



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in NE Lincs

Parents/carers weekly NE Lincs SEND meeting with partners from education, health and social care.

DATE 07/10/2020

This week in NE Lincs

This week the Department for Education have commended North East Lincolnshire schools for their high rate of attendance, with both daily attendance and number of settings open sitting above the national average. This week 91.9% of students in primary and secondary schools in North East Lincs attended school compared to 90.4% nationally. 96.6% of our local area education settings are open which is also above national average.

All NE Lincs educational settings are working with our Public Health team to communicate information regarding new or suspected cases and the local position is being carefully monitored. Local Authority Education Link Officers contact settings regularly during the week to offer support or guidance.

If parents/carers have any questions about Covid and their child's education they can email school@nelincs.gov.uk and an education officer will directly respond to your communication. Emails can be sent at any time and will be responded to between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

Launch of the NE Lincs EHCP Hub



On the 7th October 2020 NE Lincs launched their new EHCP Hub. The EHC Hub is an electronic management system which enables parents/carers to access their child's EHCP and associated information 24/7. Parents/carers will have their own log in details and a PIN. Using a computer/laptop/tablet or smart phone families can access the Hub to read or add information for their child's EHCP, see where they are in the 20 week statutory process for requesting an EHCP or see the professional advice that has been submitted by Education, Health and Social Care.

To begin with the EHCP Hub will only be used for new Education Health and Care Assessment Requests (EHCARs). However, over the next academic year 2020 – 2021, as learners have their annual reviews they will be added to the EHCP Hub and parents/carers will be offered access.

If parents/carers or young people over 16 do not have access to the internet or if they prefer to receive paper copies only this will still be possible.



Public Health Team Q and A



This week parents/carers have had the opportunity to ask NE Lincs Public Health team about their current concerns.

Q1. Due to the new infections in NE Lincs this has raised anxieties for parents – is there any information or reassurance they can give to families.

A1. Parents/carers may understandably feel worried about the rise in confirmed Covid cases in North East Lincolnshire in the recent weeks.

Like all local authorities we have an Outbreak Control Plan which we are implementing and further developing as appropriate, and we await announcements nationally. We also continue to emphasise vigilance in relation to the 3 principle symptoms of COVID, and getting a test if you think you have these symptoms, however mild.

We now have our Local Testing Site set up at Duchess St car park, and you can also request a home test kit. Details on booking is here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. In addition, we ask that people continue to practice the 'hands, face, space' measures.

An interview with NE Lincs Deputy Director of Public Health Geoff Barnes on BBC Radio Humberside this week gave the latest information on Covid in NEL and may provide some reassurance for families.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08s335m>

Q2. Is there any Information/guidance for families who have had a member of the household test positive, what they need to do i.e. form bubbles within homes.

On 9th October 2020 the government issued guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/guidance-for-households-with-grandparents-parents-and-children-living-together-where-someone-is-at-increased-risk-or-has-symptoms-of-coronavirus-cov>

This guidance is intended for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where a member of the household is aged 70 or over, meaning they are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus and clinically vulnerable people including anyone aged 70 or over, as well as those under 70 with an underlying health condition (that is, anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds): There is a further category of people with serious underlying health conditions who are clinically extremely vulnerable, meaning they are at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus. They, their family and carers should follow the guidance on shielding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Short Breaks in NE Lincs



If a child has an EHCP a request can be made to social care at any time for an assessment of need and consideration of short breaks and respite. Following this, a decision is made at the local authority Resource Panel as to what and how much support can be provided. Once the provision has been set up, the family are supported by one of the Family First Practitioner or social care officers just to monitor the provision that is in place in order to ensure it is still meeting the families need.

There have been a number of Short Breaks offered to families in recent weeks which have not been taken up. We understand that some parents/carers will be feeling anxious about sending their child for respite at this



Website:

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time and that some parents/carers are having difficulties employing Personal Assistants and finding direct payment workers.

If parents/carers are able to take part in the review of short breaks and respite this would be much appreciated as we would really like to gather parent/carer voice about the range of services that families are accessing and what they might like to see moving forwards. Your views are vital in helping us to shape future provision that meets families needs.

The survey is being hosted online at <https://shortbreakspcvq.questionpro.eu> and will close at 4pm on Friday 9th October.

If you miss this deadline you can always email your suggestions for short breaks and respite or any questions you may have to Stephen.Langridge@nelincs.gov.uk

FLAG



FLAG is a registered charity which has been in existence for more than fifteen years and the aim is to provide recreational activities for children from age four to twenty one plus who have a range of disabilities and special needs.

FLAG is in the process of getting back up and running, they are hoping to resume some activities around the 31st October 2020. This provision is really loved by parents/ carers, children and young people in our local area and is a lifeline for some families. For more information please contact Malcolm Rudkin at office@flaggrimsby

SENART Update



The Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review Team (SENART) are really busy working through new Education, Health and Care Assessment Requests (EHCARs). There were 6 requests for ECHAR's in September and so far there have been 4 requests received during the first week of October.

With regards to statutory requests 50% of plans are currently being issued within the 20 week statutory timescale. This is due to Covid restrictions in carrying out statutory assessments. The Educational Psychologist Team are working hard to catch up with the backlog.

The SENART team are attending Annual Reviews for all transition year groups, Years 2, 6, 9 and 11 and first starter annual reviews. Due to capacity it may not be possible for the allocated worker to attend the review however SENART will ensure there will be a representative from the team.

With 1200 EHCPs issued in NE Lincs, EHCP co-ordinators cannot attend every annual review for all age phases however, if there are any significant issues that parents/carers or the educational setting, health or social care are concerned about somebody from the team will try their hardest to attend. Please make any such requests to SEN@nelincs.gov.uk

We are aware that some schools are looking to hold their annual reviews via telephone. Whilst this suits some parents/carers we understand other families may prefer a different approach. If parents aren't happy with a telephone review they would need to contact the school to request a virtual meeting. If parents come across any difficulties with this SENART can have discussions to see what other arrangements could possibly be made.



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NELPPF Update



In this week's discussions, parents/carers have asked the School Transport Team to consider how parent/carers can be better supported to make informed decisions about whether or not their child should access school transport based on current and suspected Covid cases and other childhood illnesses students on transport may be presenting with such as colds and winter bugs. The team are working with NELPPF to look at this request.

NELPPF is a collective voice for parents and carer's in North East Lincolnshire, offering guidance and support for families of children and young people aged 0-25 years with SEND. Their General Advice Line is: **07583474892**

School Transport Team Update



All parents/carers of pupils who qualify for free home to school transport, whether travelling on an NELC mini bus or other education transport contracted vehicle, are entitled to take their child to school themselves by car and they will be reimbursed for doing so. The reimbursement is based on a payment calculated per mile travelled – currently 40.2p per mile for the first 100 miles and then 28.6p – to and from school in the AM and PM.

We require a completed mileage claim form to be submitted each month to the education transport team who will process the claim and authorise the payment into the parents/carers bank account.

We would ask parents/carers to first discuss with the transport team any decision to change their child's transport arrangements, as the provision of education transport is a highly complex service involving many stakeholders.

Any school transport questions and queries can be sent to schooltransport@nelincs.gov.uk

SENDIASS Update



SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs Disability Information Advice Support Service) provides free impartial information, advice and support to disabled children and young people aged 0-25, and those with SEN, through their parents and carers. Young people aged 16+ can have support in their own right. Our service is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am until 4.30pm and Friday 8am – 4pm. We are working remotely at the moment but we will answer your call within 3 days if you leave a message or you can email us on nelincs@barnardos.org.uk, or you can also follow us on Facebook.

SENDIASS have received queries from parents re Early Years Funding. If parents have any questions or queries they can contact Rose.Tanser@nelincs.gov.uk The Early Years team will also be joining us at next weeks SEND weekly parent/carers meeting on Wednesday at 10am. To join the meeting please contact clare.linfitt@nelincs.gov.uk

SENDIASS are also able to support with the preparation for/attending of Annual Review meetings and have some training available for parents if they are struggling with preparing for virtual meetings. Dates can be found on the SENDIASS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NELSENDIASS/>.



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Health Update



Sarah Harding (Designated Clinical Officer) has been in touch with Children's Therapies, Young Minds Matter and Paediatrics regarding the Services they are currently providing to families and provided the following update:

Dietetics

Throughout the lockdown period we have continued to contact families and carers of children with SEND who have dietetic needs on a priority basis. We are now back to managing our normal caseload with no current restrictions on seeing any patient group.

We are continuing to offer telephone and video appointments as first line. Verbal feedback from parents is that this has been acceptable as long as appointments are pre-scheduled. We have the option of arranging face to face appointments where absolutely necessary and will take all precautions in these situations. We are fortunate enough to have links with the paediatric outpatient setting in order to obtain growth measurements should these be needed but also can liaise with the specialist nurses or school to obtain this information as required. We are continuing to find innovative ways to obtain the information required for those children who continue to shield that supports our dietetic assessment.

We are attending virtual multidisciplinary meetings to support joint working have continued to submit reviews and reports as required for Early Help meetings, CIN meetings or EHCP assessments and reviews.

Clinically over the last 6 months we have instigated change to the cows' milk allergy pathway with the aim to support GP's and health visitors identify and treat this in primary care initially before onward referral to specialist services. We are in the process of developing and updating our external website with lots of useful information – it is a work in progress but hopefully will be a useful tool for parents and professionals to access: <https://www.nlg.nhs.uk/services/childrens-dietitians/>

Speech and Language Therapy

The Children's Speech and Language Therapy team have continued to work hard throughout the last 6 months to offer services by telephone and video to families. We have really enjoyed offering sessions by video, and where the technology has worked well, we hope to continue to offer this service in the future. Lots of children and parents have commented on how well this has worked for them and also reduces the time needed for traveling to appointments and parking! We are also now seeing some children and parents for face to face appointments at our hospital clinic. We are wearing PPE and taking every precaution to make sure any face to face visits are as safe as possible. All children with an Education and Health Care plan have been contacted during the last 6 months and we are now resuming more setting visits, following our own risk assessments and guidance from schools, or offering video consultations with schools. We know that the last 6 months has been a really tough time for families, particularly those with young children or additional needs. We have been very impressed by the resourcefulness and resilience of the families we work with and how well children have settled back into school after such a long break.

We have information and advice about our service and links to other helpful information on our website: <https://www.nlg.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language/nelincs/>

Paediatrics - DPOWH

Paediatric clinics: We have been doing virtual clinics via telephone or video clinics all through the lock down and are continuing these clinics. Children who need to be seen face to face either due to deterioration of their condition or new patients are being seen face to face.

Community paediatric neuro-disability clinics: Virtual clinics are being done

Community audiology clinics: Hospital clinics restarted in September. The clinics which are done in the primary care setting will be started in October. School clinics have not been commenced. The appointments have been staggered and we are able to see only half the number of patients we used to see pre-covid.



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Child Development Centre assessments have commenced in a modified way.

CDC ASD screening clinics - these have re started and patients referred via access pathway are being seen by the paediatrician and virtually by clinical psychologist.

Acute and emergency paediatric and neonatal services have been running as normal though patients are being screened and inpatients are separated either in the Green, Yellow or Red zone depending on their COVID status. Paediatric Assessment unit is open 10 am -21.00 hours.

Emails with any health queries can be sent to designatedclinicalofficer@nelincs.gov.uk.

Future meetings / Newsletters

These Weekly SEND parent/carer newsletters are shared with teams within education, health and social care as well as parents/carers SENCOs, the DfE and local charities.

If you would like to be added to the weekly emailing list please contact siobhan.hardy@nelincs.gov.uk

If anyone would like to be involved in the weekly meetings, you are most welcome and can contact clare.linfitt@nelincs.gov.uk for more information.



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Keeping everyone safe



**Do your bit to
keep North East
Lincolnshire
SAFE and OPEN**

NHS
North East Lincolnshire
Local Commissioning Office

HM Government

- Keep your distance**
- Wash your hands and use hand gel**
- Avoid crowds and wear a face covering if it's not possible to social distance**
- If you have even mild symptoms, self-isolate and visit www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or ring 119 to book a test.**