



The Bridge SEND Bulletin: September Edition

1 message

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The Bridge SEND Bulletin



Hello! Welcome to the September edition of The Bridge SEND Bulletin

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New name for the SEND Bridge Bulletin

From October, The SEND Bridge Bulletin will be called the Essex Local Offer Newsletter. This change will also be reflected in the sender email. From next month, the sender will be the Essex Local Offer, instead of the SEND Navigators.

The change is to align the newsletter with the [Essex Local Offer](#) website. The website provides information about support available for children and young people (0 to 25-year-olds), with SEND. The newsletter is an extension of the website. It provides readers with an opportunity to hear directly from services and groups on the Local Offer.

If you have a question about the name change, please email [the SEND Navigators](#).

Help us improve the Essex Local Offer

Have you accessed a great service, group or activity for young people with SEND? We want to increase the number of opportunities on the Local Offer website.

[Share your feedback on a SEND-related service](#) to help other families benefit



News and information

Basildon Skills Show: 17 October

[Attend the Basildon Skills Show](#) on 17 October 2023 at the Towngate Theatre, 3.30pm to 7.30pm. Essex County Council (ECC) are working with Basildon Council to support young people to attend this year's Basildon Skills Show.

The last hour of the event, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, is specifically for individuals with SEND. It will include representation from ECC's Preparing for Adulthood, Social Care and Targeted Employment

teams. There will also be 50 employers, education, and training providers.

Online Events for Parents/Carers of Autistic Children

The East of England Peer Education Hub with Autism Central and Essex County Council will be running free online support sessions for parents and carers of autistic children (with or without a diagnosis), facilitated by parents and carers, for parents and carers:

- Anxiety and Autism session on Monday 4 September, 2pm to 3.30pm
- Parent/Carer drop-in session on Tuesday 12 September, 12pm to 1pm
- Supporting Sensory Needs session on Wednesday 20 September, 9.30am to 11am
- Joint Session for Parents and Personal Assistants on Thursday 21 September, 10am to 11.30am
- Parent/Carer drop-in session on Tuesday 26 September, 12pm to 1pm

[Visit the Autism Central website](#) to register for a support session.

Castledon School Careers Fair: 28 September

[Visit the Castledon School Careers Fair](#) on Thursday 28 September at Wat Tyler County Park, 10am to 6pm. All young people and families are welcome, regardless of age, educational setting, and EHCP status.

Come and meet Disability Confident employers, social opportunities, and SEN friendly provisions. There are also guest speakers including Toni Horn (Think Differently).

For more information call 01268 761252.

Supported Internships Graduation

Young people with SEND celebrated finishing their hospital internships with a graduation ceremony. Over the past year the interns have worked in Basildon, Broomfield and Southend hospitals. This has provided them with skills and experience that they can use in the next stage of their career.

[Read more about the graduation and programme](#), run by Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, Chelmsford College, and South Essex College, in partnership with Essex County Council.

Council for Disabled Children: Decision Making Toolkit

The decision-making toolkit is a guide to support parents, carers and anyone working with children and young people with SEND.

It is designed to be used with young people to support them to make their own decisions and to participate as fully as possible in decisions made on their behalf.

[Visit the Council for Disabled Children's website](#) to find out more about the decision-making toolkit.

Decision Making Toolkit



UNITED FOR DISABLED CHILDREN



Change of address for North East Essex Education Teams (Tendring and Colchester district)

Essex County Council Education Teams, including the North East SEND Operations Team, have moved. Their new postal address is Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester CO3 3WG. All other contact details remain the same.

The Children and Families Teams and Adult Social Care Teams previously based at Essex House and Stanwell House have also moved to Rowan House.

An updated Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment request form with the new address can be found on the [Essex Local Offer](#).

Share your returning to school stories with Essex Family Forum (EFF)

The return to school can be challenging for many, adjusting to new routines, new schools or returning to old ones. Sometimes the transition is managed well, sometimes it is difficult. There are those

whose children, for whatever reason, aren't returning to school and that can be tough.

We want to continue our aim to improve experiences for SEND families. [Visit the EFF graffiti wall](#) and share your returning to school stories with us.

Suspensions, permanent exclusions and children out of education training: 12 and 13 September

This session has been designed for parent and carers who want to know more about exclusion and children out of education for other reasons. It will cover law and the rights of parents and carers of children who are out of education due to exclusions, suspensions or illness. There will be a Q&A session during and at the end of the training.

This training is being delivered by SEND IASS and SENETA on Tuesday 12 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm, and Wednesday 13 September, 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

[Visit the SEND IASS website](#) to find out more and book a place on this training.

Calm at the Castle: Colchester Castle

[Visit Colchester Castle](#) on the first Sunday of the month, 3pm to 5pm, for Calm at the Castle. These relaxed visiting times are designed for anyone who would appreciate a quieter atmosphere. They minimise sensory stimulation by turning off audio and visuals, whilst providing a sensory space off the main gallery.

Essex Library Service: App accessibility

The Essex Library Service e-library apps have accessibility adjustments. [Libby App](#) and [PressReader](#) both have options to enlarge text and use the voiceover function to make reading with a visual impairment easier.

[Visit the Essex Library Service website](#) to find out more about the e-library and other accessible options.



Say hello to... the Preparing for Adulthood team

Find out more about the role of a PfA Advisor



Tell us about what you do:

We give young people information, advice, and guidance about their options. We ensure they have the information they need to make decisions about their future. The support and information given is personal to each young person. It is based on each young person's interests, strengths and hopes for the future.

We work with young people aged 14 -25 who have an [Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)](#) or receive Higher Needs Funding to attend Further Education.

What would you like families and young people to know?

PfA Advisors are all qualified Careers Guidance Professionals. They support young people to think about the four Preparing for Adulthood pathways and identify their hopes for the future. These pathways are:

- employment

- education and training
- good health
- community inclusion
- independent living

Young people are supported to think about the future and explore what they might like to do as a job. We also look at what employability and life skills they could develop to build their independence.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The PfA Advisors enjoy various aspects of their roles, including:

"Seeing that lightbulb moment for a young person when they realise, they can do things"

"Helping young people plan for their future"

"Breaking down barriers"

"Raising aspirations"

"Making connections between schools, colleges, providers to support young people with their transitions"

"Linking services"

"Making people realise their options and pathways"

How can families find out more?

[Visit the Local Offer](#) to find more information about the team or to contact your local PfA Lead.

The Local Offer also has information on [help finding work](#).

Spotlight on the Local Offer

[The Essex Local Offer](#) provides information about help available to children and young people (aged 0 to 25) with SEND.

Take a look at the information about [financial support](#).



Essex County Council

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