

Summer Newsletter

July 2026 Edition

Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of the Sendias Bathnes newsletter.

As another busy academic year comes to a close, we would like to thank the children, young people, parent carers, volunteers, professionals and partners who have worked alongside us throughout the year. This edition shares some of the highlights from across the service, updates from the team, and a look ahead to the new academic year.

We hope you find it useful and wish everyone a happy, relaxing summer break.

Round up of News and Updates

A Busy Year for SENDIAS

This year has been one of the busiest on record for the service. We have continued to see rising demand for information, advice and support, with increasing numbers of referrals, contacts and more complex work requiring greater levels of support from our team. Many enquiries have focused on EHC plans, SEN Support in schools, and attendance.

We understand the importance of ensuring that families access support when they need it most. Unfortunately, the growing need for impartial SEND information and advice, coupled with being short staffed has meant that it has taken us longer than usual to respond to enquires in recent weeks.

Alongside our casework, we continue to provide information sessions, outreach, young people's participation work, newsletters and social media updates, helping families access timely information and support.

★ Staff News and Celebrating Success

A special congratulations goes to **Summer**, who has been awarded the **Apprentice of the Year** Award at the staff engagement awards.

Summer has made a fantastic contribution to the service while undertaking her apprenticeship, supporting children and young people's participation work, handling enquiries, website development and a range of service improvement projects. We are incredibly proud of all that she has achieved and wish her the very best in her end point assessment.



Volunteers and Advisory Group Update

Our volunteers continue to make an invaluable contribution to Sendias Bathnes.

Whether providing feedback, supporting meetings, helping at events, promoting the service or contributing through our Advisory Group, volunteers help us reach more families and strengthen the voice of children, young people and parent carers within the service. We are delighted to have welcomed three new volunteers on board. We are planning further volunteer engagement opportunities in the coming year, including refresher sessions and opportunities for volunteers to come together and share experiences.

We shared the work of our Advisory Group with our national network, where it was well received. We hope to build on this by developing a wider training and induction offer for Advisory Group members.

Thank you to every volunteer for your time, enthusiasm and commitment.



Ofsted Visit

In June, we were pleased to have the opportunity to meet with Ofsted inspectors as part of the local area inspection activity.

The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the role of SENDIASS within the local SEND system, highlight the support available to children, young people and families, and share feedback and learning gathered through our day-to-day work.

As soon as the full inspection report is published we will share it on our social media and website.

SEND Reform Plan

The B&NES Local SEND Reform Plan was approved by the council's Cabinet on July 2, 2026. The plan has been submitted to the Department for Education as part of the Government's national improvement programme. It sets out how the local area proposes to improve early intervention, inclusive practice in mainstream schools, and expand specialist places.

You can review the full [B&NES Local SEND Reform Plan Document](#) or look at the broader [Bath & North East Somerset Council SEND Plan](#) to find out more.

For a brief overview of the SEND reforms, the DfE has published a helpful blog: educationhub.blog.gov.uk



Transition Time

Summer can be an exciting but sometimes anxious time for children and young people who are moving between schools, colleges or other settings.

Some helpful reminders which may support transition include:

- Encouraging children and young people to ask questions about their new placement.
- Where possible, visit new settings before September.
- Contact your new setting if you have questions about support arrangements.

Sendias Bathnes is available to provide impartial information, and advice should you need any.

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](#) and [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](#)



New Best Start Family Hub Opening in Twerton

A new Best Start Family Hub is due to open in Twerton on 17 August 2026. We hope to have a regular presence and offer at the hub and will keep you posted.

To find out more about the Best Start initiative in B&NES, you can read more here: livewell.bathnes.gov.uk



Where We Will Be:

27th Jul, 10am and 3pm

Bath Area Play Project Playscheme

Odd Down Community Centre

12th Aug, 2.45pm

Wecil Playscheme

Chandag School, Keynsham

5th Aug, 10–11.30am

Nova Sports Sensory Sports Session

The Hive, Peasedown St John

30th July, 11–1pm

Recreate Sport Sessions

Hayesfield School, Bath

14th August, 11–1pm

Recreate Sport Sessions

Keynsham Methodist Church, Charlton Road





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

The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (Weca) has announced that **Kids Go Free** will be back for the 2026 summer holidays. Last year this meant all under-16s could ride most regional buses for free without advance arrangements. No adult fare was required, so teenagers could travel with their friends at no cost. Check the [Weca website](#) searching 'KidsGoFree' for updates for this year.



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](#).

You can also find some inspiration for activities here: [livewell.bathnes.gov.uk](https://www.livewell.bathnes.gov.uk)



Looking Ahead

Service Development and Future Plans

Over the summer, we'll be doing some important behind-the-scenes work to keep the service running well. This includes updating policies, completing our annual reports, supporting staff and volunteer development, preparing for SEND reforms, strengthening outreach, and improving how our email and database systems work together.

We're also looking ahead to the autumn term, with plans for parent carer information sessions, opportunities for children and young people to get involved, outreach events across B&NES, and continued partnership working with local services and voluntary organisations.

We'll share more details on our website and social media, so please keep an eye out.



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.



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.



Thank You

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported Sendias Bathnes throughout the year.

To our team, volunteers, Advisory Group members, parent carers, young people, schools, settings and partner organisations – your commitment, collaboration and dedication help make a real difference to families across Bath and North East Somerset.

We wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to working with you in the new academic year.

With best wishes from all of us at Sendias Bathnes.

Contact Us



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: 07401 404081



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