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What's New?
11th Jan 24

Update regarding Our Voice Presents: Get to Know SEN Services

Just before the Christmas holiday, we announced that booking was open for 'Our Voice presents: Get to Know SEN Services' on Wednesday 31st January 2024. **We have had a huge response to this event and our initial allocation of places is already fully booked.** However, we do have a waiting list in place and anticipate that we will be able to release some more places shortly, as some people who have already booked inevitably have to cancel due to other commitments. **If you would like to come along to the event please sign up for the waiting list [here](#).** and we will let you know, as soon as we can, if we have been able to find a place for you.



See our flyer [here](#) and our more detailed information brochure [here](#) for more information about the event including the full agenda.

Please note that we have had a large number of requests for 1:1 appointments and are unlikely to be able to take any more bookings for these. We are currently in the process of allocating appointments and if you have already made a request, we will get back to you ASAP to let you know whether we have been able to book a slot for you.



Our Voice presents: Get to know SEN Services

We are delighted to announce that booking is now open for the first in our series of 'Our Voice Presents....' events which give parents and carers an exceptional opportunity to speak directly to the Heads of service areas supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Registration from 9.30 am	
10 – 11 am	Overview and Q&A session
11 am – 12.30	Either: EHOPs and Annual Reviews OR: What Support Should Mainstream Schools provide at SEN Support (finish at 12) OR: 1:1 appointments with a team leader from SEN Services (subject to availability)

In this session we will be joined by Barbara Thurogood, Head of SEN Services, and other members of the SEN Services team.

Wednesday 31st January
10 am to 12.30 pm
 (registration from 9.30 am) at the Park Avenue Disability Centre, Bush Hill Park
Sign up [here](#).

For more information see the full brochure on our website [events page](#).

Or contact Our Voice on
 Telephone 07516 662315 Email: info@ourvoiceenfield.gov.uk

SEN coffee morning tomorrow

SEN COFFEE & CHAT MORNINGS

To all Parent/Carers of children on the AUTISM/ADHD Spectrum, I would love for you to join me and other parents for my SEN Coffee & Chat Mornings.



DATES RUNNING 2024

**Friday 12th January, Friday 2nd February, Friday 1st March
Friday 5th April, Friday 3rd May
Friday 7th June & Friday 5th July**

(All joined by OUR VOICE team member)

**COSTA COFFEE
16 Station Parade
Cockfosters
EN4 0DN
9.30am-11am**

Instagram @sen_with_elena
For more info
email me on senwithelena@hotmail.com

Come along to this SEN coffee morning in Costa Coffee Cockfosters, from 9.30 am - 11 am.

Two members of the Our Voice team will also be dropping into this session, and we also hope to make it along to the other dates (see flyer for the list) except the 5th April which is during the school Easter holidays.

Please note that these events are not organised by Our Voice – if you have any questions please contact Elena using the details on the flyer.

Review of Short Breaks Allocation process

The JSDC is reviewing its process for allocating Short Breaks and needs your feedback!

They are running an anonymous survey to find out what you think about the current process and give you an opportunity to outline what you think works well, what needs improvement and share any suggestions you might have.



You can access the survey via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/WCFg1Bz2W1> or scan the QR by opening the camera on your smartphone and hovering over the code:



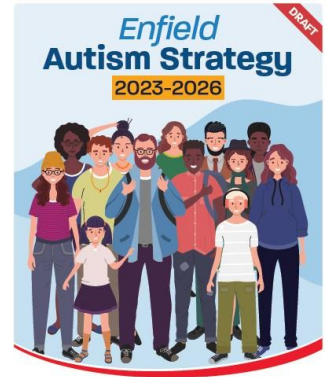
Last chance to have your say on the Enfield Autism Strategy

This is your last chance to have your say about the [draft Autism Strategy](#) which sets out how Enfield services intend to work together as a partnership to improve the lives of autistic people, their families and carers in Enfield, before the survey closes at the end of 14th January.

You can see more about the draft strategy and the consultation on our website [here](#).

Anyone with an interest in the issue (including parents and carers and young people) is now invited to give their views on the draft Strategy.

You can share your views by completing the [questionnaire](#). Alternatively, if you have difficulties completing this, you can instead fill in the [easy-read version of the questionnaire](#) (PDF).



Wills and Trusts event Mon 22nd Jan

As an addition to their 'Preparing for Adulthood' series of events, the Local Authority will be running a workshop on Wills and Trusts on Monday 22nd January 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, at the Park Avenue Disability Centre in Bush Hill Park, looking at the important issues around protecting your vulnerable dependants in the long term. See the flyer for details.



Wills & Trusts

Monday 22nd January 2024

10.30am – 12.30pm

Park Avenue Disability Centre,

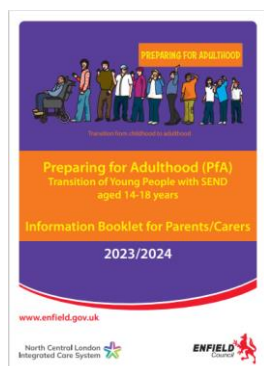
65c Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, EN1 2HL

This event will provide you with general information on the topic of Wills, Trusts and Lasting Power of Attorney. We have invited a guest speaker from Honey Legal who will be talking about:

- The different types of Wills that are available and which one applies to you - which ones offer protection?
- Probate and choosing your Executors wisely
- Ensuring Lasting Power of Attorney documents are in place and fully understood
- Dealing with vulnerable beneficiaries
- FAQ

No need to book

Preparing for Adulthood 'Personal Budgets' event tomorrow Fri 12th Jan



Preparing for Adulthood or 'PfA' is the process of moving from childhood to adulthood (including from child to adult services) and the resources and events to support you and your young person through that process.

The new booklet outlining the process (for 2023 – 2024) has now been published and can be found on the Local Offer [here](#) and on the Our Voice website PfA page [here](#).

We recommend that you start to attend Preparing for Adulthood Events when your young person reaches year 9 (although you can start earlier if you wish). These events provide opportunities to talk to professionals and other parents who can give you advice and information to help you and your young person make the right decisions about their future.

There is a programme of events outlining different aspects of the transition. You can see the list of programme events set out on the Local Offer [here](#) including links to join each event. The booklet explains what each event is about.

If you are unable to make it along to any of the events, you can see the presentations [here](#) (scroll down to the bottom of the page).

The next event will be Personal Budgets, this Friday 12th January – see below for details:

12 Jan 2024	10:30 – 12:30	Personal Budgets At this event you will find out: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are personal budgets• How they are calculated• What they can and can't be spent on.• The Adult Social Care Charging Policy.• Assessed contributions and how they are calculated• Disability related expenditure	Integrated Learning Disability Service Carnegie Building 258a Hertford Road Enfield EN3 5BN
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If you are unable to attend the session, the presentation will be added to the Local Offer Preparing for Adulthood page [here](#) shortly afterwards. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to see links to each presentation.

Enfield Advisory Service for Autism (EASA)

The [Enfield Advisory Service for Autism \(EASA\)](#) supports autistic children and young people (from 0-25 years) and their families.

Their next Cuppa and Chat session will be on Thursday 18th January for the parents and carers of Secondary and post-16 children and young people looking at Visual Strategies to Support the areas of difference. The session will be from 9.30 to 11 am at Russet House School

More information and booking link [here](#).



Rising to Reception: 17th and 26th January

'Rising to Reception' is a programme aimed at the families of children with communication difficulties who are due to start primary school in September 2024 (i.e. born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020).



The Enfield Communication Advisory Support Service (ECASS) and partners will be running the series of **Rising to Reception** sessions throughout the year to help prepare your child for starting school.

Children with communication difficulties can find transitions to new settings challenging, so ECASS have teamed up with colleagues and volunteers across Enfield to put together an exciting series of online information sessions to prepare you for the big day next September.

You can see the whole programme of events and the link to register your interest, in the booklet [here](#).

The next sessions on 17th and 26th January will be with the Occupational Therapist from the ECASS team and will look at the transition and typical expectations in Reception, and how you can support your child with their organisation and independence.

If you have any queries, please contact the ECASS team at: RisingtoReception@enfield.gov.uk

We hope that you have found our newsletter useful. If you have any feedback, or anything that you think we could be telling our families about, please let us know. Our contact details are:

Telephone 07516 662315 Email: info@ourvoiceenfield.org.uk

Website: www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk

You can also follow us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ourvoiceenfield/>

on [Twitter@EnfieldOurVoice](https://twitter.com/EnfieldOurVoice) and on Instagram at

<https://www.instagram.com/ourvoiceenfield/>

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