



# Spring Bulletin

## 2026 Edition



### Welcome back after February half-term!

#### Information, Support and Opportunities for Families and Carers

We hope you had a restful February half-term and are feeling ready for the second half of the term. As always, we are here to help, by sharing clear, impartial information and opportunities for advice and support.

This period is often a busy time for families as thoughts turn to transitions for the next academic year. If your child or young person has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), and is due to move from one phase of education to another later this year in September, you may be waiting for a final amended plan to be issued. If you have applied for a school place through the general admissions process, you may have the offer date(s) in your diary and be waiting for notification.

In this bulletin we have put together a quick overview of dates and key information which we hope will be useful.

### Wait times might be a little longer...

Please bear with us. We are short staffed, so replies may take a little longer than usual. Your enquiry matters to us, and we will respond as soon as we can. We reply in the order we receive messages and prioritise any with time-sensitive legal deadlines. It really helps if you use just one way to contact us and avoid sending the same information through different channels. Thank you for your patience.

All our events are free. To book your place follow the links provided or visit the 'Events Page' of our website: [sendiasbathnes.org.uk/events](https://sendiasbathnes.org.uk/events)

### Our Events

Below is an overview of what's coming up and how you can access support.

#### New – Understanding an EHCP and how to check through it.

We receive lots of enquiries about how to understand an Education Health and Care Plan and how to check through a draft plan. We are pleased to introduce a new information session, aimed at helping you with this. A daytime and an evening session are available to book.

**25th February 6.00–7.15pm**

**3rd March 11.30–12.45**

#### Understanding and checking an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) Information Session

Online

**25th February, 4, 11, 18, 25 March, 1 April 10.00am–12.00pm**

#### SEND Surgery at Keynsham Library

In-person, online, by telephone

**17th March, 6.00–8.00pm**

#### SEND Surgery at Midsomer Norton Library

In-person

**11th March, 6.00pm–8.00pm**

#### Evening 'SEND Surgery'

Telephone appointments



**SEND  
OUT!**

## Events for Children & Young People

17th March, 5.30pm–7.00pm

### SEND Out – young people participation group

Online

An opportunity for young people (aged 12– 25) to have their voices heard and get involved.

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### Where We Will Be:

24th February, 5th March 9.30–11.30am

### Keynsham & District Mencap Early Years Play & Shine Group

Queen's Road Methodist Church, Keynsham

26th February, 10.00–1.00pm

### Bath College Apprenticeship & Careers Event

Apex Hotel, Bath

26th February, 6.00–8.00pm

### Somer Valley Area Forum

(February's topic is Children & Young People)

Online

4th March, 9.00–10.00am

### SASS Coffee Morning

Fosse Way Cafe

5th March, 10.00–11.00am

### Step By Step

Online

Date TBC

### Butterflies Haven, Young Voice Groups

St Francis Church, Keynsham

24th March, 10.00–11.00am

### Banes Parent Carer Forum Cafe

Bath City Farm



Jane, our Volunteer Co-ordinator will also be at the Volunteer Fair at Guildhall in Bath on 23 February, 11am to 1pm. Pop along for a chat and to find out about our volunteering opportunities.

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### Key dates relating to transition and school places

For children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), moving into or between key phases of education, the local authority (LA) must meet specific deadlines. This is to ensure placements are confirmed and appeals resolved before September. A child or young person's EHCP must be reviewed and amended when they are moving between education stages. An annual review is typically held in the autumn ahead of the transfer, with the deadlines for amending and issuing the plan being as follows:

#### Key EHCP Transition Deadlines (Year of Transfer)

The final amended EHCP must be issued by:

- **15 February:** Deadline for Phase Transfer to Nursery, Infant, Primary, Junior, Middle, or Secondary school.
- **31 March:** Deadline for Phase Transfer to Post-16 institution (further education colleges, sixth form).
- **5 Months Before Transfer:** For mid-year transfers between post-16 institutions.

To find out more about this: [ipsea.org.uk](https://ipsea.org.uk)

## General Admissions

If you have applied for a secondary school place for a start date in September 2026, the LA will make an offer of a place to those resident in the local authority area on 2 March 2026.

If you have applied for a primary school place for a start date in September 2026, the LA will make an offer of a place to those resident in the local authority area on 16 April 2026.

For further information:

[bathnes.gov.uk](http://bathnes.gov.uk)

For primary:

[bathnes.gov.uk](http://bathnes.gov.uk)

## Further Information, Advice and Support

If you do not receive a final amended plan by the expected date or do not agree with the school offer made and would like to know about what your options are, including rights or appeal, please get in touch.



### Theme of the Month:

## Our theme for February is Appeals and Mediation

Check our social media channels for updates.

Below are helpful resource links:

**Pages on our website have lots of information and links to resources.**

[sendiasbathnes.org.uk](http://sendiasbathnes.org.uk)

### IPSEA

Has published information on preparing for mediation.

[ipsea.org.uk](http://ipsea.org.uk)

and on appeals to the SEND Tribunal:

[ipsea.org.uk](http://ipsea.org.uk)

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## New surgery at Midsomer Norton Library



## Monthly appointments are now available at Midsomer Norton Library

These sessions offer the opportunity for in-person consultations with our legally trained information, advice, and support officers, who can provide advice and guidance regarding SEND-related enquiries.

For session dates and booking information, please visit our website:

[sendiasbathnes.org.uk/events](http://sendiasbathnes.org.uk/events) or contact us directly.

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## Support at Meetings

If you have an education meeting and would like someone to accompany you, our [Meeting Supporters](#) are happy to help. They are trained volunteers who can take notes and offer support, so you feel more confident and informed.

Contact us to find out more or to request support.

## Get Advice

Weekly SEND Surgery Book a 30-minute confidential appointment with our SENDIAS practitioners each Wednesday during term-time, available in person at Keynsham library, by phone, or via Microsoft Teams from 10:00–11:30 am.

We offer advice, review documents, help with forms, and suggest next steps. Appointments fill quickly, so check our website regularly for new openings.



## Bookable Telephone Appointments

Would you like to have a phone call with one of our trained practitioners?  
We have 30 minute telephone appointments available to book on our website.

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## Volunteer with us!

Could you give a few hours a week to speak to families over the phone, who have engaged with our service?

An important part of our work is to gather feedback from service users and we are looking for a volunteer to support us with this.

This is an interesting and flexible role during term time. Training is provided.

Please visit the [volunteer section of our website](#) for more details

For an informal chat please call Jane on **01225 395065**

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Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

## News from Bath and North East Somerset Council

The Inclusion and SEND Commitment – B&NES' Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP), document has been refreshed. The document is designed to assist Primary and Secondary Mainstream Schools deliver fair and, consistent practice and provision for all children and young people, including those with SEND. The document sets out clear expectations of what can reasonably be expected from education settings.

Ordinarily Available Provision guidance for Early Years and Post 16 / Colleges is in the pipeline but not yet available.

To read more:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/inclusion-and-send-commitment-ordinarily-available-provision>

<https://livewell.bathnes.gov.uk/special-educational-need-or-disability-send/send-information-advice-and-support/graduated-approach>

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**We look forward to seeing you out and about or at our events and supporting you throughout the term. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any more information.**

**Best wishes from all the team at Sendias Bathnes**

## Contact Us

Please contact us in the following ways:

Via our website: [sendiasbathnes.org.uk/getintouch](https://sendiasbathnes.org.uk/getintouch)

Call us: **01225 394382**

Email us: [sendias@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@bathnes.gov.uk)

Text us: **07530 263401**

