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SEND



Welcome to this Spring issue of the SEND Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and you may even be inspired to share your own story as a parent carer. This can be to raise awareness of something specific or to share information which may be useful to others – if so, please email us.

Anna Burkinshaw

Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health

Lancashire SEND Strategy 2025-2028

Lancashire's SEND Strategy 2025–2028 sets out how local services will work together to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), from birth into adulthood. It brings together education, health, and social care partners with a shared commitment to helping children and young people feel safe, happy, healthy and supported to reach their full potential.

[Read our SEND Strategy](#)

Lancashire Service Finder

Helping Families find the Right Support

The Lancashire Service Finder is a new online tool designed to make it easier for children,

can search the service finder below:

[Visit the Lancashire Service Finder](#)



Inclusive Practice for Service Settings

Lancashire County Council, in partnership with The Therapeutic Forest CIC, has delivered Inclusive Practice training to over 100 professionals from 60 community organisations across Lancashire.

The programme supports community settings to become more welcoming and accessible for children and young people with SEND.

The CPD accredited course focuses on inclusive communication, sensory needs, and reducing anxiety, with practical, low cost changes that can be used immediately. Feedback has been highly positive, with 98% of participants rating the training highly and over 94% reporting increased confidence. The free, one hour online course remains available for community providers.

[Access the Inclusive Practice for Community Settings Course](#)

Neurodiversity



AUTISM CONNECT WELCOMES
**PEOPLE WITH
AUTISM,
ADHD,**
AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

**TO OUR
SOCIAL GROUP**

We Meet Every Other Monday
10:30am – 12:30pm

Starting 12th January 2026

**AUTISM
CONNECT**

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
EMMA –
07792960899

The Harris Museum
Preston PR1 2PP

The poster features a blue and pink color scheme with a puzzle piece icon and a star in the bottom right corner.

New EHCNA Digital Process



**Submit an
EHC needs
assessment
request online**

Lancashire
County Council

The image shows a young girl with glasses and braids, focused on painting a picture on a piece of paper. A large yellow circle is partially visible in the background.

Lancashire County Council is introducing a new online form for requesting an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA).

From 2 February 2026, parents/carers, young people aged 16+, educational settings and professionals will be able to submit requests digitally via the Local Offer website or via the direct link which are both below.

[Visit our Local Offer website](#)

[Visit the EHCNA direct link](#)



Get involved with POWAR - Lancashire's Youth Voice Group

Are you a young person aged up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) living in Lancashire?

Would you like to share your ideas, talk about what matters to you and help improve services for other young people?

Then POWAR could be for you.

POWAR - Get involved!

SEND DROP-INS LPFC
LPCF has been collecting a graffiti wall of feedback from parents and carers across the county. This is what they have been saying about: "what is their biggest worry"

1 Education & Schooling
Is the area where **parents and carers feel the education system fails first and most often.**

- Schools not listening/delivering support
- Children being pushed out or excluded
- Saying they need a diagnosis before help is available
- Transitions to secondary school

2 Systemic Failures & Accountability
A persistent theme reveals a **substantial lack of trust in services**, indicating that the issue extends beyond isolated incidents and reflects a more systemic problem. Key points include:

- Repeated instances of children "falling through the cracks," highlighting process-related issues.
- An increasing number of children who are out of school or education.
- Families in crisis

3 Support, Funding & Services
The second most common theme which is linked to schools is the **lack of support and services**. Parents repeatedly link **poor outcomes due to lack of funded timely support.**

- Inconsistent or withdrawn support
- Lack of funding or services

4 Emotional Wellbeing & Safety
Another common challenge is the **emotional damage and adverse effects on well-being resulting from unmet needs.**

- A sense of isolation, feeling different, or being misunderstood
- Diminished self-esteem and self-worth
- Parents' concerns about their children's safety

5 FUTURE & ADULTHOOD
Many parents **express deep anxiety regarding their children's future and transition into adulthood.** With ongoing worries about education and access to appropriate learning opportunities, one must consider the implications for children after they turn 16 and beyond. Key areas of concern include:

- Relationships and independence
- Employment opportunities
- The future when parents are no longer present

OTHER THEMES
Other, less common challenges reveal a broader perspective:

- Family life facing significant pressure
- Emotional fatigue from supporting and advocating for their children
- Parents experiencing feelings of being overlooked and disregarded by professionals

References

Lancashire Parent Carer Forum - Graffiti Wall

Graffiti Wall – Your Voice Matters

LPCF want to hear from you! Our Graffiti Wall is a space for children, young people, parents, carers, and professionals to share ideas, feedback, and experiences. Tell us what's working well, what could be better, or what you'd like to see next. Every comment helps shape more inclusive support across Lancashire.

Our SEND Newsletter has a new look

We're pleased to let you know that our SEND newsletter has recently been updated following feedback from our readers.

We've moved from our old format to a new, more streamlined version, designed to make it easier for you to find the information that matters most.

What's changed?

- A clearer, simpler layout
- Shorter, more focused updates
- Easier access to key news, events, and support for children and young people with SEND and their families

The new format which is primarily digital, is designed to be more accessible and convenient, whether you're reading it on a phone, tablet, or computer.



Lancashire Parent Carer Forum

The Lancashire Parent Carer Forum is a group of parent carers or grandparents of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities aged (0-25 years).

They are volunteers who provide a voice to support Lancashire's parent/carers and their families to create an independent forum.

[Visit the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum](#)



advice, guidance and support to parents of children with special educational needs and children and young people with SEND.

[Visit the SENDIAS website](#)



Lancashire Family Hubs Network

Find support for you and your family from local services both in person and online.

Support is available for all stages of family life, from pregnancy through to 19 years old or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

[Find out more about Family Hubs](#)



FIND Database

The FIND database includes information about disabled children and young people up to 25 years old in Lancashire.

Families are invited to submit details about their disabled child or young person to the database, which is used to develop an overview of the needs of disabled children across the county to assist with planning services.

The FIND service is strictly confidential - no individual information about any children or their families is shared with anyone.

[Register on the FIND database](#)

Events and support

support and activities on our [Local Offer Facebook page](#), the [LCC What's On guide](#) or by searching the [LCC Service Finder](#).

Lancashire-wide

[Kids Nurturing Anchors](#) - free, online tailored support to Royal Navy and Royal Marines Families with neurodivergent children

[LCC Spring Holiday, Food and Activity Programme](#)

[Lagan's Lancashire Care Hub](#) - a supportive community space across Lancashire for families of children with complex health needs.

[WellChild "In Your Area"](#) - a free online platform designed to help parents and carers of children with complex medical needs

["Head Up!"](#) - mentoring scheme for disabled young people aged 14-18

East Lancashire and the Ribble Valley

[Busy Bees parent carer support group](#) - Burnley Family Hub and Colne Children's Centre

[SNAP: exciting and inclusive SEND programme for young people aged 12 to 19 with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities \(SEND\)](#) - New Era Accrington

[Peer Support for parent carers](#)

[SEND Roadshow](#) - Clitheroe Family Hub

North Lancashire

[Access to Fleetwood Beach](#) - with Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

[Unique Kidz Sibling Support group](#) - siblings of children and young people with SEND in Morecambe

[SEND Roadshow](#) - Lune Park Family Hub

West Lancashire

[Parent Carer Forum meetup - Skelmersdale Family Hub](#)

[Colourful Footsteps - Burscough Family Hub](#)

Preston, Chorley and South Ribble

[Saturday Colourful Footsteps group - West Paddock](#)

[Exclusive SEND sessions - AllThrive Leyland](#)

lancashire.gov.uk/SEND



Website



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