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newsletter
May 2026



Family Voice Norfolk representation at the Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum meeting

Rachel (In the lime green cardigan) and Clare (In the dark pink cardigan) represented Family Voice Norfolk in Cambridge on Friday 16th May when forums came together for the Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum meeting. Professionals from the Department for Education (DfE) joined the meeting and heard from each forum about the concerns and comments families and forums have around the Schools' White Paper and the SEND Reforms. Many notes were taken by the DfE with both FVN parent carers reporting they felt heard, understood and valued when they expressed some of the worries that have come up locally. It was great to have that opportunity of directly feeding in what is important to families who have shared with us.



In this issue:

Family Voice Norfolk SEND Reform Consultation Response – May 2026

[Working together for SEND families](#)

[Family Voice Norfolk Ambassadors](#)

[Family Voice Norfolk says “Thank You”](#)

[Norfolk County Council Outstanding ILACs Ofsted report](#)

[ASD Helping Hands Teen social group](#)

[ASD Helping Hands Family Group](#)

[Kids- Summer term online workshops for parent carers](#)

[Childhood loss and bereavement awareness training- supporting teachers, schools and colleges](#)

[Martha’s Rule- detecting deterioration](#)

[Dotty Pottery White House Farm- quiet room](#)

[BeyondAutism Employability Toolkit](#)

[Norfolk Symphony Orchestra 'relaxed concert' at King's Lynn Corn Exchange on Sunday 21st of June](#)

[Care for Carers- Carers information day on Monday June 8th at the Forum in Norwich](#)

[Student Finance England- Are you applying for disabled students' allowance ?](#)

[Royal National Institute for Deaf People \(RNID\) - Step inside the box campaign](#)

[999 BSL Emergency video relay service for deaf people](#)

[Equal Lives - Disability and housing webinar](#)

[Dealing with emotional challenges as a Kinship carer in Dereham](#)

[Mental health resources and webinars from the Charlie Waller trust](#)

[Eating disorder workshops for parents and carers \(Fully funded\) from the Charlie Waller trust](#)

[Paloma Health launches a new monthly webinar series to support and inform families exploring neurodivergence](#)

[High Lodge- Thetford forest- inclusive wheelchair swing survey](#)

[Are you ready to help make Watton Norfolk's first flourishing town?](#)

[Social Inclusion teen group- SENSI](#)

[Healthy, Happy, Safe Day 2026- with Opening Doors](#)

[All about apprenticeships at the Forum Tuesday 16th June](#)

[The Norfolk Deaf Festival is back at the Forum in June](#)

[A critical conversation on the impact of SEND Reforms on Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children, young people and their families](#)

[Rees Foundation- helping Care experienced people thrive](#)

[Norfolk Adult Epilepsy Specialist Nurse Team](#)

[WheelPower online 'Get Active' classes](#)

[Healthy living event for Electively Home- Educated children and families](#)

[Assist- Brand new enablement service starting in September 2026](#)

[Assist Fest Family Friendly festival Saturday 13th June 12-5pm](#)

[Do you work in a mainstream school in England? Does your school have a sensory room?](#)

[You are invited to take part in this important research](#)

[NHS Norfolk and Waveney Children and Young Peoples health services want parent carers of children aged between 0-16 to join the conversation.](#)

[North Locality Group Meeting – Rescheduled Date](#)

[Realising Potential Ambassadors- with the Community Sports Foundation](#)

[Making Positive Moves- toolkit launch event- designed to support people with learning disabilities to live well in their own home](#)

[Field of Joy- Small group volunteer sessions](#)

[Newly enhanced BA \(Hons\) Additional Needs and Disabilities \(Children and Young People\) degree at City College Norwich, launching in September 2026](#)

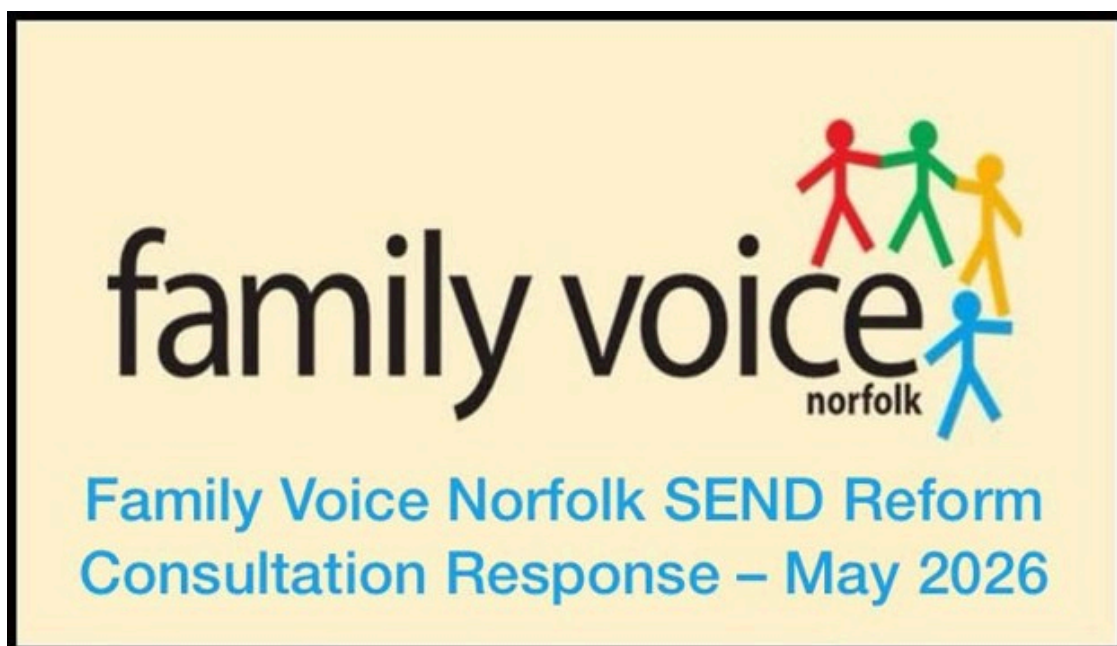
[Transport for disabled children and young people survey](#)

[SENDIASS Spotlight e-newsletter for May](#)

[An easy way to share our newsletter](#)



It's easy to read an article that is of interest to you, just click on the blue writing of the title (under 'in this issue' above) and it will take you directly to that article!



Family Voice Norfolk SEND Reform Consultation Response – May 2026

Family Voice Norfolk has responded to the government SEND Reforms Consultation, having listened to families' thoughts and feelings about what was being asked. Thank you to everyone who has shared thoughts with us; there has been so much to think about and consider. The FVN response can be viewed [here](#):

The National Network of Parent Carers (NNPCF) has also responded to the consultation, using input provided by parent carer forums across England. It has thanked forums with the following words and again, you can view the NNPCF response [here](#):

'The NNPCF has now submitted its response to the Department for Education consultation: SEND Reform – Putting Children and Young People First.

A huge thank you to all Parent Carer Forums (PCFs) across England who supported the development of the NNPCF consultation response. Your time, insight, challenge, honesty and lived experience have been invaluable throughout this process. From Community of Practice sessions, regional discussions and workshops, to surveys, Padlet feedback and local engagement with families, your contributions have helped ensure the voices of parent carers, children and young people were reflected throughout our response.

The level of engagement, thoughtfulness and commitment shown by PCFs during such a significant period of change has been incredible. Thank you for continuing to work collaboratively, strategically and tirelessly to help shape a better SEND system for children, young people and families.'

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SEND FAMILIES

A MESSAGE FOR PARENT CARERS



Many parents and carers may have seen the recent Special Needs Jungle article and have questions about how Parent Carer Forums (PCFs) work alongside campaigning and co-production.

We want to reassure families and explain things clearly.



Your voice matters!

1 WHAT IS CO-PRODUCTION?

Co-production does not mean staying quiet or avoiding challenge.

Parent Carer Forums are there to:

- ✔ Share real parent carer experiences
- ✔ Raise concerns honestly
- ✔ Challenge services constructively
- ✔ Help improve local SEND support

PCFs play an important role in speaking up for families while working in partnership with local services.

2 CAMPAIGNING AND PCFs

PCFs must follow Department for Education grant guidance.

This means:

-  PCF leaders **cannot** usually lead both a campaign group and a PCF at the same time because of conflict of interest rules.
-  Parent carers can still campaign as individuals.
-  Families can still attend rallies, speak up and advocate for change in a personal capacity.
-  The guidance mainly affects a very small number of forums.

3 WHY WAS THE GUIDANCE UPDATED?

The guidance was updated:

- For the new grant cycle
- Following requests from PCFs for clearer advice around campaigning
- With input from the NNPCF and some forums

The aim was to help forums navigate difficult situations while continuing to support families.

4 WE RECOGNISE THE PRESSURES FAMILIES FACE

Many PCFs are working in extremely challenging circumstances, balancing:

-  Support for families
-  Constructive challenge
-  SEND reforms and consultations
-  Partnership working with stretched local systems

5 WHAT ABOUT CONTACT?

Contact can publicly campaign and lobby government in ways that PCFs cannot under grant rules.

contact

Contact supports PCFs by:

- ✔ Administering the DfE PCF grant
- ✔ Providing support and guidance
- ✔ Continuing national campaigning work for families

Contact receives funding from the DfE to administer the PCF grant and provide support. This funding does not restrict Contact's campaigning in the same way as PCF DfE grant funding and is subject to a different contract from the conditions of grant.

THE SHARED GOAL

Everyone involved wants:



Better outcomes for children and young people with SEND



Stronger support for families



Parent carer voices at the heart of change

Together, we can make things better for our children and young people.

Thank you to all Parent Carer Forums for your dedication, compassion and unwavering commitment to SEND families.

Your voices make a difference every day.

Questions or concerns?

Please reach out to your local PCF or Contact for support.

Working together for SEND families

Recently, there was an article put out by Special Needs Jungle in the run-up to the government SEND Reforms Consultation closing.

As we have explained before, FVN is part of the Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum and of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums. One of our colleagues at Hackney SEND Parent Carer Forum (HSPCF) has produced this flyer to help parent carers understand how forums work. She has very kindly agreed for us to share it. We hope you find it helpful and we thank HSPCF again for allowing us to bring it to you. Together we are stronger.

.....

Working together for SEND families- A message to parent carers:

Many parents and carers may have seen the recent Special Needs Jungle article and have questions about how Parent Carer Forums (PCFs) work alongside campaigning and co-production.

We want to reassure families and explain things clearly.

1. WHAT IS CO-PRODUCTION?

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The shared goal- everyone involved wants:

- Better outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- Stronger support for families
- Parent carer voices at the heart of change

Together we can make things better for our children and young people.

Thank you to all Parent Carer Forums for your dedication, compassion and unwavering commitment to SEND families.

Your voice makes a difference everyday.

Questions or concerns?

Please reach out to your local [PCF](#) or [Contact](#) for support.



Family Voice Norfolk Ambassadors

Our ambassador Clare has recently attended an Early Years Conference arranged by Norfolk County Council for early years providers. Clare was able to talk to child minders and early years educators about the role of Family Voice Norfolk and provided them with contact details so that families can share their stories with us when they are ready and able.

We have a small team of FVN Ambassadors who are all parent carers and attend lots of events where parent carers will be or professionals who work with children with SEND are in attendance. If you would like an Ambassador to attend your event so we can tell families how important their voice is to us, please contact admin@familyvoice.org.uk



We'd like to say a big 'thank you' !

Family Voice Norfolk says “Thank You”

We recently asked you for your experiences around transition to adulthood so that we could give an up-to-date picture of what Norfolk families are feeling. This has been fed into our regional partnership, the Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum, for collation with other forums' contributions. We'd like to say a big 'thank you' for sharing your experiences with us so that we can give real-lived examples from Norfolk families. Below is what we have shared, anonymously, and with the hope that being part of a bigger regional and national voice will have impact on future work and improvements.

Family Voice Norfolk knows from many conversations with families at events, and also from the last Local Authority SEND Survey, that preparing for adulthood is something families feel ill-supported and prepared for, that it feels like a cliff-edge and that getting quality information is difficult. As a result, there is work currently happening in our area around improving the PfAL (Preparing for Adult Life) section of the Local Offer website and families had an in-person opportunity to feed into this at an event in May 2026.

Difficulties shared:

- In the responses we have received, families have told us that transition to the adult ADHD service within health is extremely poor, with examples given of young people not being seen for years after the age of 18. Young people have had positive experiences of ADHD care up to the age of 18 within children's health services yet nothing after for a very long time. There have been instances of finally being 'seen' via TEAMS where parent carers have to carry out checks for the young person, such as blood pressure checks, in the absence of a traditional appointment. As a result, no height/weight checks are carried out and the waits for adult ADHD appointments after transfer from children's health care are very long. Families are told the service is 'running behind' and this is not acceptable.
- An instance has been shared where social care has refused to engage at transition and to complete assessments because the young person has communication difficulties and cannot engage directly with workers. Information from the Preparing for Adult Life team has been found confusing and conflicting. Health care provided whilst under

18 has been stopped at 18 resulting in confusion as the GP believed the young person was 'in the system' when a new referral was actually required.

- It was shared with us that there is a real lack of overnight respite provision for over 18s and that a family's circumstances would need to be 'exceptional' for this to be considered. In this case, the parent carer finds it incomprehensible that a need addressed by overnight respite up to the age of 18 is suddenly not deemed as required when a very complex young person turns 18.
- A comment shared with us is there is little information provided about continuing health care, something a school suggested a young person might qualify for.
- It is felt that whilst within children's services, families are told that parents are the ones who know their children and young people best and are the best advocates for them. Suddenly at 18, Adult Services believe they know best. As a parent, that is described as 'scary'.
- A family expressed their feeling that there is a lack of help and support around transitioning a young person to independent living, with the parents having to do all the research as they have a health worker under Continuing Health Care and do not have a social worker.
- Norfolk's Preparing for Adult Life team seems to be overstretched and understaffed in parents' views, with delays having a detrimental effect on what a young person can access and when. A family was told that any budget resulting from Adult Services assessment could not be used for 'fun things', which is very different from what can be accessed through a Short Breaks offer within children's services.
- It was shared there has been no help or support for a young person with a current EHCP who has SEMH and personal care needs and who would like to go to university.
- Families have expressed frustration in waiting times of almost a year for adult services assessments, resulting in their young person 'stuck at home' for this time.

Positives shared:

- Elsewhere there has been feedback that transitions from children's epilepsy service to adults has been very well handled by the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) and that is a huge positive. Equally the NNUH has just run a 'Transitions' event for families to attend around medical transitions.

Sharing your experiences can help make a difference and we do want to thank you all for continuing to send us what matters to you, what challenges you face and what good-news stories you have when services 'get it right' for your children and young people. Your voices matter and together, we are stronger in our messages, locally, regionally and nationally.

If you have any feedback you would like to share with us please click [here](#)



Norfolk County Council Outstanding ILACs Ofsted report

The inspection of the Local Authority Children's Services, which took place in February, looked at five areas: the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families; the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection; the experiences and progress of children in care; the experiences and progress of care leavers, and our overall effectiveness. The judgement in each area was outstanding.

[Click here to read the ILACs Ofsted report and the different types of inspection reports Ofsted have previously undertaken at Norfolk County Council](#)



ASD Helping Hands Teen social group

Teen Social Group – A Space to Be You!

If you're aged 12-17 and looking for a fun, laid-back place to hang out, you've come to the right spot! Our Teen Social Group is all about being yourself, meeting new people, and having a good time – no pressure, just good vibes.

Whether you're into games, crafts, music, or just chilling with friends, there's something for everyone. Each session is a chance to connect, unwind, and have fun in a supportive and inclusive environment.

- Free to attend

- Tuck shop available for snacks and drinks
- Regular attendees get priority access to amazing residential trips and one-off special events throughout the year!

No need to book or register – just drop in and join the fun!

02/06/2026 6:00pm- 7:30pm ASD Helping Hands, Assembly Rooms Ruthen Place, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 2TX

For both undiagnosed and diagnosed Autistic young people.

For more information [email](#).

For more dates of the Teen social group [click here](#)



ASD Helping Hands

FAMILY GROUP

A welcoming support group for families of children with or without a diagnosis of Autism, offering advice, connection, and inclusive activities for all.

£5.00 per child (suitable for 12yrs and younger)

Supported by 

For more information please email: contact@asdhelpinghands.org.uk



ASD Helping Hands Family Group

After a long hiatus our Dereham Family Support Group is back on at a new location: Mid Norfolk Mencap, 1 Tavern Lane, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1PX.

Pre booking is required please click the green button below.

£5.00 per child

Siblings over 12 and Parent / Carers are free to attend.

Family Support Group – Inclusive Fun for All

Our Family Support Group offers a safe, supportive, and welcoming space for families of children with or without a diagnosis of Autism. Whether you're looking for advice, connection, or simply a relaxed place to spend time together, our group is here for you.

Each session includes a range of engaging and inclusive activities designed to support development and build confidence, such as:

- Cooking activities
- Arts and crafts
- Sensory play including a full sensory room!
- A calm, quiet area
- Group games and more!

Our friendly team is always on hand to provide support, advice, and a listening ear. Siblings and extended family members are always welcome.

Parking is available to the rear of the building.

We look forward to welcoming you!

20/06/2026 10:30am-

For more information click here to [email](#).

To book and for more dates of the family support group click here



Kids flourish

Norfolk Parent Carer Service

Summer Term Online Workshops

Eating Challenges Sunday 17th May 2pm - 4pm

Neurodivergent Teen Monday 1st June 10.30am - 12.30pm

Eating Challenges Friday 5th June 11am - 1pm

Neurodivergent Teen Sunday 7th June 2pm - 4pm

Sleep Challenges Wednesday 10th June 10.30am - 12.30pm

Parental Resilience Sunday 21st June 2pm - 4pm

Parental Resilience Wednesday 24th June 11am - 1pm

Managing Challenging Behaviours Friday 3rd July 11am - 1pm

Sleep Challenges Sunday 5th July 2pm - 4pm

Managing Challenging Behaviours Sunday 19th July 2pm - 4pm

Scan here for booking form:

Join us online - just scan the code and choose your dates!

Email sally.macgregor@kids.org.uk for more info

Kids- Summer term online workshops for parent carers

Kids Norfolk Online summer term workshops:

Neurodivergent teen Monday 1st June 10.30am - 12.30pm

Eating Challenges Friday 5th June 11am - 1pm

Neurodivergent teen Sunday 7th June 2pm - 4 pm

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Sleep Challenges Sunday 5th July 2pm - 4 pm

Managing Challenging Behaviours Sunday 19th July 2pm - 4pm

Scan the QR code above or click the green button below to access the booking form.

If you would like more information click [here](#) to email Sally.

[Click here for the Kids booking form](#)



Childhood Loss and Bereavement Awareness Training

Supporting Teachers, Schools and Colleges.

We are pleased to be able to offer more **FREE** childhood loss and bereavement awareness training sessions, designed to **support teachers and school/college staff** in helping pupils cope with grief and loss.

Our 'Supporting Students around Serious Illness, Loss and Bereavement' training will be delivered in person at our Training Hub at **Tapping House, Wheatfields Hillington, Kings Lynn, PE31 6BH**, on the following dates:

Focus on Secondary and Post 16:
 Tuesday 5th May 2026 – 09:30 to 12:15
 Tuesday 22nd September 2026 – 09:30 to 12:15

Focus on Early Years and Primary:
 Tuesday, 16th June - 12:45 to 15:30
 Wednesday, 14th October - 09:30 to 12:15

"Many thanks for the excellent training which you provided which both my colleague and I found extremely useful" and "We all found the training to be hugely important and valuable." - **Feedback from our last session.**

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Book your FREE Place

Childhood loss and bereavement awareness training-supporting teachers, schools and colleges

1 in 29 children (5-16) have suffered the loss of a parent or sibling. That's roughly one per classroom.

Tapping house are pleased to be able to offer more **FREE** childhood loss and bereavement awareness training sessions, designed to **support teachers and school/college staff** in helping pupils cope with grief and loss.

The 'Supporting students around serious illness, loss and bereavement' training will be delivered in person at the training hub at Tapping House, Wheatfields Hillington, Kings Lynn, PE31 6BH on the following dates:

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Focus on Early Years and Primary: Tuesday 16th June 12:45- 15:30 and Wednesday 14th October 09:30- 12:15

Feedback from the last session "Many thanks for the excellent training which you provided which both my colleague and I found extremely useful" and "We all found the training to be hugely important and valuable".

Places are limited, and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

To book please scan the QR code above or click the green button below.

[Click here to book a place](#)



Martha's Rule- detecting deterioration

Martha's Rule is a patient safety initiative to support the early detection of deterioration by ensuring the concerns of patients, families, carers and staff are listened to and acted upon.

It has been developed in response to the death of Martha Mills and other cases related to the management of deterioration. Central to Martha's Rule is the right for patients, families and carers to request a rapid review if they are worried that a patient's condition is getting worse and their concerns are not being responded to.

NHS trusts are working hard to put Martha's Rule in place in all acute inpatient settings. While it is not available everywhere yet, implementation in these settings is expected to be complete during 2026/27. More details are available in the [Implementing Martha's Rule](#) section.

If you or a person you care for are admitted to hospital, you can check whether Martha's Rule is available by:

- visiting the trust's website
- asking staff on the ward

Martha's story

Martha Mills died in 2021 after developing sepsis in hospital, where she had been admitted with a pancreatic injury after falling off her bike. Martha's family's concerns about her deteriorating condition were not responded to, and in 2023 a coroner ruled that Martha, aged 13, would probably have survived had she been moved to intensive care earlier.

In response to this and other cases related to the management of clinical deterioration, the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and NHS England committed to implement 'Martha's Rule' across the NHS.

[Click here for more details of Martha's Rule](#)





Dotty Pottery White House Farm- quiet room

Enjoy ceramic painting away from the hustle and bustle of the main studio.

We understand that finding activities the whole family can enjoy together outside the home isn't always easy, so we wanted to create a calm, comfortable environment where everyone can relax and enjoy being creative together.

If a member of your family finds busy or noisy spaces difficult, but you'd still love to try something new together, our Quiet Room could be perfect for you.

Our Quiet Room offers:

- Exclusive use for 2 hours of painting
- Bring your own music or enjoy the peaceful atmosphere and family time together
- Doorbell connects directly to the main studio if you need assistance at any point
- Space for a group of up to 6 painters (any more and it might get a little cosy!)

- Bring your own food or drink to enjoy while painting

All of this for no additional cost!

Due to limited availability, we require a £10 deposit per person painting, no minimum number required (deposit is taken off per person on the day)

To book the Quiet Room, please call or email the studio

Email: hello@dottypottery.co.uk

Phone: 01603536526 (option 1)

Dotty Pottery Unit 1, White House Farm, Sprowston Road, Rackheath, Norwich NR13 6LB

[Click here to visit the Dotty Pottery website](#)



BeyondAutism Employability Toolkit

BeyondAutism Employability Toolkit

A resource for individuals, parents, carers and employers.

This toolkit, funded by the City Bridge Foundation, will give autistic people improved access to, and support in, employment. The colour coded sections make it easy to navigate for people seeking employment and for employers. There is advice for employers about what autism is, how to support autistic individuals, different communication approaches and sensory needs. It is full of useful resources such as person-centred plans, examples of vocational assessments and reasonable adjustments for both the interview stage and whilst in work. Further supported by definitions of employment related terms, advice about Access to Work funding and signposting.

About BeyondAutism

We are experts in delivering autism education services from pre-school to 25.

BeyondAutism is a non-profit organisation, driving change in the world of autism education to ensure autistic children and young adults access an education which empowers a life full of choice, independence and opportunity.

We do this by creating positive educational experiences, training for the professional team around a child, and information, resources and support for families and carers.

You can download the toolkit (there is also an Easy Read version) by clicking the green button below.

[Click here for the BeyondAutism Employability Toolkit](#)



Norfolk Symphony Orchestra 'relaxed concert' at King's Lynn Corn Exchange on Sunday 21st of June

After the success of last year's performance, The Norfolk Symphony Orchestra are back again at the King's Lynn Corn Exchange with another relaxed performance. They are playing at 2pm on Sunday 21st June.

Relaxed performances are designed to suit individuals or groups who feel more comfortable attending concerts in an informal environment. There is a relaxed attitude to noise and audience members are encouraged to respond to and join in with the music.

Seating will be on individual chairs, which can be moved and grouped together, rather than the usual auditorium fixed seating.

Audience members may leave and re-enter the auditorium at any point if you they need some quiet time in the foyer.

The music is designed to be relatively gentle with no unexpected loud noises. There will be narration to introduce the pieces, so audience members know what to expect.

The concert will last approximately 45 minutes – 1 hour.

Ticket numbers are limited to 120 to ensure there is plenty of room and to reduce the possibility of overwhelm for audience members.

The concert is free of charge but if you would like to make a donation to the orchestra to help us continue our work, you are welcome to.

If you would like to come to the concert or have details of those who would like to join us, please email us by clicking [here](#).

Please also tell us how you heard about the concert. If you would prefer to WhatsApp, text or call , you can do so on 07776158659

We look forward to seeing you!

[Click here to find out more about the Norfolk Symphony Orchestra](#)



CARE FOR CARERS

Carers Group Support Association

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG



“Carers Information Day”

Organised by Care for Carers

with

Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

at

The Norwich Forum

Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1TF

Monday, June 8th - 9.00am - 3.00pm

Come along and meet people who will offer

Help, Information, and Advice for:

Carers, Young Carers, Ex-Carers,

Older People, the Lonely,

and anyone with a problem

* * * * *

For more information call:

Care for Carers - 0300 777 8880

Or

Email: info@careforcarers.org.uk

www.careforcarers.org.uk

People requiring Norwich Door to Door community transport services,
call 01603 776735, or email bookings@norwichdoortodoor.org.uk
to book transport in advance of the event

Care for Carers- Carers information day on Monday June 8th at the Forum in Norwich

One of our Family Voice Norfolk Ambassadors Kirsty, will be attending this useful event. Please go and have a chat with her and tell her what's working well for you and your family at the moment and whats not working so well. Your voice really does matter to us!

Care for carers information day is back again at the Forum in Norwich, Millenium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1TF on Monday June 8th 9am till 3pm.

Come along and meet people who will offer

Help, information, and advice for:

Carers, Young carers, Ex carers, Older people, the lonely, and anyone with a problem.

For more information call:03007778880

or email: info@careforcarers.org.uk

People requiring Norwich door to door community transport services, call 01603776735 or email bookings@norwichdoortodoor.org.uk to book transport in advance of the day.

[Click here for the Care for Carers website](#)



sfe

IT CAN TAKE UP TO 14 WEEKS TO GET YOUR DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE SUPPORT IN PLACE Here's what to expect:

- Step 1 -** You submit your application and supporting information
- Step 2 -** We review it and ask Capita or Study Tech to contact you to schedule a needs assessment
- Step 3 -** You should book the earliest suitable needs assessment appointment
- Step 4 -** We get a report of your needs assessment and review it
- Step 5 -** We confirm what DSA support you're entitled to

Student Finance England- Are you applying for disabled students' allowance ?

It can take up to 14 weeks to get your disabled students' allowance support in place.

Here's what to expect:

Step 1 - You submit your application and supporting information

Step 2 - We review it and ask Capita or Study Tech to contact you to schedule a needs assessment

Step 3 - You should book the earliest suitable needs assessment appointment

Step 4 - We get a report of your needs assessment and review it

Step 5 - We confirm what DSA support you are entitled to

Find out how to [apply](#):

Find out more about [needs assessments](#):

[Click here to follow Student Finance England on Face Book](#)



RNID Supporting people who are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus



Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) - Step inside the box campaign

Being deaf in a world made for hearing people can feel like being in a box – but a few simple changes can include everyone.

Commuters at St. Pancras International Station were stopped in their tracks during Deaf Awareness Week. We unveiled a striking installation designed to make the invisible communication barriers faced by deaf people and people with hearing loss impossible to ignore.

Inside a large transparent box placed in the heart of one of the UK's busiest transport hubs, famous faces and members of the public were invited to experience what it can feel like when everyday communication suddenly becomes difficult, frustrating, or even impossible.

We created the installation to show how small changes in communication can make a huge difference, and to bring our 'It does matter' campaign to life in a powerful and practical way.

What's the problem?

Our latest research reveals the scale of the challenge, showing that almost a quarter of people would avoid a conversation with someone who is deaf or has hearing loss if they thought it would be too difficult. It also found that almost a third worry about saying or doing the wrong thing, while more than 2 in 5 are concerned they may come across as patronising.

Click [here](#) for more details.

Click here to sign up for practical tips and BSL (British Sign Language) signs



999 BSL Emergency Video Relay
Service for Deaf People

999 BSL Emergency video relay service for deaf people

999 BSL is the name of the UK's first ever Emergency Video Relay Service in British Sign Language (BSL). The service is available to download as a smartphone app (iOS and Android) and access as a web-based platform.

Ofcom approved Sign Language Interactions (SLI) as the sole provider of the service, which enables deaf BSL users in the UK to make calls to emergency authorities such as the police, ambulance, fire and coastguard services via BSL video relay interpreters.

Which emergency services can I contact via 999 BSL?

Police, Ambulance, Fire or Coastguard.

When is the service available?

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

How does the service work?

It is simple. You use [999 BSL app](#) or [Website](#) to make a call to 999, it will go to British Sign

Language (BSL) interpreter first, who will appear on the screen. The BSL interpreter will then call the 999 operator through landline and will relay the conversation.

[Click here for frequently asked questions about the 999 BSL service](#)



Equal Lives - Disability and housing webinar

If you're interested in understanding your housing options and the support available, please do join us for the event.

Who is it for? Anyone who identifies as disabled aged 18+ .

We are also able to support a parent or carer who are not disabled - if the support is to support the person who identifies as disabled.

What we'll cover:

- Local council allocation of social housing
- Medical needs and social housing allocation
- Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)
- Private landlords

Date: Thursday 11th June 2026

Time: 11:00am–12:00pm

Platform: Microsoft Teams

How to book: Please click on the button below to request a link. A link to the Webinar will be provided nearer the date.

If you have any questions please contact us on 01603 491210 or email advice@equallives.org.uk

Warm regards,

The Advice Team at Equal Lives

[Click here to request a link to join the webinar](#)



Free workshop for kinship carers

Dealing with emotional challenges as a kinship carer: Dereham

 **Thursday 11 June, 10am to 1pm**

 **Norfolk, NR20 3TL**



Dealing with emotional challenges as a Kinship carer in Dereham

Community Action Norfolk

Ambassador Way, Greens Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 3TL

11 June 2026, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Our Breaking Point research found nearly 1 in 5 kinship carers feel lonely "often or always". If you're feeling this way, you're not alone. In this interactive workshop, you'll meet other kinship carers like you and learn:

- practical strategies to cope with difficult emotions
- how to recognise when you need a break and find time to look after yourself
- where to get further emotional support

You are invited to stay after the workshop to have a free lunch and connect with the other kinship carers. Please make a note of any dietary requirements in the booking form below.

After the workshop you will receive information and the presentation slides by email, along with a feedback survey.

[Click here to book a place at the Kinship carer event](#)



Mental health resources and webinars from the Charlie Waller trust

The Charlie Waller Trust

Since our creation in 1997, we have become one of the UK's most respected mental health charities, founded by the family of Charlie Waller, who died by suicide in 1997 whilst

suffering from depression.

We provide mental health training and resources with a focus on children and young people. We equip parents, carers, teachers and communities with the best and latest evidence-based strategies. We give them the knowledge and confidence to help young people thrive.

Empowering those who support children and young people is at the heart of our work. We want to ensure that no one feels alone on that journey.

Free mental health resources

We run live webinars for anyone who looks after children and young people – parents, carers, educators – as well as young people themselves and anyone interested in psychology or mental health.

All of our webinars are presented by our mental health trainers, speakers and guest speakers who come from a wide range of professions, including education, psychology, social work, youth work, public health, psychotherapy and nursing. Past topics have included: the teen brain, sleep, supporting a highly sensitive child, and perfectionism.

The webinars explore practical, evidence-based strategies for maintaining positive mental health, whether that's paying attention to our own wellbeing, or how to support those around us.

[Click here to access the mental health resources](#)

[Click here to see the list of webinars](#)

Eating disorder workshops for parents and carers (Fully funded) from the Charlie Waller trust

Eating disorder workshops for parents and carers (fully funded)

Caring for a loved one with an eating disorder can be exhausting, distressing and disorientating. Many carers feel they are drowning, they have tried everything and don't know where to turn next.

The Charlie Waller Trust offers online workshops to parents and carers based on the New Maudsley Approach, which recognises that family/carers are in a unique position to support their loved one to tackle the eating disorder. Unfortunately, they are typically excluded from treatment, with the impact of the eating disorder on the family often overlooked.

These courses have helped so many families to navigate their way through a seemingly impossible task and offer professional techniques for becoming a 'change coach'.

About the workshops

The courses are broken down into five, two-hour online workshops and are full of practical tips, real life scenarios and case studies. The workshops cover:

- Introductions, psychoeducation and empathy
- Cycle of change and motivational language
- Reflecting on caring responses
- Dealing with challenging behaviour
- What to try when things feel stuck
- Coaching your loved one to make their own changes
- Relapse contingency planning

[Click here for more details of the Eating Disorder workshops](#)

[Click here to read more about the Charlie Waller trust](#)



Paloma Health

Paloma Health launches a new monthly webinar series to support and inform families exploring neurodivergence

At Paloma Health, we are passionate about making expert information accessible. We are delighted to announce the launch of our new monthly webinar series - a free initiative designed to support and inform families exploring neurodivergence.

Each 45-minute session is led by our Senior Autism Assessor and is designed to support you with practical insight and a live Q&A.

Upcoming June webinar dates

1st June Monday 12:15 - 1:00pm Understanding and Supporting Emotional Regulation

11th June Thursday 5:00 - 5:45pm ADHD and Other Alternative Explanations to Autism

15th June Monday 12:15 - 1:00pm Introduction to Right to Choose

22 June Monday 12:15 - 1:00pm Understanding and Supporting Emotional Regulation

25th June Thursday 5:00 - 5:45pm ADHD and Other Alternative Explanations to Autism

29th June Monday 10:00 - 10:45 Understanding Masking in Clinical Observations

Please sign up through the link below, if you are unable to make these dates please still click on the link below to be notified when new webinar dates get released.

Click here to sign up to a webinar or to join the mailing list of when new dates are released



High Lodge- Thetford forest- inclusive wheelchair swing survey

We need your help shaping a new inclusive wheelchair swing for our forests. Forestry England is working on a new swing design that can be used without transferring out of a wheelchair - creating a more inclusive, shared play experience for everyone. We're looking for feedback from wheelchair users and those supporting wheelchair users to help shape the design at this early stage.

Click here to complete the short survey about wheelchair swings





Are you ready to help make Watton Norfolk's first Flourishing Town?



If you are part of a group or organisation
that supports, or is interested in
supporting children and young people in
Watton, we would love to meet with you to
share more!

Contact us: info@lovewatton.co.uk





At **Love Watton**, we're passionate about bringing our community together to better support people across Watton and the surrounding areas.

We're excited to share that we are launching a new community project: **Flourishing Watton!**

Inspired by the wider **Flourish movement** and the county-wide shared ambition that **Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can flourish**, this initiative aims to bring together groups and organisations that support, care for, educate, entertain, train or employ young people in our town, or simply have an interest in seeing Watton's young people thrive.

Our ambition is to come together to create the first "Flourishing Town" in Norfolk.

We've secured a small pot of funding to help bring this vision to life, so **if you are part of a group or organisation that supports, or is interested in supporting, children and young people in Watton we would love to meet with you to share more** about the project and explore how you could get involved.

Together, we can help Watton flourish!

Contact us: info@lovewatton.co.uk

Are you ready to help make Watton Norfolk's first flourishing town?

If you are part of a group or organisation that supports, or is interested in supporting children and young people in Watton, we would love to meet with you to share more!

At Love Watton, we are passionate about bringing our community together to better support people across Watton and the surrounding areas.

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Together, we can help Watton flourish !

The Flourish ambition:

We want Norfolk to be a county where all children and young people can flourish.

This ambition has been inspired by the things young people have told us are most important to them:

- Family and friends
- Access to learning
- The opportunity to lead a good life
- Being understood
- Building resilience
- Respect for their individuality
- Feeling safe
- Being healthy

To find out more about Norfolk County Councils Flourish Ambition click [here](#).

Click here to email love Watton to find out more



SENSi

SOCIAL INCLUSION TEEN GROUP

SOCIAL GROUP

A structured group to enhance social skills for teenagers, with a friendly and welcoming approach. Facilitated through games and activities to support social communication skills.

STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES TO:

- MODEL SOCIAL SKILLS
- BUILD CONFIDENCE
- HAVE FUN!

DATE & TIME:
WEDNESDAYS 4-5PM

AGES: 14 - 18 YEARS OLD

SENSI TREATMENT, KETTERINGHAM HALL, CHURCH ROAD, WYMONDHAM, NR18 9RS

£15.00 per session, per person

Can be funded via Short Breaks!

CONTACT: INFO@SENSITREATMENT.COM

Social Inclusion teen group- SENSi

NEW Teen Social Inclusion Group.

We're excited to be launching our new Social Inclusion Teen Group at SenSI.

This structured group is designed for teenagers who may benefit from a little extra support to develop social communication skills, confidence and friendships in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

Sessions include fun, structured activities and games to support:

- Building confidence
- Social interaction skills
- Communication and teamwork
- Developing friendships
- Having fun in a supportive space

Wednesdays 4-5pm

SenSI, Ketteringham Hall, Church Road, Ketteringham, Wymondham NR18 9RS

Ages 14-18

£15 per session

Can be funded via Short Breaks

If you'd like any more information or would like to enquire about a place, please get in touch via [email](#).

For details of other groups and services SENSI offer click here



Healthy, Happy, Safe Day 2026- with Opening Doors

Opening Doors - Making life better for people with learning disabilities.

The countdown is on, make sure you don't miss out

There is just a few weeks before Opening Doors Healthy, Happy, Safe Day on Wednesday 17 June 2026 at The Forum, Norwich.

This is a brilliant FREE day – planned and run by people with learning disabilities for people with learning disabilities. It's a brilliant chance to learn, connect and celebrate together for Learning Disability Week 2026.

Why coming along is a GREAT idea...

It gives you the chance to...

- Meet LOTS of people with learning disabilities – over 500 came last time as well as their families, friends and supporters
- Try and learn new things
- Be part of a positive, inclusive and fun day
- Celebrate Learning Disability Week 2026 at the best event in Norfolk

No need to book – just come along on the day.

[Click here to go to The Opening Doors website](#)

[Click here to see the Opening Doors Facebook page](#)



Norfolk's biggest
Apprenticeships event is back!
All About Apprenticeships

 Tuesday 16th June 2026
 3.30pm–7.00pm
 The Forum, Norwich

Come and talk to employers and training providers from a huge variety of sectors about real apprenticeship opportunities in Norfolk

All about apprenticeships at the Forum Tuesday 16th June

Are you looking for an Apprenticeship?

All About Apprenticeships is Norfolk's biggest Apprenticeships focused free event!

Hosted by Apprenticeships Norfolk, part of Norfolk County Council- All About Apprenticeships brings together local apprenticeship employers and training providers under one roof so that you can hear about real opportunities available to you.

Last year we welcomed over 35 employers and training providers in a huge range of sectors, there is something for everyone.

The event is completely free, so whether you're an individual looking for an apprenticeship, a parent, carer or teacher looking for more information, or you're considering doing an apprenticeship in the future, this is the place to be in the Forum, Norwich on Tuesday 16th June from 3.30pm-7pm.

Come along at any time and be greeted by our friendly and knowledgeable team.

New for 2026: All About Apprenticeships Information Sessions – find out exactly how apprenticeships work, what employers and providers roles are, how much you'll be paid, how to find one, and much more.

New for 2026: Detailed event programme and map outlining each exhibitor.

[Click here to follow the event on Facebook and ask a question](#)

[Click here for more Apprenticeships Norfolk events on their website](#)



The Norfolk Deaf Festival is back at the Forum in June

The Norfolk Deaf Festival is back at the Forum on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th June at The Forum 10am-4pm! It's hard to believe the last festival was in 2023 - 3 years ago! I can't wait to see you all, whether you've been before or are new - everyone is welcome 😊 All the workshops (FREE!) are bookable online due to limited space.

There is just one paid ticketed event for the Friday night for John Smith comedy show.

Why should I come?

Connect. Celebrate. Belong - we welcome all ages, deaf, deafblind and hearing into the festival for a day of deaf culture and community. Be a part of it!

What's on?

Watch: The hilarious John Smith, deaf comedian host the festival.

Dance with DeafRave with deaf DJs, sign-song performers and vibrating vests to feel the beat with bubbles for a full sensory experience

Watch a visual circus performance by a deaf man, a fun and engaging act about his deafness

Learn how sound works with Cambridge Science

See the films that deaf young people have created and been a part of

As well as: circus skills to practise, story time with deaf illustrator Lucy Rogers and a chance to learn to draw a character with her in her bubbly mermaid corner. Toy Like Me will be there with their Bear Ear Clinic, fitting toy hearing aids/BAHA/Cochlear Implants to any teddies who might need them. A butterfly trail to complete, find the name of the butterfly for a chance to win a prize.

AND an Atrium FULL of organisations, services and charities to support deaf people in all sorts of ways and ready to signpost you to any guidance you need.

14 - 25 years old?

Why not sign up for the free Offshoot filming workshop where you will get to film and interview people attending the festival! (10-12.30pm or 1.30-4pm) FRIDAY ONLY

We've also got a brand-new Lounge area with retro and table-top games to play and some crafts to make - the perfect opportunity to meet new and existing friends!

Into drawing? Learn to draw a comic strip with deaf illustrator Lucy Rogers who will guide you through the whole process (for 12+ years old)

Are you a staff member, colleague, family or friend who would like to learn more skills to support deaf or deafblind people? Check out our FREE tasters in The Academy:

- Learn some basic BSL skills
- Learn more about Lip-reading in practise
- Hear about the Challenges of lip-reading
- Join in the Sign-Song Workshop

- Learn more about deafblind awareness

Please check online and book ahead as there are limited spaces available for these free tasters.

[Click here for more details](#)



IMPACT OF SEND REFORMS ON BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITISED DISABLED CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Discussions will cover:

- Do the SEND reforms risk disproportionately affecting Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children and young people?
- Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children and young people have faced inequality within the SEND system what needs to change
- Why it is important to ensure our voices are heard and views considered within the SEND Reforms Proposal.
- How can we collectively address the barriers and challenges for our advocacy, inclusion, representation to protect the futures of our disabled children and young people.



We cannot risk for Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children and young people and families to be further disadvantaged and left further behind. Do join us and attend this important event as our intersectional experiences continue to be overlooked.

**SESSION ONE
WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE 2026 AT 10:15AM TO 12:15PM
TAKING PLACE ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**SESSION TWO
WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE 2026 AT 7:00PM TO 9:00PM
TAKING PLACE ONLINE VIA ZOOM**



You can register a place for this event by registering on this link-> <https://bit.ly/lmt-send-reforms> or scan the QR Code

This event is being delivered in partnership



IF YOU NEED SUPPORT TO REGISTER OR WANT TO GET IN TOUCH YOU CAN EMAIL IM2@INCLUDEMETOO.ORG.UK

A critical conversation on the impact of SEND Reforms on Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children, young people and their families

Include Me TOO with Black SEN Mamas and South Asian SEN mamas have organised an important event for parents and carers from our diverse communities regarding the SEND Reforms on impact on Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children, young people, and their families.

Despite the growing evidence of racial disparity in SEND, particularly as far as being disproportionately impacted by inequality, barriers to support, exclusion, and lack of representation, Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children and young people are STILL being overlooked within conversations around SEND reform.

This is an interactive virtual event, aimed at ensuring the voices from racialised communities are being platformed, in conversations surrounding SEND. We strongly encourage SEND parents/carers, teachers, specialists, and allies to attend.

We aim to explore what can we do collectively to influence better futures for our Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children and young people.

Join us at this event:

The impact of SEND Reforms on Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children, young people, and their families

Discussions will cover:

- Do the SEND reforms risk disproportionately affecting Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children and young people?
- Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children and young people have faced inequality within the SEND system what needs to change
- Why it is important to ensure our voices are heard and views considered within the SEND Reforms Proposal.
- How can we collectively address the barriers and challenges for our advocacy, inclusion, representation to protect the futures of our disabled children and young people.

We cannot risk for Black, Asian and minoritised disabled children and young people and families to be further disadvantaged and left further behind.

Do join us and attend this important event as our intersectional experiences continue to be overlooked.

You can register a place for this event by scanning the QR code above or clicking the green button below.

Taking place on Wednesday 3rd June 2026, place online via Zoom

Morning - 10:15am to 12:15pm

Evening 7:00pm – 9:00pm

[To register a place scan the QR code on the flyer or click here](#)



Rees Foundation- helping Care experienced people thrive

Rees Foundation

We understand the importance of having a lifelong support network. Our aim is to help care leavers thrive.

We offer help and advice to care leavers and are always here to listen. Our projects are available to anyone over 16 who has been in foster care or residential care during their childhoods.

Rees Foundation can make a real difference to care experienced people and we want to celebrate any and all personal and professional achievements, no matter how big or small.

Let's Connect Sessions

Online

Circle of Support

Group for care experienced people of all ages to discuss a range of topics. Each online session focusses on something different.

3rd June – 7pm-8:30pm

LGBTQ+ Group

Meet and connect with other LGBTQ+ care-experienced people in a relaxed, welcoming, and understanding space.

This session is all about creating a safe environment where you can chat openly, share experiences if you'd like to, and feel supported by others who understand your journey.

There's no pressure to speak – you're welcome to join in whatever way feels comfortable for you.

17th June – 7pm-8:30pm

Let's Connect Workshops Online

Money Moves by Money Ready

This workshop is designed to help you build confidence in managing your money, focusing on practical skills you can use in everyday life.

You'll explore ways to budget, manage spending, and make informed financial decisions, helping you feel more in control of your finances.

11th June – 11:30am-1pm

Booking [link](#) for all of the above sessions

[Click here to go to the Rees Foundation website](#)



Norfolk Adult Epilepsy Specialist Nurse Team

The Adult Epilepsy Specialist Nurse (ESN) service supports people with epilepsy. We work with you to co-create a personalised care plan, so you have the advice and guidance to manage your condition and know what to do in an emergency.

What we do

We support people aged 16 and over who have a confirmed diagnosis of epilepsy.

We work closely with hospital neurology departments and GPs to provide joined-up care.

Our support includes:

- Discussing lifestyle, medication, and epilepsy management
- Creating a personalised epilepsy care plan, including seizure types, triggers, risks, safety advice, and first aid
- Providing specialist advice to health and social care teams
- Signposting to services for welfare and accessibility
- Offering support and advice to colleges, universities, and employers

[Click here to find out more about the Adult Epilepsy Specialist Nurse service](#)



WheelPower online 'Get Active' classes

WheelPower's Story;

WheelPower provides opportunities for disabled people to get into sport and lead active lives.

Working towards a better world;

We have been providing opportunities for people with physical impairments to take part in sport for over 75 years. Based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, WheelPower is at the heart of wheelchair sport.

From first-timers to Paralympic medallists, we support and promote participation at all levels. We have seen how playing sport can enrich lives, offering tremendous physical and psychological benefits, whatever your age or ability.

Get active

Our online classes are a great way to keep you active in the comfort of your own home.

Online Adaptive Box-Fit Class with Luiz

Every Monday on Zoom
11am – 12pm

Join WheelPower and Luiz Faye for a FREE Online Adaptive Box-Fit Class from home...

Online Exercise Class with Ella

Every Tuesday on Zoom
11am – 12pm

Join WheelPower and Ella Archer EVERY Tuesday Morning at 11am for a FREE Online Exercise Class...

Online Wheelchair Yoga Class with Nina

22 April 2026
11-12pm

Join WheelPower and Nina EVERY Wednesday at 11am to experience a FREE Online Yoga Class...

[Click here to read more about WheelPowers story](#)

Click here for more details of the WheelPower online gym and fitness sessions



flourish **Norfolk**
County Council

Healthy Living Event for Electively Home-educated Children and Families

Date:
10th July 10am-12pm

Location:
Thetford, Breckland Leisure Centre, IP24 1JD

Stallholders:

- Open Road Norfolk
- Matthew Project
- iCash
- Tech Skills for Life
- Family Voice Norfolk
- Active Norfolk
- NHS Immunisation Services
- And More...

Free Activities on the day:

- Badminton
- Pickleball
- Bouncy castle
- Basketball
- 5-a-side Football
- Tea & Coffee

This is a drop in event. You can also register here to enter our free prize draw!

For more information:
ehe@norfolk.gov.uk
or call 01603 307733.

Healthy living event for Electively Home- Educated children and families

10th of July 10am-12pm

At Breckland Leisure Centre, Thetford, IP24 1JD

Stallholders:

- Open Road Norfolk
- Matthew Project
- iCash
- Tech skills for life
- Family Voice Norfolk
- Active Norfolk
- NHS Immunisation Services
- And more...

Free activities on the day:

- Badminton
- Pickleball
- Bouncy Castle
- Basketball
- 5-a-side football
- Tea and coffee

This is a drop in event, but you can also register to enter into a free prize draw! Scan the QR code above or click on the green button below.

For more information: [email](#) or call 01603 307733.

One of our Family Voice Norfolk Ambassadors Kirsty, will be attending this event. Please go and have a chat with her and tell her what's working well for you and your family at the moment and whats not working so well. Your voice really does matter to us!

[Click here for the link to register](#)



ASSIST

BIG, BIG NEWS AT ASSIST!

INTRODUCING BRAND NEW SERVICE PROVISION AT ASSIST TRUST, NORWICH, STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

The Brand New Assist Enablement Service:

- is running as a **1 year pilot** scheme starting from September 2026!
- will support young people with learning disabilities to become more independent in their own communities.
- will be run by Assist, Norwich, with support from the Norfolk County Council PfAL (Preparing for Adult Life) team.
- will be expanded from year 2 onwards, depending on the success of this pilot scheme and as long as funding allows.



Assist are joining forces with the NCC Preparing for Adult Life (PfAL) team to run a brand new Enablement Scheme for people with learning disabilities aged between 18 and 25 (please note – all referrals for this scheme are currently coming through the PfAL team).

By carrying out our own fundraising appeal to support this fantastic new innovation, Assist hopes to reach out to many young people in the region who just need some extra, focussed support in their lives to become more confident and more independent.

SUPPORT WILL BE OFFERED IN 5 KEY AREAS:

- Looking after myself
- Looking after my home
- Managing friendships and relationships
- Getting around my community
- Work, volunteering and learning

This year's Assist Enablement Scheme is likely to be heavily oversubscribed, but please do get in touch if you know someone who you think could be considered for future opportunities.

We are considering individuals who have some potential to become more independent in the areas described, that live within a **15 mile radius of Norwich** and who have a very positive and supportive network of support around them.

Assist- Brand new enablement service starting in September 2026

Big, Big news at Assist!

Introducing a brand new service provision at Assist Trust Norwich- starting from Septemebr 2026.

The brand new Assist Enablement Service:

- Is running as a **1 year pilot** scheme starting from September 2026
- Will support young people with learning disabilities to become more independent in their own communities
- Will be run by Assist, Norwich with support from Norfolk County Council PfAL (Preparing for Adult Life) Team.

- Will be expanded from year two onwards, depending on the success of this pilot scheme and as long as funding allows.

Assist has agreed to work with the Norfolk County Council Preparing for Adult Life (PfAL) team to arrange referrals to the Enablement Scheme for this pilot year. Please get in touch if you do not have a PfAL worker to discuss this with.

By carrying out our own fundraising appeal to support this fantastic new innovation, Assist hopes to reach out to many young people in the region who just need some extra focused support in their lives to become more confident and more independent.

Support will be offered in five key areas:

- 1). Taking care of myself
- 2). Making friends and getting on with others
- 3). Taking care of my home
- 4). Getting around my community
- 5). Work, volunteering and learning

This years Assist Enablement scheme is likely to be heavily over subscribed, but please do get in touch if you know someone who you think could be considered for future opportunities.

We are considering individuals who have some potential to become more independent in the areas described, that live within a **15 mile radius of Norwich** and who have a very positive and supportive network of support around them.

The deadline for referrals for the September 2026 Assist Enablement Scheme is 5pm 30th June 2026.

For more details of the Assist enablement scheme pilot click [here](#)



ASSIST presents

ASSIST



Saturday 13th June 12pm-5pm

FEST

Family Friendly Festival

Including...

- Live music from The Foreign Locals and Dumbfoundus
- Dance performances with No Limits Norfolk
- Music, Dance and Circus skills workshops
- Pizzas and Barbeque
- Raffle and Tombola
- Face Painting
- Games

NO LIMITS

THE OAK CIRCUS CENTRE



SCAN FOR MORE ASSIST FEST INFO!

At Heath Gardens, Hill Farm Allotments, Sprowston Road, Norwich, NR3 4HY

Parking available, with kind permission, at St. Georges Church, Sprowston Road, NR3 4HZ

Assist Fest Family Friendly festival Saturday 13th June 12-5pm

Assist presents

Assist Fest

Saturday June 13th 12pm-5pm

Family Friendly Festival

Including...

Live music from the Foreign Locals and Dumbfoundus

Dance performances with No Limits Norfolk

Music, Dance and Circus skills workshops

Pizzas and Barbeque

Raffle and Tombola

Face painting

Games

Scan the QR code above or click the green button below for more details of Assist Fest.

At Heath Gardens, Hill farm allotments, Sprowston Road, Norwich NR3 4HY

Parking available, with kind permission, at St Georges Church, Sprowston Road, NR3 4HZ

[Click here for more details of Assist Fest](#)



Institute of Education 



Do you work in a mainstream school in England?

Does your school have a sensory room or multi-sensory space?

Are you involved in decisions about sensory provision in your school?

You are invited to participate in this important research

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>What is the research about?</p> <p>This study explores how multi-sensory environments, commonly known as sensory rooms are being used in mainstream schools in England. We are looking at understanding how these spaces are used in practice in schools (who accesses them, resources and training).</p> | <p>HOW TO GET INVOLVED!!</p> <p><u>Click the link below to fill out our 15 minute survey!</u></p> <p>https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/qcZUVKpwHu</p> <p><u>Or scan the QR code below with your camera app!</u></p> |
| <p>Why should you take part?</p> <p>There is currently limited research on how sensory rooms are used in mainstream schools. Your responses will help build a clearer picture of their benefits and barriers, and may support future practice and funding in this area.</p> | <p>Questions? Want more information?</p> <p>Please contact Elaine D'Amato at:</p> <p>elaine.d'amato.25@ucl.ac.uk</p>  <p><i>Scan me!</i></p> |

Do you work in a mainstream school in England? Does your school have a sensory room? You are invited to take part in this important research

Do you work in a mainsream school in England? Does your school have a sensory room or multi sensory space? Are you involved in decisions about sensory provision in your school?

You are invited to participate in this important research.

What is the research about?

This study explores how multi- sensory environments, commonly known as **sensory rooms** are being used in mainstream schools in England. We are looking at understanding how these spaces are used in practice in schools (who accesses them, resources and training.)

Why you should take part?

There is currently limited research on how sensory rooms are used in mainstream schools. Your responses will help build a clearer picture of their benefits and barriers, and may support future practice and funding in this area.

How to get involved!!

Scan the QR code above or click the green button below for the link.

Questions? Want more information?

Please [email](#) Elaine D'Amato.

Click here to complete the short survey about Sensory rooms in schools



Norfolk and Waveney

**Children and Young
People's Services**



**East of England
Community Health and Care**
NHS Trust

Are you a parent/carer of a child aged 0-16? Join the conversation



We want to help children and young people in Norfolk and Waveney get the right support, at the right time.

As part of this, we are creating a new digital Early Needs and Support Mapping tool to help understand children's needs early and make sure they get the right support quickly, before things become more difficult.

We want to design it with you.

Join our parent/carer focus groups

We are inviting you to take part both online and in person.

Online sessions:

- 15 June 2026 - 7pm-8pm
- 16 June 2026 - 10am-11am
- 18 June 2026 - 1.30pm-2.30pm

In person sessions:

- 1 July 2026 - 1pm- 2.30pm at the Acle
- 8 July 2026 - 1.30pm-2.30pm in King's Lynn

Your voice matters. By sharing your experiences and ideas you will help us create a tool that is helpful, safe and easy for families to use.

Get involved

Please contact our Co-production team: eec.co-production@nhs.net

You will be offered payment for your time in line with our rewards and recognition policy.

NHS Norfolk and Waveney Children and Young Peoples health services want parent carers of children aged between 0-16 to join the conversation.

Are you a parent/carer of a child aged 0-16?

Join the conversation.

We want to help children and young people in Norfolk and Waveney get the right support at the right time.

As part of this, we are creating a new digital Early Needs and Support Mapping tool to help understand children's needs early and make sure they get the right support quickly, before things become more difficult.

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You will be offered payment for your time in line with our rewards and recognition policy.

[For more details and to register click here](#)





North Locality Group

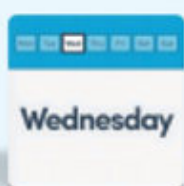


Come and tell us what you think

When: Wednesday 10th June 2026

Time: 1:30pm to 3.00pm

Where: About With Friends, 22D Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9JW



At this meeting, we will be joined by Norfolk County Council Staff to continue their work on **employment, learning and activities.**



Start thinking:

1. What do you like about your support people?
2. What new skills have you learned and who helped you?
3. What activities do you enjoy most and why?



For more information email
contact@norfolklpartnership.org.uk

North Locality Group Meeting – Rescheduled Date

Due to low attendance, we have made the decision to reschedule the North Locality Group meeting. We apologise to those who attended and found that the meeting had been cancelled, and we would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding.

The new date for the North Locality Group meeting is Wednesday 10th June from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held at About With Friends, 22D Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9JW

At this meeting, we will be joined by Norfolk County Council Staff to continue their work on employment, learning and activities. To help prepare for the discussion, please think about the following questions:

- What do you like about your support people?
- What new skills have you learned and who helped you?
- What activities do you enjoy most and why?

For more information contact the Norfolk Learning Disability Partnership via [email](#).

[Click here to go to the Norfolk Learning Disability Partnership website](#)



Realising Potential Ambassadors- with the Community Sports Foundation

Mixed Age 16+

At Carrow Park, [Community Sports Foundation](#), Kerrison Road, Norwich, UK

Get active and develop personal skills with our Realising Potential programme for people with physical and learning disabilities.

Aimed at children and adults with either physical or learning disabilities, the programme includes:

- Advice and one-to-one support
- Multi-sports, dance and other active sessions
- Additional educational support
- CV writing, interview techniques, and employability workshops
- AQA certificate of achievement
- Volunteering & employment opportunities
- Progression routes to other Foundation programmes

The programme lasts 10-weeks/12-weeks with one session per week.

Realising Potential is proudly sponsored by WSG Energy Service

Dates:

Jun 2026 4, 11, 18, 25

Jul 2026 2, 9, 16

More dates will be added to the website shortly.

[Click here to book a place and find out more](#)





Making Positive Moves

Toolkit Launch Event



The new Making Positive Moves toolkit has been designed to support people with learning disabilities to live well in their own home.

Join us online on Teams to find out more!

Wednesday 1st July
2:30pm - 3:30pm

This event is for:

- People with learning disabilities who have moved out of hospital and into their own home,
- People who support people with learning disabilities
- Anyone who wants to find out more about our toolkit!

Scan QR code, click the link below or email us to register for the event



<https://forms.office.com/e/jRNmqCs7mM>

Contact us on:
hpft.makingpositivemoves@nhs.net

FUNDED BY
NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Making Positive Moves- toolkit launch event- designed to support people with learning disabilities to live well in their own home

The new Making Positive Moves toolkit has been designed to support people with learning disabilities live well in their own home.

Join us online on Teams to find out more !

On Wednesday 1st of July

2:30pm-3:30pm

This event is for:

People with learning disabilities who have moved out of hospital and into their own home.

People who support people with learning disabilities.

Anyone who wants to find out more about our toolkit!

Scan the QR code above or click the green button below to register for the event.

For any queries click here to [email](#) NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research.)

To register for the Making Positive Moves toolkit launch click here





Field of Joy




SMALL GROUP VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

STARTING TUESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 9:30 TO 11 AM
AT FIELD OF JOY - REEPHAM

SLOW, GENTLE, OUTDOOR SESSIONS
FRIENDLY FACES, REFRESHMENTS & RELAXED ATMOSPHERE
GARDENING, CONSERVATION & GROWING FOOD
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED



WHO IT'S FOR:
PEOPLE NEW TO VOLUNTEERING
PEOPLE FACING BARRIERS TO VOLUNTEERING
16 YEARS AND ABOVE WELCOME



BOOK: WWW.FIELDDOFJOY.ORG/BOOKINGS
FIELDDOFJOYNORFOLK@GMAIL.COM

Funded by Acres of Care National Lottery
Community Fund



Field of Joy- Small group volunteer sessions

Small group volunteer sessions starting on Tuesdays 9:30- to 11am

At the Field of Joy in Reepham.

Slow, Gentle, outdoor sessions

Friendly Faces,

Refreshments and relaxed atmosphere

Gardening, conservation and growing food

No experience needed

Who it's for:

People new to volunteering

People facing barriers to volunteering

16 years and above welcome

Click [here](#) to book.

Click [here](#) to email Field of Joy.

[Click here to find out more about the Field of Joy](#)



Newly enhanced BA (Hons) Additional Needs and Disabilities (Children and Young People) degree at City College Norwich, launching in September 2026

The newly enhanced BA (Hons) Additional Needs and Disabilities (Children and Young People) degree at City College Norwich, launching in September 2026.

Following a full course redesign, the programme has been developed to be even more relevant and applicable for professionals currently working with children, young people, and adults with additional needs and disabilities across education, care, health, and support settings.

The course has a strong focus on real-world practice and contemporary issues, with new and updated units including:

- Working with Families
- Identifying and Understanding Additional Needs
- Person-Centred Care
- Media and Representation
- Transitions and Promoting Independence
- Enabling Environments
- Safeguarding and Multi-Agency Working

The degree is designed to support practitioners in developing deeper knowledge, confidence, and professional skills that can be directly applied within their roles and organisations. Many of our students are already working within schools, SEND settings, colleges, support services, and community provision, allowing them to immediately connect theory to practice.

The programme is delivered over two days per week, making it accessible for working professionals, and students benefit from smaller class sizes and a highly supportive learning environment. The days remain the same for the whole course which further supports working alongside the degree.

Course fees for UK students are currently £9,535 per year, and eligible students may be able to access Student Finance England support, including Tuition Fee Loans and Maintenance Loans. In many cases, tuition fees are paid directly to the university through student finance, helping to make higher education more accessible and affordable.

[Click here for further information about the BA \(Hons\) Additional Needs and Disabilities \(Children and Young people Degree\)](#)



Transport for disabled children and young people survey

For many disabled children and young people, getting to school, medical appointments, social activities, or simply seeing friends isn't straightforward. Unreliable or inaccessible

transport can mean missed opportunities, isolation, and added stress for the whole family.

That's what we're trying to change - and we need your help to do it.

The Community Transport Association (CTA) is conducting nationwide research to understand the real transport challenges facing disabled children and young people (up to age 25). But research is only as powerful as the voices behind it. The experiences of disabled children, young people, and the families who support them are at the heart of this research.

Further details of the project can be found [here](#).

We need to hear from:

Parents and carers of disabled children and young people (up to age 25)

Disabled young people aged 16–25 with their own lived experience of transport

The findings will lead to real, tangible change. CTA will use what they learn to develop practical guidance and training for community transport providers across the UK, so that services actually work for disabled children and their families, not just around them. Dedicated local solutions are also being developed in eight areas across the UK, making responses from your area especially powerful.

This is a real opportunity to make sure the voices of families in your community shape the systems that affect their daily lives.

Taking part is simple:

It takes around 10 minutes to complete

Deadline: 5pm, 30 June 2026

Participants can enter a prize draw to receive one of three £250 vouchers.

If you need alternative formats or additional materials, or have any questions at all, please get in [touch](#).

Click here to access the Transport for disabled children and young people survey





SENDIASS Spotlight e-newsletter for May

SENDIASS update

We hope this newsletter finds you all enjoying the recent burst of sunshine – it's been so lovely to finally have some brighter, warmer days! As we are now in the May half term, we want to take a moment to wish everyone a joyful break before welcoming in the Summer Term.

We wanted to let you know that we've released over 350 additional appointments across three weeks in June. This is to give you the opportunity to bring existing appointments forward where possible, as well as offering earlier slots for those looking to book for information, advice and support.

To make this possible, we will be temporarily reducing the number of one-off and longer-term casework we are able to do during this period. However, our regular library drop-ins will continue to take place across the county, providing another way to access our 'front door' offer. We hope these extra appointments help us to offer more timely support where it's needed most.

We've recently spent quite a bit of time reviewing, updating and adding to the resources on our website, with the aim of making sure the information is as clear, helpful and up to date as possible. A lot of care has gone into building these pages so that they're genuinely useful for both families and professionals. If you get a chance, we'd really encourage you to have a look through - there's a wide range of guidance and information that may help answer questions you have now, or in the future.

We'd also encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Over recent months, we've put a real focus on developing our social media pages so they're not just updates, but a genuinely helpful space for families and professionals. We regularly share practical tips, useful advice, key information and important updates that may support you and your family day to day. We hope these channels offer another easy way to stay informed, feel supported, and access helpful guidance when you need it.

We know that family life can be busy and that plans sometimes change. If you find that you no longer need a scheduled appointment, we'd really appreciate it if you could let us know as soon as possible. At the moment, we have a high demand for our service and there are wait

times for appointments. We've had several occasions where appointments have been missed or cancelled at the last minute, which means we're not able to offer that time to another family who may be waiting for support. Wherever you can, please try to give at least 24 hours' notice if you need to cancel or rearrange. This small step helps us reuse appointments and make sure support is available to as many families as possible. We completely understand that unexpected things do happen, and we're grateful for your help and understanding in working with us to support everyone who needs our service.

Thank you, as always, for your continued engagement and support.

Niamh Keane, SENDIASS Manager

To read the May edition of the SENDIASS Spotlight click [here](#)



An easy way to share our newsletter

If you would like to share our newsletter with friends, colleagues or other parent carers or professionals click [here](#) for a PDF version.



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 Larking Gowen, 1st Floor Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE
- Or message us via:
- Or if you are a family member you can join our Family Voice Members Chat

 www.familyvoice.org.uk

Room on Facebook [here](#)

 [FamilyVoiceNorfolk](#)

Family Voice Norfolk, C/O Larking Gowen, 1st Floor Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1
1RE

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