

Solihull SEND Newsletter

July 2026

#SENDSpotlight

A huge thank you to the 77 children and young people, 456 parent carers and 198 professionals who responded to the recent Ofsted survey. We really take your feedback seriously and will now be analysing the results to inform areas for action through JAND so look out for future messages.

National news

Following their recent consultation on the SEND reforms, the DfE have recently published guidance for education settings and parents on what they expect the Experts at Hand offer to include across the country. You can access this on their website: [Supporting SEND reform: developing the Experts at Hand offer - GOV.UK](#)

The DfE has launched a new consultation on Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) which runs until 18 September 2026. You can share your views on their online consultation system: [SEND reform: education otherwise than at school - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

SEND Reforms

We have published an overview of our plan on the Local Offer under the SEND Reform Plan section ([SEND Strategic Activity](#)) so you can read more about what it is and what we are doing. This includes how we are planning to:

- build an inclusive culture across education settings
- create inclusion support bases and inclusion specialist bases in mainstream schools
- develop an Experts at Hand offer for settings to access
- strengthen our oversight, governance and co-production arrangements.

As we begin to work on delivering these plans there will be many more opportunities to discuss these with you and make improvements. However, if you have any views on the reform plan you would like to share in the meantime please contact us at jand@solihull.gov.uk

SEND & AP Inspection

As many of you will know, Ofsted and CQC undertook our SEND and Alternative Provision inspection between 22nd June - 10th July. Thank you to everyone who took part in the inspection work or contributed to the surveys which informed the inspectors' work.

Across the partnership inspectors managed to speak to a number of children and young people, OVH Ambassadors, parent carers, SPCV, SENDIAS and a range of practitioners within education settings, health services, social care, ICB and council staff to conduct their work. It was great to see so many people working together to talk through our strengths and challenges. Ofsted and CQC will now write a letter to the Council and ICB which we will share on our Local Offer page once it has been published.

Here2Help

There's plenty of things to do during the summer holidays in Solihull. This week we launched our [Here2Help summer campaign](#), which includes free activities for children who get benefits-related free school meals and low-cost activities for all through the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF). Here2Help also includes information about financial support available to families and links to wider support.

There's a huge range of summer activities available, including Ice Skating (good if this heat continues!), arts and crafts, coding and gaming and specially designed activities for children with additional needs and/or disabilities so there's bound to be something to suit every child or young person.

Educational Psychology Service

We are looking forward to an exciting new academic year with a growing team and several new projects starting up, as part of our workstreams and the new SEND reforms. Our new staff members include Carla Lowe, EP, Jenny Beveridge, Assistant EP, Catriona Corry, Assistant EP and Rowan Gaffney, Senior Practitioner EP. We also celebrate Janet Lo's promotion to Specialist Senior EP, for her work with the virtual school. The next cohort of ELSAs start in September, joining the large team of qualified ELSAs who are already making such a positive difference for our children's emotional wellbeing across the borough. We will have the usual summer bulge of EHC work to catch up on and will do what we did last year, delaying traded work a little to allow us to work more on EHCs during September. (Urgent work will continue as usual.)

In other news, we have another EPS baby on the way in the Autumn, with baby Roman now being three months old and the star of the show at our staff social events! Have a lovely Summer everyone.

Early Years

Final Dingley's Promise data 2026

As our 5-year project draws to a close I can share the final number of learners that accessed the Dingley's training. Current learners can continue to finish any training that they have started [until 31 December 2026].

791 individual learners - This is an estimated 60% of our potential early years learners

25 settings were awarded a Mark of Achievement

We know that Dingley's Promise have been supporting as an early years voice with DfE as the SEND Reforms plans roll out. They are also talking to DfE as the plans for early years SEND training are being explored. We hope that this commitment to training supports as the focus on early years inclusive practice and early identification continue.

Early Years Funding: proposed changes to the entitlements funding system

The [consultation](#) on proposed changes to the entitlements funding system, targeted at improving access to childcare and support for children with special educational needs in early years, is now live.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-funding-system-for-early-years-entitlements>

Support for Young Carers and Parent Carers in Solihull

At some point, children, young people and adults may find themselves in a caring role. This can happen gradually or suddenly, for example following illness, disability or changes in family circumstances.

This leaflet [Support for Young Carers and Parent Carers in Solihull](#) explains:

- Who **young carers** and **parent carers** are
- What support is available in Solihull
- How to access help

You can also find out more about support for carers by visiting the Council's website

www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-families



All Age Autism Support Service

Looking for Autism Support in Birmingham & Solihull?

The All Age Autism Support Service (AAASS) Directory, delivered by Landau, helps autistic individuals, families, carers, and professionals easily access local support, services, and information across Birmingham and Solihull.

Explore the Directory

The directory includes a wide range of helpful resources, including:

- Local events and activities
- Support groups and community services
- Newsletters and articles
- Podcasts and useful autism resources

Visit the directory:

www.aaadirectory.co.uk

Browse directly at:

Events & Activities: <https://www.aaadirectory.co.uk/events/>

Articles & Resources: <https://www.aaadirectory.co.uk/articles/>

Join Our Volunteer Team - Could you spare just 1–2 hours a week?

We welcome volunteers of all ages who have an interest in autism or a personal connection to the autistic community.

As a volunteer, you could:

- Help manage and update the online directory
- Develop valuable digital and communication skills
- Connect with others in the local community
- Support awareness and information sharing across Birmingham and Solihull

If you're interested in volunteering, have suggestions for the directory, or would like to feature an organisation, we'd love to hear from you.

Email: aaa@landau.co.uk

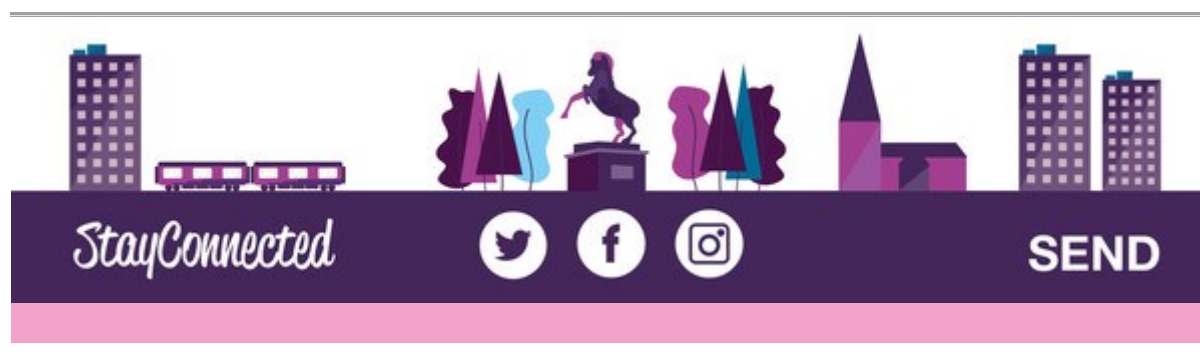
The directory is continually growing, so please get in touch if you can't find the information you're looking for.

If you think other people you know would be interested in this newsletter please encourage them to [sign up on the Council website here](#).

If you have any feedback on the newsletter, or suggestions for future items please email and let us know: jand@solihull.gov.uk

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Head of Strategy - SEND & Additional Needs



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