



Summer Newsletter

July 2025 Edition



Welcome to Summer edition of our newsletter!

As the Summer holidays draw near, we welcome you to our Summer Newsletter. This edition is filled with exciting updates, events, and information. Whether you're looking for fun activities for the holidays, top tips for transition or simply want to stay informed, we've got you covered.

Staffing

We are delighted to announce that Edurne joins the service as information and advice officer and Julie on an occasional basis as a marketing and communications officer. They both bring skills, knowledge and experience which will strengthen the service and we look forward to working with them.

Volunteers update & message from our volunteer coordinator, Jane.

Our dedicated volunteers have been busy supporting our work both in the community and from our Keynsham offices. You may have spotted some of them out and about across B&NES — at stay-and-play groups, coffee mornings, libraries — or perhaps heard a friendly voice on the phone gathering feedback if you've used our service.

To each and every volunteer: a heartfelt thank you for the time, energy, and compassion you bring to SENDIAS Bathnes.

We're thrilled to welcome some new faces to the team—Bex, Kat and Hannah, new Parent Champions, and Marcus, who will be stepping into the role of Independent Chair of the Advisory Group. Our thanks go to Olivia, Julie, and Jackie as they move on to pursue paid employment or other interests. Thank you for everything — you will be missed!

We hope to see families at upcoming events this summer, such as the Keynsham Mencap Sports Day and the BAPP holiday schemes. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages to find out where we'll be — we'd love to say hello and have a chat.

Round up of news from the service

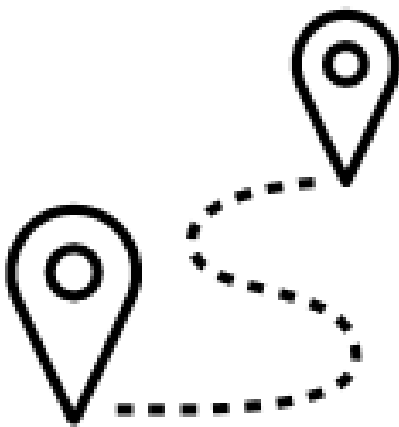
Many parents find providing their views and their child's views during education health and care plan assessments daunting. They also find looking at a draft plan overwhelming. Our Advisory Group is exploring ways to better support families through this process. We plan to have an information session on this subject next academic year.

Earlier this term, we held a session on what to do if an education health care assessment request is refused. Parents and carers gave positive feedback and found it helpful and were able to move forward with confidence. We will run this session again in the next academic year.

It was lovely to work with the library service to host some inclusive reading groups for pre-school children with SEND and their parents and carers. Look out for details about further sessions in the autumn.

New phone system

Just a heads up—our phones are switching to a new provider soon! You might notice a few hiccups here and there while we get everything set up, but this change should make it easier and quicker for you to reach us. If you hear an automated voicemail, don't worry — our team's still here and ready to help with any questions.



Transitions

Transitions can be an exciting time but also a difficult time to manage. Below, we have shared links to resources aimed at helping you to support your child or young person with change.

Nursery to primary:

Coram Pacey
[Starting School](#)

Primary to secondary:

Sendias Bathnes
[Moving Up to Secondary](#)

Top Tips:

Anna Freud
[Supporting children's transition to secondary school: guidance for parents and carers](#)

Young Minds
[Transition tips for parents and Find Your Feet: Parent webinar](#)

All Ages

Contact
[Top tips to help when your child changes schools](#)

Travel

This time of year, often brings many questions about transport. IPSEA (Independent Providers of Special Education Advice) offer helpful resources and web pages on [travel](#).



Free Bus travel in Holidays

From Saturday 19 July to Friday 5 September, all under-16s can ride most regional buses for free without advance arrangements. No adult fare is required, so teenagers can travel with their friends at no cost.

[Kids Go Free](#)

Diamond Travelcard

Since April 2025, your disabled bus pass can be used at any time, any day, throughout Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset. Find out more about this [travelcard](#)

Need information quickly?

Quick Information

Do you need information from us but don't have much time? Maybe you have a meeting coming up with school or don't have long to respond to an email you have received? Try our new form – we've set it up to cover a variety of topics including:

- Support schools should put in place for students with SEND
 - Reasonable adjustments
 - A refusal to carry out an assessment for an EHCP
 - Information on how to check a draft EHC plan
 - Information about annual reviews
 - [Click here](#) for the full list of topics covered and to request information
-



Telephone Appointments

Book a free 30-minute phone consultation for personalised advice and support from a trained Sendias practitioner. If you have a child with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), we can help you to understand the law, know more about your rights and help with paperwork, forms, understanding procedures and signpost you to services.

Sessions are available on different days throughout the week.

If a daytime session does not suit you, we offer regular evening surgeries.

These are advertised on our [events page](#) and on Facebook and Instagram.



Holiday Activities:

Here are mostly free activities your children may enjoy during the summer holidays.

SEND Specific Activities:

- **Holiday Playschemes:**
BAPP (Bath Area Play Project) coordinates holiday playschemes, during school holidays & playdays. Bookings are now open.
- **Inclusive Activities:**
Live Well B&NES lists various inclusive activities like trampolining, gymnastics, and clubs for young people with SEND.
- **Activate:**
The Activate HAF Holiday Activities and Food programme offers free activities and meals for eligible families.

General Summer Activities:

- **Outdoor Fun:** Royal Victoria Park has plenty of space for outdoor activities and you can find many more green spaces and parks.
- **Museums:** Entry to The Roman Baths & Victoria art Gallery is free with a Residents' Discovery Card. Many museums offer family-friendly activities and free themed crafting activities throughout the summer.
- **Libraries:** B&NES libraries have a wide range of books for all ages. Libraries also offer Story Sacks and Bag Books for younger children and those with SEND together with bookable sensory rooms. Find out more about services and events through their website.
- **Youth Connect South West:** Offer summer activities including music, games, sports, and other activities. A full programme is on their website.



Opening Times over the Summer Holidays

We have a reduced service but we are still open over the summer if you would like to speak with an Advisor. There are also lots of resources on our website to help answer any questions you might have.

Please contact us in the following ways:

Via our website: : sendiasbathnes.org.uk/getintouch

Call us: 01225 394382

Email us: sendias@bathnes.gov.uk

Text us: 07530263401

Stay connected with us on social media for the latest updates and upcoming events.

We hope you have enjoyed our Summer Newsletter and thank you for your support throughout the year. Wishing you a wonderful summer from everyone at the Sendias Bathnes team!



sendiasbathnes.org.uk