SENDIAS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

Another summer has passed and September is here again, with a new school year upon us.  Welcome to our first newsletter, in which we will advise you of some important information regarding education and schools as well as support for parents and carers. Please feel free to pass this on to others parents, carers or young people. Issues covered in this news letter are:

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES**

**Autumn Term 2017**

Starts: Monday 4 September 2017

Half Term: Monday 23 October 2017 to Friday 27 October 2017

Ends: Tuesday 19 December 2017

**Spring Term 2018**

Starts: Wednesday 3 January 2018

Half Term: Monday 19 February 2018 to Friday 23 February 2018

Ends: Thursday 29 March 2018

**Summer Term 2018**

Starts: Monday 16 April 2018

Half Term: Monday 28 May 2018 to Friday 1 June 2018

Ends: Tuesday 24 July 2018

**TRANSITION**

Some of you will be looking at new provisions for next year –this may be nurseries, infant, junior or secondary schools or perhaps colleges.  This can be a daunting time for all parents and carers but even more so for those of children or young people with additional needs.  So below are the important details to assist you along with the deadline dates to keep in mind.  Open days will be publicised in the press and on the school websites, but most of them are held during the second half of September.

**School Admissions**

For pupils who don’t have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), applications to Solihull schools can be made online via the Local Authority’s website at      [www.solihull.gov.uk/resident/schooladmissions/school-admissions](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/resident/schooladmissions/school-admissions)

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| Deadline dates for September 2018 admissions |
| Secondary | Tuesday 31 October 2017 |
| Junior and reception | Monday 15 January 2018 |
| Nursery | Saturday 1 December 2018 |

For more information on how to apply for a school place, go to [www.solihull.gov.ukresident/schools-learning/schooladmissions/how-to-apply-for-school](http://www.solihull.gov.ukresident/schools-learning/schooladmissions/how-to-apply-for-school)

**Catchment areas**

You can find out about catchment areas and measure your distance from home to a school by using the maps at [www.solihull.gov.uk/onlinemaps](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/onlinemaps) . Moving into the catchment area for a school does not guarantee that you will be offered a place. If the school is full the Local Authority will not be able to offer a place, but living in the catchment area will give you a higher priority on the waiting list.  In addition to Solihull Borough schools on the Solihull Council’s website [www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk)  You can find a list of schools via the internet and websites such as [www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk](http://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk)  or [www.ukschoolsearch.net](http://www.ukschoolsearch.net)  Alternatively you can look under the Department of Education section 41 for Independent schools & colleges that are registered and therefore inspected by OFSTED <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/640504/approved_S41_August_2017.pdf>

**EHC Plans**

If however your child has an EHCP or a statement, they should have received a letter from the LA detailing how they need to apply for a secondary school place.

**IMPORTANT**: Please note that although the LA letter states you MUST name a mainstream school, this is not the case, if your child’s plan states that they need special provision you do not have to name a mainstream school.

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**TRANSFER FROM STATEMENT TO EHCP**

Does your child/young person still have a Statement of SEN?

Since 1st September 2014 changes have been taking place to statements of SEN due to a change in the law.  All Statements **MUST** under go a formal transition to an Education, Health & Care Plan  (EHCP) which requires, as a matter of law, an EHC needs assessment to take place under the new legal framework .

**There are no exceptions to the requirement to carry out an EHC needs assessment!**

A transfer review meeting, which is part of the transfer process to a new EHCP **MUST** be held. The process is laid down in law and **MUST** be followed.   In order to meet the government deadline of 1st April 2018, all transfer Reviews will need to take place this term.  If you have not been notified of the date of your transfer review have a chat with your School Senco.

If you would like more information about the transfer process please get in touch with Solihull  SENDIASS & If you would like help & support with the transfer process, please contact Solihull SENDIAS 0121 516 5173 or solihullsendias@family-action.org.uk

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Healthwatch Solihull invite you to their launch event. Pop along to find out about the work Healthwatch Solihull are doing, meet the team & share your experiences of health & social care services in Solihull. Healthwatch want you to tell them about services you have received…

The event provides an opportunity for you to:

* Help shape & set their future priorities
* Find out how you can get involved in Healthwatch
* Share your experiences
* Meet the team
* Learn more about Healthwatch Solihull

The events will be held on

22nd September 2017

3:30 TO 5:30pm

At Enterprose Centre

1 Headingham Grove

Chelmunds Cross

B37 7TP

25th September

1:00 to 3:00pm

West Midlands Bridge Club

Marion Murtagh House

909 Warwick Road

Solihull

B91 3EP

Healthwatch Contact details: 0121 704 7861 or enquires@healthwatchsolihull.org.uk website [www.healthwatchsolihull.org.uk](http://www.healthwatchsolihull.org.uk)

**Children’s Community Therapies have moved .**

On 24th July 2017Childrens Community Therapies moved, this includes

* Paediatric Occupational Therapy
* Paediatric Physiotherapy
* Paediatric Speech & Language Therapy
* Specialist Assessment Service (previously known as the Meadow Centre Service)

They are now based at

Chelmsley Wood Primary Care Centre

Crabtree Drive

Birmingham

B37 5BU

Telephone: 0121 722 8010

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**FREE ONLINE COURSES**

Solihull Approach has launched a FREE online Solihull Approach Parenting Courses for ALL Solihull Residents to gain knowledge, confidence and skills in sensitive and attuned parenting. In order to access these free courses, parents can be issued with a code which is valid until the end of March 2018.

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| Course | code |
| Understanding your Pregnancy | SOSOLIHULLAPPROACHANT |
| Understanding your baby      | SOSOLIHULLAPPROACHPOSTN |
| Understanding your child | SOLUYCMAR18 |

To redeem the code each user will need to:

a)         Go to [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk)

b)         Create an account using an email address and password

c)         Scroll down choose a course

d)         Click on ‘Already got a discount coupon?’

e)         Insert  the code from above, and click ‘Apply coupon’

f)          Enjoy the course! On returning to the website and signing in, the user’s account will ‘remember’ that they have access to the course and where they had got up to.

Please issue the codes to anyone you think would benefit from completing a course from today. There is no limit on the number of parents/carers accessing the courses and a family’s wider support network are more than welcome to access the courses too (grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends etc.). We would like as many people as possible to access the courses and have the benefit of the Solihull Approach expertise in parenting children. There will be a media and schools launch in September but we would like professionals to start giving out the codes immediately, and we would be delighted to hear feedback from users.

The courses work on laptops, PCs, smart phones and tablets. The modules take 15-20 minutes each and there are between 9-11 modules within each course. There are certificates to download at the end.

Please note: a modern browser is required (e.g. Google Chrome, Firefox, Explorer 10).

Any technical issues please feel free to contact the Solihull Approach on 0121 296 4448 or Solihull.approach@heartofengland.nhs.uk

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**OFSTED LAUNCHES NEW POINT-IN-TIME QUESTIONNAIRES**

The questionnaires are for children and young people as well as parents, carers and staff.

Ofsted has today (Thursday 31 August) issued its annual point-in-time questionnaires about the residential provision of boarding schools, residential special schools, and further education colleges.

Ofsted inspectors want to hear what children and young people, their parents and carers, and staff have to say about the boarding or residential provision of these schools and further education colleges. Their responses will help inform future inspections.

Questions for children and young people include:

* do staff look after you well?
* do you feel safe inside your school or college accommodation?
* can you talk to staff about what you think?

Ofsted is asking for responses by Thursday 12 October.

Schools & colleges should provide children and young people, their parents and carers, and staff with a link to the questionnaire. Alternatively, anyone wishing to offer their views can contact Ofsted on 0300 123 1231 (select option 5 and then option 2) or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

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**GOVERNMENT’S EQUALITIES OFFICE CONSULTATION**

A consultation has been opened by the Equalities Office who would like to know more about the barriers to returning to work after time out for caring.

They would like to know more about the experiences of people who want to return to work, employers’ experiences of recruiting these people and other evidence on the barriers that they face and the support available to them.

This call for evidence is for:

1. Those who have returned to work after time out caring for children or family
2. Those currently caring for children or family who would like to return to work
3. Employers
4. Organisations or individuals with knowledge of returners

Please follow the link below to complete our online survey and access further background to this call for evidence. This background also includes a form for you to complete if you are happy to participate in this call for evidence.

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/returning-to-work-after-time-out-for-caring](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/returning-to-work-after-time-out-for-caring)

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**A REMINDER FROM CONTACT A FAMILY**

**Act now to make sure your tax credits don’t stop for your 16-19 year old**

**If you have a 16-19 year old who'll be staying in non-advanced education after the summer break, remember to** [**let the Tax Credit Office know**](http://cafamily.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=9eee2b1f9768ecfa9240bb161&id=de212d8eb1&e=67077bf45f) **or you could lose out on tax credit payments.
"***The Tax Credit Office always assumes that a 16 year old is leaving approved education or training during the summer. As a result, they automatically stop any tax credit payments for a young person from 1 September. In order for your payments to continue, you must contact the Tax Credit Office to confirm details of the course your 16 year old will be doing after the summer.”* **Don't miss out on new childcare offers**

From this September, [working families of three and four year olds will be entitled to an extra 15 hours of free childcare.](http://cafamily.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9eee2b1f9768ecfa9240bb161&id=495bcf4be8&e=67077bf45f) This is on top of the existing 15 hours of free early education for all parents of three and four year olds and some two year olds. The 30 hours free childcare offer is worth around £5,000 per child.

If you qualify for 30 hours' free childcare, it is crucial in the weeks before September that you bring your eligibility codes to your childcare providers. If you don't, you may miss out on a September place.

Contact a Family have produced a new webpage on <https://www.cafamily.org.uk/advice-and-support/money-benefits-work-and-childcare/working-and-childcare/eligibility-for-the-30-hours-free-childcare-scheme-in-england/>

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**SOLIHULL PARENT / CARER FORUM**

**New! Solihull Parent Carer Forum**

Calling all parents and carers of children with special needs in Solihull! We are a small group of parents aiming to set up a brand new Parent Carer Forum in Solihull.

A Parent Carer Forum is a group of parents and carers of disabled children who work with local authorities, education settings, health and other providers to ensure the services they plan and deliver meet their needs. Solihull Local Authority is extremely keen to have an active forum with whom they can engage when launching new services or reviewing existing ones, for example. The forum is funded via the charity Contact (formerly Contact a Family) and so has the means to provide meeting/conference space, training, marketing and anything else it needs to become established and run successfully. There is great potential not only to influence and shape services relevant to our children but to meet parents in similar circumstances as well as decision makers in the Council.

So if you look after a child with special needs in Solihull and are willing and able to dedicate some time to a worthwhile cause please get in touch with us! We need ‘management committee’ members initially in order to get up and running. These include roles such as Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Events Manager etc. Once this committee is in place we will be able to promote the forum to gain membership from across the borough. To find out more about what this opportunity entails please come to our meeting on **Thursday 21st September** in the **Orange Room** at the **Family Renewal Centre, Vulcan Road, Solihull B91 2JY at 10.30am**. There will be cake! If then you are keen to take things further there will be the opportunity to join us for our next management committee meeting held over lunch until around 2.30-3.00pm.

If you’d like to attend in the morning please let us know by dropping an email to solihullpcf@gmail.com . If you can’t attend on that day but are still interested in the possibility of joining the management committee let us know via email and we will be in touch!

Many thanks,

Julia Mann

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**SUPPORT GROUP NEWS AND EVENTS**

Please let us know if there are any events you wish us to publicise to parents, carers and young people with additional SEND.

**NORTH SOLIHULL ADDITIONAL NEEDS PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

North Solihull Additional Needs Group meets on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 11am at KEC Church, Cooks Lane, Kingshurst, B37 6NP.

This is an opportunity for parents to meet other parents with children with additional needs & also talk, they also have regular events with guest speakers, on 13th September 2017 the manager of SISS and the SISS ASD manager attended to talk to parents

On 18th October 2017 Hazel from Sendias and Liz Eggington Manager of the START team at the Local Authority will be holding a question and answer session.

Please add North Solihull Additional Needs on Facebook for all future events

Please contact Sajida on 07449 601859 if you require further information

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**SOLIHULL SAFESPACE**

Meets regularly in South Solihull, their next evening meeting is being held on Wednesday 20th September 2017 at 7.30pm at Langley Hall Social Club, guests for the evening are Hazel and Jan from SENDIAS

All welcome – contact Emma or Gina for details

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You can also find information relating to SEND across education, health & social care including information on  SEND support groups, events, schools and lots more on  Solihull’s Local Offer pages at  <http://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer>

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**EVENTS SENDIAS are ATTENDING**

Solihull Safespace Meeting

Date:  Wednesday 20th September 2017

Venue: Langley Hall Social Club

Address:  40 Langley Hall Road, Solihull B92 7HE

Time: 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

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Lady K Leveson Coffee morning

Date: Wednesday 27th September 2017

Venue:  Lady K Leveson Church of England School

Address: Fen End Road West, Temple Balsall, Knowle, Solihull B93 0AN

Time:  9am to 10 am

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Solihull Down Syndrome Support Group

Date: Saturday 14th October 2017

Venue: Renewal Centre

Address:  Lode Lane, Solihull B91 2JR

Time:  10 am to 12 noon

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North Solihull Additional Needs Support Group

Date: Wednesday 18th October

Venue: Kingshurst Evangelical Church (KEC)

Address: Cooks Lane, Kingshurst B37 6NP

Time: 9:30am to 11:30am

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Dorridge School Coffee morning

Date: Wednesday 8th November 2017

Venue: Dorridge Primary School

Address: Station Road Dorridge B93 8EU

Time:  9am to 10.30am

**……………**

If you would like us to attend your school or setting, please contact your school Senco and request they contact us to arrange. We try to accommodate all requests wherever possible.

We hope you have enjoyed our first news letter, however, should you have any queries about any of the issues, suggestions for future newsletters, or if you would like to opt out from receiving our newsletter,  please do not hesitate to contact us on 0121 516 5173 or via email at solihullsendias@family-action.org.uk

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