

Parent/Carer SEN Information Afternoon

Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 4.00pm

Speakers

Introduction	Sabah Wallace
Trauma Informed Practice	Lee Thorne/Donna Merry/Tina Burgess
Parent/Carer Forum	Philomena Johnson
Southend SEND Local Offer	Louise Chiles
Preparing for Adulthood Team	Kate Clarke/Claire Whitbread
SENDIASS	Jane Newman/Lisa McAllister

Trauma Informed Practice

Many of our students have had negative experiences in education and we aim to develop their trust and remove barriers. We have a laid-back approach but have high expectations and staff work hard to support our young people. We are able to accommodate students who struggle to cope in mainstream schools. We encourage all students to present the best version of themselves and are changing the perception of alternative provision. We believe that everyone deserves a second chance. The Polyvagal theory was explained as a method to develop strategies for regulation and build resilience. The team visits local schools to deliver training in Trauma Informed Practice.

Parent/Carer Forum

There are 153 groups across the country funded through the Department for Education. The groups work with local authorities and health services. Parents and carers are welcome to come along to any of the events held locally. The group has no bias to any service or department and provides advocacy for parents and carers. They are able to take feedback to regular meetings with professionals.

Southend SEND Local Offer <https://www.livewellsouthend.com/send-local-offer>

Providing information for families about what is available in the local area. There is a wide range of information on the website which provides both information and a directory of services. A monthly SEND Newsletter is published to help keep up to date with what is going on locally. You can sign up through the website. Information can also be found via Facebook and Twitter.

Monthly SEND Surgery drop-in sessions - <https://www.livewellsouthend.com/events/event/3/send-surgeries>

Preparing for Adulthood Team

<https://www.livewellsouthend.com/preparing-adulthood/southend-preparing-adulthood-teams>

Work with young people from Year 9 covering:

- Employment
- Independent living
- Community inclusion
- Health

They can work with young people up until the age of 25 until they find an appropriate pathway and achieve their goals. They advised that students should start looking at courses from about Year 10 ready to make choices at Year 11. The SEND team can help with applications/consultations with FE providers. They can also make referrals to Connexions and offer drop-in sessions on Fridays at the Forum.

Access to Work Scheme – this is an initiative from DWP and is available to anyone with a need which can be temporary or longer-term. It is assessed on need to help anyone with a disability access the workplace.

Supported Internships – these are available at local colleges for young people with an EHCP aimed at removing the barriers preventing them from getting into work. These usually last for up to a year covering Maths and English alongside the work placement where they are supported in the workplace by a job coach.

Positive pathway into adult social care – self-referral from age 17.

- Specialist employment support
- Community Inclusion groups:
 - Making it Work – Southend Care
 - Project 49 – Southend Care
 - Autism support
 - Friends and Places together
 - Trustlinks
- Over 14's have access to year free health check with their GP.

SENDIASS <https://www.sendiasssouthend.co.uk/>

(Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Services)

Support children and young people aged 0 – 25 with SEND. Their work is based on the law and provides unbiased support for families.

Main areas of support:

- EHCP assessment process
- Placements
- SEN support

The team works from the Civic Centre and can be contacted by phone (please leave a voicemail and a member of the team will return the call), email, Facebook or via the website where there is a link for feedback.