

We provide free, impartial and confidential information, advice and support about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for children, young people up to age 25, parents and carers.



Information Advice & Support Kent Newsletter - February 2021

IASK - Special Educational Needs & Disability Information, Advice & Support Service for Parents, Children & Young People in Kent.
Helping you to make Informed Choices!

<https://www.iask.org.uk/>

IASK WORKSHOPS

IASK are Currently offering a range of workshops for parents, young people, and professionals. The workshops are delivered via MS Teams so you can attend from the comfort of your home and you don't have to see anyone if you prefer to turn off your camera. The topics covered are:

- **SEN Support in Mainstream Schools and Colleges;**
- **SEN Support in the Early Years and Transition to Reception;**
- **Review Meetings;**
- **Post 16 Decision Making and Mental Capacity;**
- **Options for Post 16 Transition;**

You can find out more about each workshop at the end of this Newsletter.

To book a place, please visit our website <https://www.iask.org.uk/> or facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/IASK.0to25>

If you cannot access our website, please contact our helpline who would be happy to help you book onto a workshop, as well as answering any questions you have:

Telephone **03000 41 3000** 9.00 – 5.00 Monday – Friday, or email iask@kent.gov.uk

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Better Health - Every Mind Matters



[Public Health England](#) are launching the Better Health - Every Mind Matters campaign to support the nation's mental wellbeing with the encouragement that "When things aren't so good out there, make inside feel better".

You can find resources for adults, looking after your child's mental health and self-care for young adults on their website [here](#).

Contact Listening Ear Service



[Contact](#) offer a listening ear, reassurance, plus practical and emotional support. The service is confidential and free of charge.

If you're a stressed out parent carer, you can book an appointment with one of the Contact listening ear advisers [here](#).

Barnados Boloh Service



Are you a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic child, young person, parent or carer, affected by Covid-19? You can speak to [Barnados](#) about your worries, problems and stresses during this time, and they can provide emotional support, practical advice and signposting to other organisations who can provide further help.

If you're a professional, you can also contact them to discuss how to support a child or young person they are working with. Find out more [here](#).

Storicise – Helping children through the impact of Covid 19



[Storicise](#) is a website which has been launched to provide interactive activities to help children better understand Covid 19 testing and how to stay safe during the pandemic, it is a platform that delivers fun and innovative activities designed to support children through the impact of Covid-19.

You can explore some of their interactive quizzes and activities [here](#).

HOME LEARNING RESOURCES

KCC Home Schooling Guidance



KCC have recently refreshed their Home Education page. As we are all educating at home at the moment, their resources may be useful to all parents, you can find them on the KCC website [here](#).

And you can find homework help [here](#).

They also have lots of resources to help you study [here](#).

THE EDUCATION PEOPLE

The Education People have collated a wide range of the free resources out there across all subjects for EYFS, KS1, KS2 and KS3, which you can find on their website [here](#).

Kent Children's University



Kent Children's University produces three seasonal Challenges a year plus some ad hoc activities for families to enjoy at home. Their challenges are suitable for children aged 5-14, but have been completed by younger and older children. You can find them [here](#).

Kent Libraries



You can sign up for a library card for free and there is a wide selection of children's ebooks available to borrow [here](#).

Ambitious About Autism Education Resources



[Ambitious About Autism](#) have gathered expert resources to help families, you can find them [here](#).

We are Beams Parent Support Groups



[We are Beams](#) hold bi-weekly Parent Support Groups on Zoom, hosted by two advisers as an opportunity to meet and chat with other parents, you can find out more [here](#).

Special Needs Jungle - How to reclaim a positive mental attitude while parenting in a pandemic



Columnist Angela Kelly provides advice on what can we do to try to be positive at a time of extended uncertainty [here](#).

CAREERS

National Careers Service



The Skills Toolkit

The Government have free courses to help you learn new skills or change jobs. Including general skills that apply to all sectors and more specialised skills on their website [here](#).

Work Experience for Young People with Autism



The UK Civil Service is partnering with [Ambitious about Autism](#) to provide work experience opportunities for young people with autism aged 18-25.

If you have a primary diagnosis of autism, achieved grades A* - C in English and Maths GCSE, and are interested in working for the public sector, then apply for this fantastic three-week paid internship to experience the Civil Service first-hand and gain insight into the workplace.

You can apply [here](#). Closing date: Friday 5 March 2021



[The Education People](#) have a Specialist Employment Service which provides a range of services to support individuals to gain and sustain paid employment. They can use their knowledge and experience of services for vulnerable learner groups, adults with a disability or disadvantage, and SEND students to arrange supported internships. You can find out more [here](#).

OTHER NEWS & INFORMATION

IPSEA Guidance



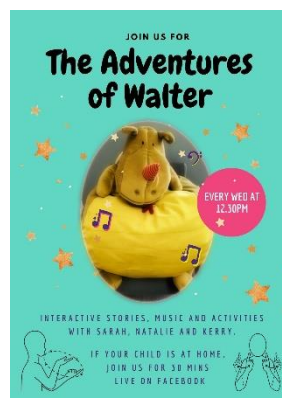
IPSEA have updated their information about how the COVID-19 measures will affect children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (“**SEND**”), you can find it [here](#).

Special Needs Advisory & Activities Project - SNAAP



SNAAP offer a range of virtual clubs online. Find out more on their website [here](#).

Please contact clubs@snaap.org.uk to sign up.



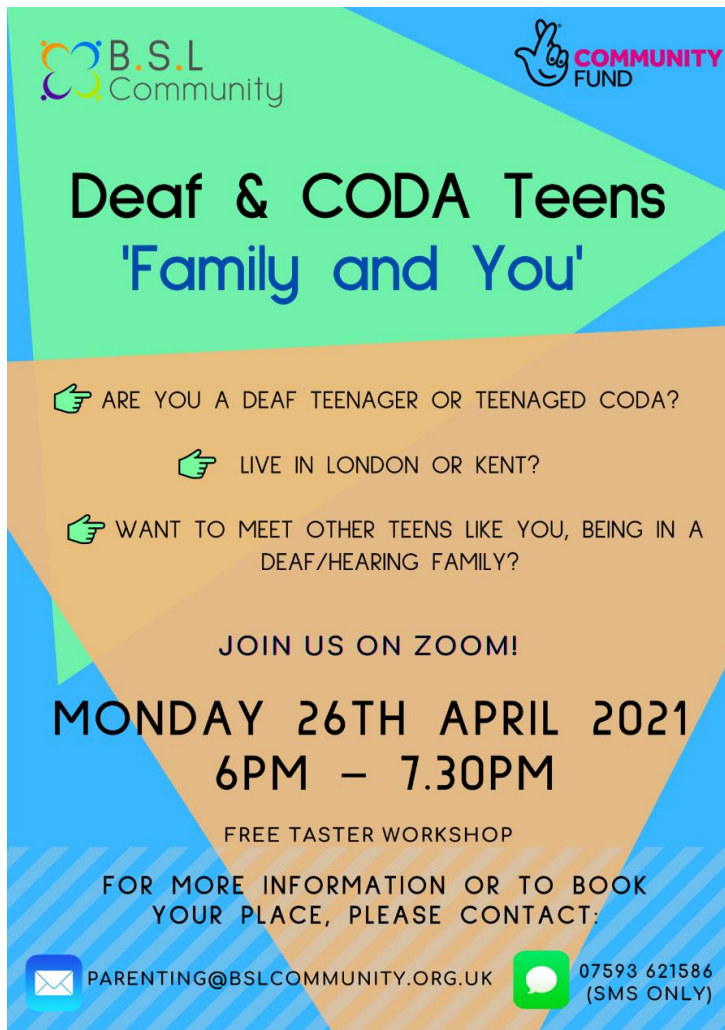
Wheelpower



[WheelPower](#) is a national charity for wheelchair sport. Based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement. They provide regular free online exercise classes which you can do from home without any special equipment. Find out more [here](#).

BSL Community

[BSL Community](#) work to improve communication between Deaf and hearing people, and to see Deaf people being able to access their local community as anyone would. Find out more [here](#).



B.S.L Community **COMMUNITY FUND**

Deaf & CODA Teens 'Family and You'

👉 ARE YOU A DEAF TEENAGER OR TEENAGED CODA?
👉 LIVE IN LONDON OR KENT?
👉 WANT TO MEET OTHER TEENS LIKE YOU, BEING IN A DEAF/HEARING FAMILY?

JOIN US ON ZOOM!

MONDAY 26TH APRIL 2021
6PM – 7.30PM

FREE TASTER WORKSHOP

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CONTACT:

✉ PARENTING@BSLCOMMUNITY.ORG.UK 📱 07593 621586 (SMS ONLY)

IASK SUPPORT & ADVICE AVAILABLE ONLINE



Alongside our normal helpline telephone and email service, IASK are still offering bookable virtual appointments online instead of face to face drop-ins and visits.. You can find all the sessions on our [website](#) and [facebook page](#). Please contact our helpline to book an appointment:

tel. 03000 41 3000 or email iask@kent.gov

If you don't have the facility to have a video appointment, please do ring or email our helpline.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Virtual Workshop

Review Meetings

Date: Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Time: 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

The workshop will include the following (based on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice):

Aim:

- to empower parents/carers and young people to participate and have their say in review meetings.

Objectives:

- to enable parents/carers and young people to feel more confident to have their say at review meetings.
- to provide information on the process of an annual review of an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) including what to expect at the annual review meeting.

About the virtual workshop:

This is an on-line session where you can see the trainer and a power point presentation. You can ask questions, type in the chat box, or you can just simply watch and learn if that's your preference.

It is simple to join from a smart-phone/tablet (you will need to download an App for this) or a computer. You will be emailed a link that you need to click within 5 minutes of the session

Who can attend:

- ❖ Young people with special educational needs or a disability (SEND)
- ❖ Parents/carers of a child with SEND
- ❖ Practitioners working with families of children with SEND

How to book your place:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/special-educational-needs-sen-workshop-review-meetings-tickets-140104760109>

In line with General Data Protection Regulations, your details will only be stored until the day of the session.

Please note: Booking's will close 2 hours prior to the session.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Virtual Workshop

SEN Support in the Early Years and transition to Reception year

Date: Wednesday 10th March 2021

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon

The workshop will include the following (based on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice):

Aims:

- for parents/carers and professionals to gain an understanding of what is meant by SEN Support in mainstream settings
- to understand the transition process to reception class

Objectives:

- to gain knowledge about the Graduated Approach, reasonable adjustments and best endeavours
- to understand how to apply for a school place
- to know where to get further information

About the virtual workshop:

This is an on-line session where you can see the trainer and a power point presentation. You can ask questions, type in the chat box, or you can just simply watch and learn if that's your preference.

It is simple to join from a smart-phone/tablet (you will need to download an App for this) or a computer. You will be emailed a link that you need to click within 5 minutes of the session

Who can attend:

- ❖ Parents/carers of a child with special educational needs or a disability (SEND) in the early years (up to the first term of reception).
- ❖ Practitioners working with families of children with SEND

How to book your place:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sen-support-in-the-early-years-and-transition-to-reception-year-tickets-140294862711>

In line with General Data Protection Regulations, your details will only be stored until the day of the session.

Please note: Booking's will close 2 hours prior to the session.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Virtual Workshop

Post 16 decision making and mental capacity

Date: Friday 19th March 2021

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon

The workshop will include the following (based on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice):

Aim of the workshop:

- for parents/carers, young people and practitioners to understand the changes in decision making for post 16

Objectives:

- to gain knowledge about mental capacity
- To understand that young people have a right to make their own decisions
- to know where to get further information

About the virtual workshop:

This is an on-line session where you can see the trainer and a power point presentation. You can ask questions, type in the chat box, or you can just simply watch and learn if that's your preference.

It is simple to join from a smart-phone/tablet (you will need to download an App for this) or a computer. You will be emailed a link that you need to click within 5 minutes of the session

Who can attend:

- ❖ Parents/carers of a child with special educational needs or a disability
- ❖ Young people with special educational needs or a disability
- ❖ Practitioners working with families of children with SEND

How to book your place:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/post-16-decision-making-and-mental-capacity-tickets-141121589473>

In line with General Data Protection Regulations, your details will only be stored until the day of the session.

Please note: Booking's will close 2 hours prior to the session.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Virtual Workshop

Options for Post 16 transition

Date: Thursday 20th May 2021

Time: 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

The workshop will include the following (based on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice):

Aim:

- to gain knowledge of post 16 transition options and the term 'preparing for adulthood'

Objectives:

- To understand that preparing for adulthood starts in year 9
- To consider options for post 16 education and the support that is available in mainstream colleges
- To be aware that some decision-making rights transfer to a young person, post 16

About the virtual workshop: This is an on-line session where you can see the trainer and a power point presentation. You can ask questions, type in the chat box, or you can just simply watch and learn if that's your preference.

It is simple to join from a smart-phone/tablet (you will need to download an App for this) or a computer. You will be emailed a link that you need to click within 5 minutes of the session taking place. Full details of how to access the course will be sent to you the afternoon before the session and a further reminder will be sent to you 2 hours before the session.

Who can attend:

- ❖ Children and Young people with SEND (diagnosed or undiagnosed)
- ❖ Parents/carers of a child with special educational needs or a disability (SEND)
- ❖ Practitioners working with families of children with SEND

How to book your place:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/options-for-post-16-transition-tickets-140303149497>

In line with General Data Protection Regulations, your details will only be stored until the day of the session.

Please note: Booking's will close 2 hours prior to the session.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Virtual Workshop

Special Educational Needs (SEN) support in mainstream schools and colleges (5 years and over)

Date: Thursday 11th March 2021

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon

The workshop will include the following (based on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice):

- ✓ The definition of SEN Support in mainstream schools and colleges
- ✓ What is meant by 'reasonable adjustments'?
- ✓ What are best endeavours?
- ✓ The 'graduated approach' to supporting children and young people with SEND

About the virtual workshop: This is an on-line session where you can see the trainer and a power point presentation. You can ask questions, type in the chat box, or you can just simply watch and learn if that's your preference.

It is simple to join from a smart-phone/tablet (you will need to download an App for this) or a computer. You will be emailed a link that you need to click within 5 minutes of the session taking place. Full details of how to access the course will be sent to you the afternoon before the session and a further reminder will be sent to you 2 hours before the session.

Who can attend:

- ❖ Young people with SEND (diagnosed or undiagnosed)
- ❖ Parents/carers of a child with special educational needs or a disability (SEND) in mainstream school or college.
- ❖ Practitioners working with families of children with SEND

How to book your place:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/special-educational-needs-sen-support-in-mainstream-schools-and-colleges-tickets-140298315037>

In line with General Data Protection Regulations, your details will only be stored until the day of the session.

Please note: Booking's will close 2 hours prior to the session

Please pass this newsletter on to Parents, Carers, Young People and Professionals who may find it useful. For information on events, please see our [website](#), follow our [facebook page](#) or visit Kent County Council website where you will find the [Local Offer](#).

Information Advice & Support Kent

Shepway Centre, Oxford Road, Maidstone, ME15 8AW

Email: iask@kent.gov.uk

Helpline: 03000 41 3000

Monday—Friday 9.00am—5.00pm

[IASK Website](#)

