

SEND

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
all different – all together



SEND Newsletter

SEND Friendly St Helens

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the first edition of our SEND Newsletter!

Our aim is for St Helens to be a place where people can thrive and experience a number of wonderful opportunities. This is especially true for our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who have the right to be supported at home and in their local communities, to have opportunities to make and meet friends, feel confident, and to thrive with a good family life.

One of the ways we can do this is through a Short Break. Short Breaks provide opportunities for SEND children and young people to have fun, develop independence, learn new skills, meet friends and make a positive contribution to their community life. Short Breaks may take place in the community, at home, at a residential setting or in the home of an approved carer.

In St Helens we have been undertaking a review of our Short Break offer, we have spoken to many families and wanted to share our findings with you and test out that we are on the right path! However, as part of the review we know we haven't reached as many families as we would like.

Our vision is to have a Short Break offer that provides development and goals; for example we could offer sports activities throughout the year that culminates in a SEND Games. We could have dance, drama, singing clubs that resulted in a Christmas show. Gardening, then cooking or baking what we grow resulting in a Summer FoodFest...

We have already developed a number of new things; Parkball, SEND football, support at junior parkrun, holiday activities. We will soon have Sibling Saturday at the new library and online booking for swimming. We have also been talking with Church Square to ensure SEND friendly Father Christmas (and lots of other things!) We have a St Helens SEND Facebook page and an online calendar on St Helens Local Offer that has a number of activities listed for families. We are also working with Liverpool City Region to make this part of a wider offer – so it doesn't matter where you live there will be a clear offer across the region for all families. Unfortunately, some of these things have been put on hold due to the Coronavirus outbreak but please do keep an eye out on our Facebook page for further announcements.

We have had great feedback on what we have done so far but what we need to know from children and families is whether this sounds right? What time is best for activities? Have we got the right ideas? What is going to help most? For overnight breaks what would be most helpful? So please fill in the survey (on the 2nd page) and share your ideas as we will use these as part of the discussions with our providers.

Lockdown Activity Calendar

Our Lockdown Activity Calendar has been shared with you! You can find this on the SEND local offer website and Facebook page. This calendar has lots of fun, virtual events that you can do from your living room!

Here is the link to the lockdown activity calendar on the SEND local offer website where you can also find useful resources and guidance during Covid-19—<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/send/information-for-parents-covid-19/>

You can also join our group on Facebook to keep in touch— <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SthSEND/>

If you know of any activities or events that you would like to be included in our next calendar please let us know on the contact details below:

Lucy Parker
lucyparker@sthelens.gov.uk
01744 671810

Hannah Sweeney
Hannah.sweeney@sthelensccg.nhs.uk

SEND Short Break Survey

‘Have your say’

We want to hear from you on the SEND Short Breaks Service and how we could make improvements for the future.

The survey is available online here:

Parent/carer survey—<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M89WZSB>

Child survey—<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCZ2RTD>

Please complete the survey by Friday 12th June 2020.

If you have any questions or queries then please get in touch on the contact details below:

Hannah.sweeney@sthelensccg.nhs.uk

lucyparker@sthelens.gov.uk

01744 671810

Park Ball

Our first Park Ball event took place at the beginning of January!

Park Ball takes place the first Sunday of each month straight after Junior Park Run at Victoria Park, City Road, St Helens, WA10 2UE.

At the moment Park Ball has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak, however, keep an eye out on our Facebook Page for when we will be starting this wonderful activity again!

Please do let us know if you have any suggestions for how we can improve.



PilksFCTV
@PilksFCTV

Follow

Great session this morning, took our 5 Yr old daughter she's hooked now on football. Thanks to the @Pilkingtonfc coaches for making her feel really welcome. #pilksfamily #upthepilks twitter.com/MissHeatonMB/s...



3:12 am - 2 Feb 2020

Park Ball

Football in the park!

First Sunday of every month

Victoria Park, City Road, St Helens, WA10 2UE

9am-Adult session

9:30am-Children & adult session

All abilities and ages welcome!

Come along and give it a go

Mums and sons, lads and dad, grandparents,
girls, girls, girls...

Football coach from Pilkington FC will be running this wonderful session!



Listen 4 Change

Hi St. Helens parent carers,

Although we cannot run in our usual way I want to let you know that Listen 4 Change (St. Helens Parent Carer Forum) is still here for you. Our forum meetings and coffee mornings are on hold and will return once it is safe to do so.

In the meantime we are still talking to Service Leads across Health, Education and Social Care and feeding back on issues and themes. Please take a look at our new website [www.listen4change.org] www.listen4change.org where you can see local service updates and information which we hope is useful to you as parent carers. You can also contact me via the website or at saradolan@sthelenscarers.org.uk.

Take Care and Stay Safe

Sara Dolan and the Listen 4 Change Steering Group

Youth Service

Why not visit our Youth Service website for things to do while at home:

<https://yaz.sthelens.gov.uk/main-sections/the-youth-service/resources-for-while-your-at-home/>

Follow on Facebook for more fun activities and challenges—<http://facebook.com/yazsthelens>

Caleidoscope—Covid-19 Support for Families

Caleidoscope have a lockdown support scheme running. Some of their offer includes:

- Zoom sessions for parents on autism related topics
- Weekly Challenges on Art & LEGO with fantastic prizes
- Ideas for fun activities for children
- Sensory kits for the most needy families
- Support with educational materials during school closure
- Free 1:1 individual advice and guidance

Check out their website and see how they can help you:

https://caleidoscope.org.uk/covid-19-support-for-families.html?fbclid=IwAR13rJxC0-xwfi45wPN2HZegap3tACL1qzSb4cLT_zYs5YkPrISpf3xeTX4

BBC Bitesize

BBC Bitesize are now adding three new lessons to their website every week! There is also a SEND friendly section also!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize?fbclid=IwAR0cwtOdZXxgifu7YJF1F1yYZ1PzTBDVWOiZYymqr1Zgd5O2v3I-Tliiwgc>

St Helens Children's Centres

Children's Centre activities

St Helens Children's Centres would like to keep engaged with our children and families during this challenging period so will be posting daily activities via our [Facebook page](#). These activities will include crafts, stories and musical sessions.

At 4.30pm each day, we will post a list of any resources you may need for the following days session. The sessions will be posted at 1.00pm and we would like to hear feedback and receive any photographs via messenger which we will post on our pages.

Tuesday's session will be Milk carton Elmer
Resources needed; milk carton, scissors, glue, tissue or paper



Youth Voice

Big Chat Young People's Group—
A group bringing change to the lives of young people with SEND in St Helens.



We work together by:

- Working as a team
- Having fun
- Listening
- Being kind
- Showing respect
- Supporting people's feelings
- Working with an adult who we have a good relationship with to help us to have a say, be involved and be understood

The Big Chat Young People's Group are meeting online on Tuesdays at 4:30pm. If you would like to join us and have your say, contact

elizabethbarrjones@sthelens.gov.uk

A logo for Youth Focus NW with the tagline 'Improving the lives of young people'.
A graphic showing silhouettes of diverse people in various colors (yellow, orange, pink, blue, green). One person is in a wheelchair, another is using a megaphone, and another is using a sign.
SPEAK UP
YOUTHFORIA GOES DIGITAL
SEND GROUP
EVERY WEDNESDAY
ACTIVITY @4P.M. CHAT @4:30
Use Zoom to join the meeting if you let us me know you are coming by email z.ross@youthfocusnw.org.uk

LASC Challenge

The St Helens LASC team would like to invite any children and families living or learning in St Helens to enter a brand new competition.

Every Monday, for as long as children are learning at home during the coronavirus pandemic, the team are going to set a challenge. We want to encourage everyone to be creative and go outside.

18th May 2020 - Create a model of a vegetable or fruit growing in your garden and take a photo of it outside next to the 'real' thing.

First, use anything you want to make the model. Construction toys, plastic bricks, cardboard and sticky-backed plastic – just make it colourful and imaginative. When you've made your model, go outside and take a photograph near a real plant. Post your picture on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) with the hashtag #sthelenschallenge and see if you can be one of the lucky winners selected each week to receive a small prize related to the topic.



The winning picture will be posted on a Friday and you will be contacted by one of the team directly and privately so that you can give us your address for delivery – observing social distancing, of course.

Make and take your creations outside and show us what you can do!

[Updated Every Monday see The LASC Competition on the Send Local Offer](#)