

Solihull SEND Newsletter

June 2026

#SENDSpotlight

Last summer, at Key Stage 4 and 5, Solihull young people with SEND (with and without EHCPs) outperformed their peers nationally in their end of year exams. This placed Solihull in the top quartile of all local authorities. A huge well done to our young people!

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](#)

SEND Reforms

We received positive feedback from the advisors on our draft plans and submitted the final version on the DfEs deadline of 19th June. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to this so far; everyone's input has been valuable.

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

Additional Needs Board

The last joint additional needs board meeting took place on 1 June 2026. The key messages were:

- SPCV advised that after many years, Heather Delaney was stepping down from her CEO role of SPCV but would continue to lead SEND Navigator work for the group. Members wished Heather all the best and felt she had been a valuable asset to the partnership in championing the views of parent carers and children and young people. The Board were happy that other SPCV staff and volunteers remained in place and had been active within the partnership because felt strong co-production would be key to delivering the upcoming SEND reforms.
- The Board heard feedback from a SEND Advisor who had worked with members to evaluate how effective the SEND governance arrangements were. The work of the Board in delivering improvements was noted but it was identified that more needed to be done to strengthen everyone's understanding of roles and responsibilities. It was agreed more work would be done across the partnership under the SEND reform plan to make the improvements necessary to best drive good outcomes across the borough.
- The Board discussed the upcoming primary SEND transition event which had been advertised through schools to support children with SEND in giving them useful information and a forum for them to share their views. Members discussed how young people did not really understand who SENDIAS were so OVH and SENDIAS agreed to work together on improving awareness.

Early Years

The Early Years Team host two transition network events for north and south providers. Schools and settings share information about successful strategies and adjustments for cohorts transitioning into new settings. Sessions are also attended by a range of 'experts' to help settings meet the needs of our youngest children.

We thank everyone for taking the time to attend. It works best when the full range of providers are in attendance.

Recently published guidance supported this approach -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/getting-children-ready-for-reception-supporting-effective-transition>

A recent [NFER publication](#), reported in Nursery World [below], stressed the importance of reciprocal communication between settings and schools as supportive to young children with additional needs.

The effectiveness of feeder nurseries and early years settings in identifying children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has a 'significant impact' on how well pupils are supported when they start school, new research suggests.

Transitions event for young people

The Council's Employment and Skills Team is partnering with Solihull Parent Carer Voice to host a transitions event and showcase the post-16 pathways offered locally, including inclusive pathways. Come along to Solihull Recruitment and Training Centre on 25 June (10am-2pm) to find out more. Please refer to the [e-poster](#) for details.

Independent travel training

The [independent travel training team](#) can help children and young people with SEND to travel safely. The summer edition of their [newsletter](#) is now available.

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact the **team via** travel.training@solihull.gov.uk.

Summer workshops for work or training

The Skills for Success team will be delivering workshops over the summer to support Year 11-13 pupils in Solihull to navigate various work and training pathways, including inclusive pathways such as Inclusive Apprenticeships and Supported Internships. The workshops cover CV writing, skills for interviews, apprenticeships, application support, overview of pathways and transition. Find out more from the [eflyer](#).



Landau - All Age Autism Support Service (AAASS) Support Directory

The AAASS Directory helps autistic individuals, families and professionals across Birmingham & Solihull find local autism support quickly and easily. www.aaadirectory.co.uk

Find:

- Local events
- Support groups
- Newsletters, articles & podcasts

Volunteer With Us

Have 1-2 hours a week to spare? Join our volunteer team to gain new skills, meet people and help others access valuable autism support.

Get Involved

Can't find what you need? Have suggestions or want your organisation featured? We'd love to hear from you: aaa@landau.co.uk

What People Say

"This directory isn't just a list, it's a warm guide that has saved us time and worry while helping us find the right support." - Parent

"An inclusive, easy-to-use resource that helps families and professionals connect with services quickly and effectively." - Special Education Consultant

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

Charlotte Jones

Head of Strategy - SEND & Additional Needs



Subscriber Services

Change your subscriptions and modify your password or email address at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#).

If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please visit subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

Unsubscribe from all Stay Connected emails on the [Subscriber Deletion Page](#) .

If you would like to contact Solihull Council, you can do so via our [website](#)

This service is provided to you at no charge by [Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council](#).