: <https://www.ataloss.org/resources>

Links to other newsletters

Contact & NNPCF news

<https://mailchi.mp/cafamily/news-for-parent-carer-forums-from-contact-a-family-and-the-nnpcf-1819202?e=08dbbea055>

Early years/SEND partnership newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/825d588f5785/eysend-may-newsletter?e=59c28d4a77>

Education Endowment Fund news

<https://mailchi.mp/eefoundation/news-alert-april-2020?e=c63232fdb1>

Making Ourselves Heard – May news

<https://mailchi.mp/ncb/september-making-ourselves-heard-newsletter-1298637?e=59c28d4a77>

WholeSchool SEND: nasen news

<https://dmtrk.net/2F68-1KVXZ-527KZLHGDE/cr.aspx>