

From 1 September, Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership Service became known as SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS). The service changed as a result of the implementation of the new Children and Families Act 2014 and the new SEN Code of Practice 2014. Our website is now live at www.sendiass-stoke.co.uk.

A letter of appreciation to the retiring Chair, Mr. J. Bostock, of the SENDIASS Steering Group.

On behalf of all the team here at SENDIASS I would like to say thank you for the vital role that you have played over the years, firstly as a member and then Chair of the Steering Group. I appreciate the many hours of voluntary support that you have dedicated to the Service and acknowledge how much time and energy this role has demanded.

As a result of your efforts the group became a recognised mechanism through which the voice of the parent/carers and the members could be heard. We all admire your tenacity and passion in keeping the Steering Group motivated, focussed and independent, despite the many personal obstacles that you have faced. Your contribution has made a real difference. Thank you for giving this Service your best.

Lyn Fryer-SENDIASS Coordinator

Preparing for Adulthood

The SEND Code of Practice recognises that Local Authorities (LA) must ensure that the relevant services they provide co-operate in helping children and young people to prepare for adulthood. For teenagers, discussions about their future should focus on what they want to achieve in the future and the best way to support them. Considering the right post 16 option is part of this planning.

Local authorities must ensure that the Education Health Care Plan (EHC) Review in Year 9 and every review thereafter includes a focus on preparing for adulthood. This should include:

- support to prepare for higher education and/or employment, including identifying post 16 pathways, training options, support in finding a job and help in understanding welfare benefits.
- support in maintaining good health in adult life.
- support in participating in society.

Some young people may need support in expressing their views. LAs should ensure that young people have access to this support.

For further information, please see:

- SEN and Disability Code of Practice 2014
- SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)



Independent Supporters based within the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service have been visiting schools, colleges and private companies to promote this service and will be holding Drop In Sessions at Community Centres for parent/carers and young people in the very near future. If you need information and support on the new Education, Health and Care (EHC) Assessment and Plan then please contact your local Independent Supporters on 01782 236414 or email independent-supporters@stoke.gov.uk or contact Core Assets on 0800 028 8455 or email ISReferrals@coreassets.com

Exclusions

Confused on the Department for Education advice?

In January 2015 the Government published new Statutory Guidance: Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England – which applied to exclusions that occurred after 5th January 2015, replacing previous 2012 guidance. This has subsequently been withdrawn.

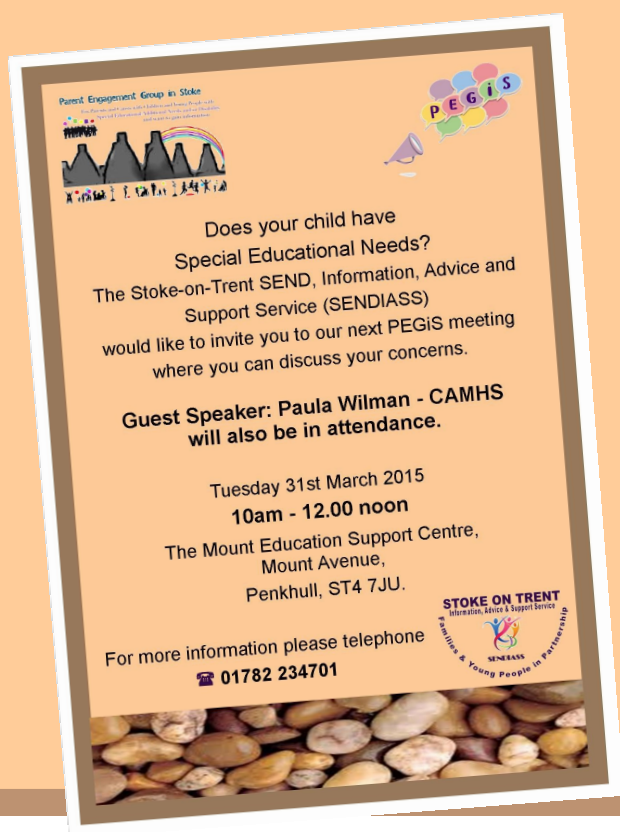
Until further clarification is given, the Statutory Guidance issued 20th June 2012 must be followed. Information can be sourced from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>.

Steering Group Update

The recent meeting of the SENDIASS Steering Group took place on Friday 30th January 2015 at The Mount. Seven people attended and there were apologies from eight other members, mostly due to the adverse weather conditions on the day. Following the resignation of Mr J Bostock, it was agreed by the group that M Craggs and R Carter would act as Co-Chairs for the next 12 months.

The following is a list of the issues which were covered/discussed during the meeting:

- The new service structure – and change of name from Parent Partnership Service to SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) in accordance with the SEN reforms which were introduced in September 2014 and the revised Code of Practice.
- Introduction to the role of the new Independent Supporters, who will provide information and support to families and young people around all aspects of the new Education, Health & Care Plans. An explanation was given as to how the Independent Supporters are funded.
- The SENDIASS Confidentiality and Impartiality Policies have been updated and amended, and these were approved by the Group and signed off.
- An update report was received from the Chair of the Parent Engagement Group in Stoke (PEGiS).
- Everyone received a copy of the amended Terms of Reference for the Steering Group.
- The planned relocation of the Service, and the possible implications, were discussed.



Parent Engagement Group in Stoke

Does your child have Special Educational Needs?

The Stoke-on-Trent SEND, Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) would like to invite you to our next PEGiS meeting where you can discuss your concerns.

Guest Speaker: Paula Wilman - CAMHS will also be in attendance.

Tuesday 31st March 2015
10am - 12.00 noon

The Mount Education Support Centre,
Mount Avenue,
Penkhull, ST4 7JU.

For more information please telephone
01782 234701

STOKE ON TRENT
Information, Advice & Support Service
SENDIASS
Families & Young People in Partnership



The Stoke-on-Trent
SEND Information, Advice and Support Service
(SENDIASS) Steering Group

Would you like to help to drive the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service forwards?

We are looking for parents/carers of children or young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities to help us to improve the service that we offer to parents/young people.

Our Steering Group meets three times a year to discuss how the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service is performing in supporting parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Your views help us to identify areas for development for the future.

Your views would help to steer the service towards providing the guidance that parents/carers and young people need and want.

The next Steering Group meeting is to be held on:
Wednesday 22nd April 2015
10am - 12.00 noon
at
The Mount Education Support Centre,
Mount Avenue, Penkhull, ST4 7JU.

For more information please telephone
01782 234701

STOKE ON TRENT
Information, Advice & Support Service
SENDIASS
Families & Young People in Partnership