



# NW SEND Regional Network Newsletter

## January 2019

The network is keen to profile effective practice developed in the North West and other regional contributions. Do please consider sending your examples for inclusion in future editions.

If there are particular areas of work or themes that you would like support with, activities or events then do let us know. We would also welcome any good news you have to share, or challenges you'd like to work with others to find solutions for, in order that we can share the learning across the North West. We welcome contributions to network activities, requests for connections for support, information about forthcoming events for future editions of this newsletter and new additions to the newsletter circulation list.

Also, do check out our website [www.nwsend.network](http://www.nwsend.network) which has everything you might want to know in one place, including previous newsletters.

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### **REGIONAL NETWORK EVENTS**

#### **11.2.19 12.30 – 4pm Accelerated Working Group: Developing a neurodevelopmental pathway**

St Helens Rugby Football Club, McManus Drive, St Helens WA9 1JJ

The Council for Disabled Children is delivering an interactive, focussed workshop for professionals working with children and young people with SEND and parent carer representatives to develop a best practice model for supporting children who have or may have neurodevelopmental conditions, such as autism and ADHD. The aim of this workshop is to:

Map out multi-agency processes for supporting children and young people who have or may have neurodevelopmental conditions, from referral through to diagnosis and support.

Develop a best practice integrated model for neurodevelopmental pathways that can be used as a tool to support local areas across the country.

Those attending will have the opportunity to discuss learning from effective practice examples with colleagues locally and regionally and to help shape the development of the final tool.

**Who should attend?**

This session is for parent carer representatives and for education, health and social care professionals with responsibility for children and young people with SEND who have or may have neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism and ADHD.

**Please note there are only 30 places available.**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/awg-developing-an-integrated-neurodevelopmental-pathway-tickets-55157865661>

**15.2.19 Joint Information Advice and Support Programme/National Health England training.** Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS

We know that increasing numbers of children and young people (CYP) with autism (particularly those without identified learning disabilities) are reaching crisis point in local mainstream and specialist schools. This has resulted in increasing numbers of exclusions, off-rolling, school refusal and home education, as well as out of area placements. Consequently, these CYP become isolated and can develop mental health issues, or these can worsen (e.g. depression, anxiety, eating disorders). This group of children and young people are at higher risk of inpatient admission to mental health hospital settings.

This training has been devised, and will be delivered, by an autism consultant and NHSE expert by experience. This training aims to address the following objectives:

- To understand the needs of this group of children and young people
- To understand what is going wrong for this group of children and young people, and some of the risks and pathways that can lead to crisis and admission to institutional care
- To equip IASS to support and advise children and young people with autism and their families appropriately
- To ensure IASS services and others understand the range of measures that could support children and young people with autism (or autism and learning disability) who might be at risk of potential admission to mental health settings

Priority will be given to IASS staff.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/identifying-and-supporting-children-and-young-people-with-autism-tickets-54857471173>

**21.2.19 10am Webinar on joint working and integration around SEND – sharing the learning from CDC’s regional events.**

This webinar is an opportunity to hear a recap of the learning from multi-agency events on joint working and integration across the country, and showcasing two local examples of best practice:

*The Emotional Health Academy*, to be presented by Sally Murray and Barry Stormont

*Joint working outcomes framework*, to be presented by Mrunal Sisodia

Please note that the first presentation from CDC will be the same from the previous webinar of the 16<sup>th</sup> January, the following slides from guest speakers will present two new cases of good practice.

Please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7279171992483636225>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**21.3.19 9.30 for 10am – 1pm North West Preparing for Adulthood Network meeting [The Edge Conference Centre in Wigan](#)**

We will be focussing on improving PfA Pathways and outcomes 19 -25. We will hear from the local areas in the region who successfully bid for the post 19 support who will share their learning.

The session will provide some information, and an opportunity to share the current practice. We will also have time to explore ideas and plans on how we can make further improvements to outcomes.

To book your place and see the agenda click here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-west-preparing-for-adulthood-network-tickets-55519769124>

The password is: NWnetwork

### **25.3.19 2 – 4.30pm Single route of redress – LA briefing event**

Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Piccadilly, One Piccadilly Place, 1 Auburn St, Manchester M1 3DG

NW Local authorities are invited to attend the SEND Single Route of Redress National Trial Stakeholder Briefing event, with the aim of providing local areas with an update on the progress of the trial since the 3rd April 2018 start date. This will include sharing key learning, highlighting emerging issues, reminding local areas of the regulations and duties relating to the trial and a Q&A session with a First-Tier Tribunal Judge.

There are 3 spaces per local authority area at the events, spaces are allocated as:

1 place for a senior SEND representative

1 place for a senior social care representative

1 place for a senior health representative

Parent carer representation will be managed through the NNPCF at a regional level.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-trial-stakeholder-briefing-event-north-west-region-tickets-53813485584>

### **NEWSFLASH**

**The North West region has been selected to be part of the Early Years SEND partnership funded by the Department for Education. This is an amazing opportunity for Local Authorities and Early Years settings to receive support on special needs and disability with the aim of increasing access and inclusion in the early years.**

Find out more at <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/early-years-send-partnership>

**An overview of the programme is available at**

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/EYSEND%20Activity%20-%20Table.pdf>

**An overview of the training programme is available at**

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/EYSEND%20Training%20-%20Table.pdf>

**Specialist support is available to local areas on**

#### **1 – The Local Offer**

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) will support one local area to develop, agree and articulate clearly the respective responsibilities for special educational provision of early years settings and the local authority

#### **2 - Speech, Language and Communication Needs Pathway**

The Communication Trust (TCT) will support one local area to agree what a good pathway for the effective identification of and provision for speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) looks like in their area. In addition, TCT support will help ensure a 'bottom up' and 'top down' approach to ALS through the provision of additional training to a limited number of practitioner level individuals. Individuals attending the training must be able to

commit to the attendance at local action learning sets and the completion of a free online Level 3 qualification in SLC and SLCN during 2019.

### **3 - Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Settings**

I CAN will work with one local area to identify gaps in the process and delivery of settings' identification of and support for SLCN and to enable solutions to ensure that these gaps are filled. As part of this specialist support, I CAN will offer 3 visits to the local authority, working with strategic leads and setting managers. You will be enabled to develop action plans prioritising SLCN in settings and to identify actions and support mechanisms available for their achievement.

### **4 - A whole setting approach to SEN and disability**

Nasen will support one local area to consider how they can develop effective whole-setting practice for SEND across PVI's in their area, in order to improve access and outcomes for children with SEND. They will work with local leaders of Early Years and SEND from across the sectors to:

- Know what effective inclusive practice looks like at a setting level, using the EY SEND Review Guide and building on learning from the suite of Whole School SEND Review Guides;
- Identify where the strengths are within settings, which can be used to further develop effective inclusive practice across the whole area (linking with the EY SEND Reviewers being trained on Day 2);
- Ensure that trained reviewers are deployed effectively, aligned to strategic priorities;
- Use the data gathered from EY SEND Reviews to support strategic planning for future need.

**NB To access the above support [fill out this application form](#). The closing date is noon on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. Please send application forms to [eysend@ncb.org.uk](mailto:eysend@ncb.org.uk)**

### **EYSEND Partnership: Meeting the needs of every child: SEND for managers in PVI's**

The course offers information and resources for supporting all children with SEND in PVI settings, including the role of the SENCO and effective inclusive practice, and then focuses specifically on speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). It will enable managers to offer training in SEND to their staff teams. Travel subsidy of up to £40 per manager is available.

**12.2.19 Lancaster** <http://www.nasen.org.uk/professional-learning/events-listing.eysend-partnership--meeting-the-needs-of-every-child--send-for-managers-in-pvis-lancaster.html>

Other places outside the North West can be booked at

<http://www.nasen.org.uk/professional-learning/meeting-the-needs-of-every-child-send-for-managers-in-pvis/>

### **17.6.19 and 19.11.19 Early Years SEND regional action learning sets – Save the dates**

The Council for Disabled Children are delighted to invite you to the second and third of a new series of early years SEN and disability regional action learning sets (ALSs). These new ALSs are part of a new partnership (The Early Years SEND Partnership) to improve access and inclusion in the early years. The programme is funded by the Department for Education and you can find out more about the new partnership on their website: <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/early-years-send-partnership>

The day is designed to support you with the review and development of local plans, which you may have started as part of the earlier CDC project.

**Please note the following:** If you have any colleagues in your area who did not attend a regional ALSs as part of our earlier project (which CDC ran between Jan 2017 – Mar 2018), but might benefit from being involved, please do forward this invitation to them.

#### **Why attend these Action Learning Sets?**

Celebrate good practice across the region and learn from each other;

Review local progress on early years, SEN and disability;  
Learn about the training being provided by the SEND Early Years partnership; partners;  
Learn about additional support that may be available to you in progressing local plans;  
Take a strategic approach to access and inclusion in the early years.

Key to success will be bringing together different teams, from education, health and social care, and from each local area. The goal is a high level of joint attendance at regional workshops and joint action plans to support a strategic approach.

### **Who should attend?**

There are **three** places available for each local area. It is for each local area to decide who should attend, and it is appreciated that attendance will be partially determined by availability. It is recommended that attendance is drawn from:

Health, for example, health visitor, therapist, DMO, DCO, CCG

Local authority SEN team

Local authority early years team

Early years providers

Social care

Information, Advice and Support Services

Representatives of parents/carers

For more information contact [tshorrock@ncb.org.uk](mailto:tshorrock@ncb.org.uk)

## **OTHER EVENTS RELATING TO THE NORTH WEST**

**29.1.19 + 15.5.19 + 26.9.19 + 13.12.19 SEND Casework Award**, Manchester

<http://www.nasen.org.uk/professional-learning/events-listing.send-casework-award-manchester.html>

**8.2.19 Safeguarding conference**, Manchester

<https://www.oneeducation.co.uk/safeguardingconf19>

**14.2.19 9.45am – 3pm Workshop about Sensory Processing Difficulties: Feel it**

Liverpool

This workshop teaches about Sensory Processing Difficulties (SPD), how to recognise and understand specific sensory characteristics and strategies and ideas to support both children & adults. It will include immersive learning tools created alongside people with SPD to give you a unique insight into how SPD may feel in your situation. The workshop is suitable for everyone including parents, teachers, sencos, teaching assistants, therapists, support workers & carers. To find out more <https://www.sensoryspectacle.co.uk/pre-planned>

**5.3.19 10.30am – 2.30pm Family Fund Information and Support Drop-in Day**

Burnley CVS Centre, Rachel Kay Room, 62/64 Yorkshire Street, Burnley. BB11 3BT

Learn more about support services, grants and information available to disabled children, young people and families. Meet Family Fund and other charities and get help with a Family Fund application. To let the Family Fund know you're coming or ask any questions email: [events@familyfund.org.uk](mailto:events@familyfund.org.uk) or just turn up.

**12.3.19 11am Northern Tribunal User Group**

Darlington Magistrates Court, Parkgate, Darlington DL1 1RU

**21.3.19 10.30am – 2.30pm Family Fund Information and Support Drop-in Day**

The Hub, Bold Street, Bolton, BL1 1LS

Learn more about support services, grants and information available to disabled children, young people and families. Meet Family Fund and other charities and get help with a Family

Fund application. To let the Family Fund know you're coming or ask any questions email: [events@familyfund.org.uk](mailto:events@familyfund.org.uk) or just turn up.

### **26.3.19 Sexuality, relationships and autism**

Manchester

This one day course will explore a range of issues related to autistic people and sexuality including boundaries, friendships and relationships.

[https://learn.autism.org.uk/ehome/200184351?utm\\_source=The%20National%20Autistic%20Society&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=10173512\\_TCC%20Sector%20Health%20-%20Segment%201%2009.01.19&utm\\_content=Sexuality%20and%20relationships&Keywords=Sexuality%20and%20relationships&dm\\_i=YA3,621XK,KUG4LR,NRK4J,1](https://learn.autism.org.uk/ehome/200184351?utm_source=The%20National%20Autistic%20Society&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10173512_TCC%20Sector%20Health%20-%20Segment%201%2009.01.19&utm_content=Sexuality%20and%20relationships&Keywords=Sexuality%20and%20relationships&dm_i=YA3,621XK,KUG4LR,NRK4J,1)

### **1 – 7.4.19 World Autism Awareness Week**

<https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week/form-individual.aspx>

### **10 – 11.5.19 Nursery World North**

Manchester Central

<https://www.nurseryworldshow.com/manchester>

### **10 – 11.5.19 Tes SEN North 2019**

Manchester Central

[www.tessenshow.com/manchester](http://www.tessenshow.com/manchester)

### **13 – 16.5.19 ADOS2 Administration and Coding Course**

Manchester

ADOS-2 is the latest revision of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule and has been adapted to anticipate the changes to the diagnostic definitions of DSM-5. The ADOS is the most widely used observational assessment in the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, for both clinical and research purposes. It is often described as the “Gold Standard” research assessment for autism.

Courses take place over 4 days for Modules 1 to 4. Trainees will become familiar with the administration and coding of each of these modules through watching and coding videos of the ADOS, and through discussion with our highly experienced, expert trainers. Trainees will also have the opportunity to practice various tasks, and explore the materials and toys provided with the ADOS-2 kit.

<https://our.learningdisabilitieshealthnetwork.org.uk/t/autism-assessment-and-diagnosis-ados2-training-manchester-13th-16th-may-2019/1159>

## **CONSULTATION:**

**NICE has published guidance on health and social care provision for disabled children and young people with severe complex needs in all settings, including education.**

As well as looking at integrated health and social care support, the guidance aims to ensure that effective commissioning and joint working occur between practitioners across health and social care services. The [consultation](#) closes on 5 February 2019.

## **SURVEY: THE ROLES OF A DMO AND A DCO**

National Children's Bureau (NCB) on behalf of NHS England is conducting research on the roles of a DMO and a DCO. The findings will be used to inform and support NHS England to

reduce unwarranted variation, improve awareness and impact of the role, and ensure that the role supports operational and strategic level interventions.

It takes around 10 minutes to complete and is completely anonymous

Link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7ZMBSDF>

## **FOCUS: PEER CHALLENGE**

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Reviewer, to engage in peer challenge activity across North West Local Authority areas, training is available at

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/play/recording/663e7ee4a3ecbeaae32d6fe8e88559ba25afb929cdd473116370ed390c4f8a1d>

To express an interest either in becoming a Peer Reviewer and/or in having a peer challenge please contact Cathy Hamer email: [cwh01@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cwh01@hotmail.co.uk) Mob: 0778 357 7284

## **MAKING PARTICIPATION WORK CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE**

### **17.4.19 All day. Coin Street Conference Centre, London.**

The Making Participation Work programme, jointly delivered by CDC and KIDS and funded by the DfE, is delivering a free Children and Young People's Participation Conference for young people with SEND from across the country.

This event will bring young disabled people and those with SEN together to learn about why having a voice matters, discuss their experiences of participation and inspire each other to get involved in decision-making. The conference is being developed with young people's input, and a range of fun accessible workshops will be delivered by different disabled children and young people's organisations working in the sector.

The event will provide an opportunity for young people to learn about the value of participation for themselves as individuals, as well as how it benefits society more broadly. Each young person will choose the workshops they attend in advance, meaning they can build their own conference timetable depending on their interests and their previous experience of participation.

Who should attend?

This conference is aimed at all children and young people with SEND, aged 12 to 25, regardless of their experience of participation. They do not have to be part of a formal participation group in order to attend; in fact one of the aims of the day is to encourage young people to seek out opportunities to get their voice heard. Adult supporters are of course welcome, but the conference content is for the benefit of children and young people. In order to ensure that a wide range of young people are able to attend, delegations are limited to 5 young people and 2 support staff, unless access requirements, necessitate additional staffing. This conference is limited to 140 delegate places, plus support staff.

**Demand is expected to outstrip places, so places will be allocated by ballot.**

**The application process closes on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

A limited number of travel bursaries will be available. Further information will be available once places have been allocated. Sign up to the event at <http://bit.ly/2FotSCy>

Please direct further questions to Will Carver-Grenside: [wcarver@ncb.org.uk](mailto:wcarver@ncb.org.uk)

## **PROFILING PRACTICE IN THE NORTH WEST: The Special Schools Partnership in Manchester.**

Several years ago, Manchester City Council and the leaders of the fourteen Manchester special schools agreed to devolve some additional resources from the high needs block to the partnership of special schools. This was done in response to the fact that the City was

seeing growing numbers and increasing complexity of need, and consequently more requests for additional support from special schools and growing numbers of children needing to be placed in specialist provision outside the city.

The aim of the special schools partnership was to enable special schools to consider collectively what they would need – and what they could offer together – to support young people with the most complex needs. The partnership meets half-termly to consider requests for additional support from individual special schools to put in place bespoke packages in order to support young people in local provision. There is an agreed criteria and process for requesting additional, time-limited funding, which school leaders use to moderate one another's requests. The partnership has a budget of £500,000 – resources that are used to build capacity within local provision, which without the partnership may need to be spent on securing placements outside the city.

Special school and Council leaders consider that this approach has enabled a more transparent, cost-effective, swift approach for schools to access support, while it has also fostered collective problem-solving and sharing of effective practice between schools. Crucially, it has also enabled Manchester's special schools to support children with the most complex needs more effectively within local provision. Manchester is, however, growing rapidly, which in turn has increased the pressure on school places. For example, over four years, numbers of EHCPs have increased by 60%. Responding to these pressures has been a challenge across the whole of the local education system, including among special schools. Nevertheless, the special school partnership has been crucial in enabling special 39 schools and the Council to work together to agree medium- and long-term plans for shaping specialist provision to respond to the needs of Manchester's young people with SEND.

## **FOCUS: NHS LONG TERM PLAN**

The NHS has developed a long term plan to ensure that it continually moves forward “so that in 10 years' time we have a service fit for the future.” It is available at <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Designated keyworkers for children with learning disabilities and autism, greater access to mental health services, and improved support during the autism diagnosis process were among key promises made in the NHS Long Term Plan released earlier this week.

Read the Council for Disabled Children's blog about the Plan here:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news-opinion/news/what-does-nhs-long-term-plan-mean-children-and-young-people-send>

An easy read version of the Plan is available at

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/easy-read-long-term-plan.pdf>

A five minute video explains provisions for learning disability and autism, featuring NHS England representatives Aaron Oxford, Learning Disability and Autism Network Manager; and Ray James, National Director Learning Disability. The video can be viewed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kALYg3alsrg&feature=youtu.be>

An audio version of the Plan can be accessed here

<https://soundcloud.com/nhsengland/sets/long-term-plan>

## **RESEARCH:**

A researcher at Kingston University is conducting research on Mathematics and the Home Learning Environment in order to better understand how parents can support the

mathematical learning of their children at home. She is looking for parents of children with Down syndrome and Williams syndrome aged between 4 and 11 years as well as typically developing children aged 4 to 8 years old. The participation in the study involves completing a 30 mins online survey <http://goo.gl/t4BWGh>  
Please do not hesitate to contact Erica Ranzato: [e.ranzato@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:e.ranzato@kingston.ac.uk) if you need any further information.

## **RESOURCE: Young Minds – Inpatient care.**

Together with their Activists who have experienced inpatient care, Young Minds have created an informative and reassuring guide for young people who are worried about going into a mental health unit. They answer young people's biggest questions and provide downloadable printer-friendly resources to help them with their stay in a unit.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/your-guide-to-support/your-guide-to-inpatient-care/>

## **FOCUS: REPORTS**

Work experience and vocational/technical provision for young people on SEN support: A rapid evidence assessment, DfE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-experience-for-young-people-on-sen-support>

Ofsted Annual Report 2017/18: education, children's services and skills, Ofsted,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-201718-education-childrens-services-and-skills>

Improving educational outcomes for children in need: literature review

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-outcomes-of-children-in-need-literature-review>

Modernising the Mental Health Act: increasing choice, reducing compulsion, Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modernising-the-mental-health-act-final-report-from-the-independent-review>

Have we reached a tipping point? Trends in spending for children and young people with SEND, LGA

<https://www.local.gov.uk/have-we-reached-tipping-point-trends-spending-children-and-young-people-send-england>

A bright start: Improving childcare for disadvantaged families through Universal Credit, Centre for Social Justice and Save the Children

<https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/library/a-bright-start-improving-childcare>

## **CONTACT AWARDS:**

Contact is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and want everyone to be involved. 40 years ago they started as a charity when a group of parents recognised the benefits of getting together with other families like theirs for friendship and to share experiences and advice.

They are excited to announce that as part of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities this year, they are holding an Awards event - and nominations are now officially open. Contact's Together

at 40 Awards are a celebration of the countless and often unrecognised achievements of families with disabled children up and down the country.  
[Get your nominations in for Contact's Together at 40 Awards](#) - celebrating the achievements of families with disabled children.

## **OTHER NEWSLETTERS:**

### **Centre for Youth Impact news:**

<https://mailchi.mp/d83f1ea714d0/centre-for-youth-impact-newsletter-september-460615?e=c44aa6d09f>

### **Making Ourselves Heard newsletter:**

<https://mailchi.mp/ncb/webinars-forums-and-more-1296241?e=59c28d4a77>

### **National Autistic Society news:**

<https://nas-email.org.uk/YA3-62MLF-A1KUG4LR64/cr.aspx?v=1>