SEND Advice Service Newsletter

October 2026

0300 303 0380 sendadviceline@rochdale.org.uk



Introducing your SEND Advice Service Team: Amina Yousuf, Jemma Hewitt (Team leader) and Elizabeth Henshaw. (L to R)

Timetables for The Neurodiversity Hub September to December drop-ins and workshops are available, please see the Local Offer for more information.

If you have details of events or information you would like us to feature in upcoming newsletters, please email us at the above address. The newsletter will be quarterly.

Welcome to our SEND Advice Service Newsletter!

In this edition, we're delighted to share news, updates and information from the SEND Advice Service and Best Start Family Hubs.

The SEND Advice Service is here to support parents, carers, young people and professionals with advice, guidance and information relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Whether you are seeking support, looking for local opportunities, or wanting to stay informed about services available across the area, we are here to help.

We hope you find this newsletter informative, and we look forward to continuing to work together to support children and young people with SEND and their families.

Monthly drop-ins at No1 Riverside

SEND Advice Service in Partnership with Barnardo's SENDIASS and Rochdale Parent Carers Voice

Rochdale SENDiass
Special Educational Needs, Disability Information, Advice & Support Service.

Time: 09:30 am -11:30 am

16th September 2026
21st October 2026
18th November 2026
16th December 2026

No appointment necessary

Rochdale Parent Carers Voice

RAISING ROCHDALE

SEND is Everyone's Business Event 2026

Thank you to everyone who attended our SEND is Everyone's Business event. The afternoon brought together families, carers, young people and professionals to learn more about the wide range of SEND support services available across Rochdale.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees valuing the opportunity to access information, speak directly with services and connect with others. We were particularly pleased that many people left feeling better informed about the support available to them.

We also received helpful suggestions about how we can improve future events, including venue accessibility, sensory considerations, event timings and the range of services represented. We are actively reviewing all feedback and exploring changes for next year to ensure the event is as inclusive, accessible and beneficial as possible.

Thank you for helping us shape future SEND engagement events. Your feedback continues to drive improvements and helps us ensure SEND is everyone's business.

We are currently running Sleep Support sessions alongside the Neurodiversity Hub. Staff have received training from the Together Trust to offer advice for mild to moderate sleep issues.

RAISING ROCHDALE

ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Neurodiversity Hub
Signpost & Support Service

Sleep Support

Is your child or young person experiencing mild to moderate sleep difficulties?

Sleep support is now available at the following drop-ins

Stop by for friendly advice and practical tips

No appointment needed

Open to all families

Relaxed, welcoming space

Where	When	Time
Home Start & Neurodiversity Hub Information and Advice Session St George's Hall, OL11 4EB	10th September 2026	5-7pm
SEND Advice Service Drop-in Number One Riverside, Smith Street, OL10 1XU	21st October 2026	9.30am – 11.00am
SEND Advice Service Drop-in Number One Riverside, Smith Street, OL10 1XU	18th November 2026	9.30am – 11.00am
Home Start & Neurodiversity Hub Information and Advice Session Alkrington Primary School, Manor Road, M24 1JZ	3rd December 2026	9.30am -11.00am

If you have any questions, please contact the SEND Advice Service on 0300 303 0380

Best Start Family Hubs

News from Littleborough Family Hub

Littleborough Family hub is opening 2027.

SEND provision has been put at the centre of the delivery.

You will be greeted by reception staff who have been trained in welcoming children with a range of needs. Specific needs will be met on reception though a booking system that incorporates an "All About Me" toolkit so that the staff are prepared before a child enters the building. There will be ear defenders to borrow on reception for your time in the Hub and an extra room on reception that can be used, on entry, if the reception area is too busy.

There will be a brand new sensory room, which contains:
Dark tent and accessories
Hurricane tube
½ floor and wall padding
Fibre optic lights
Solar LED projector
LED Wall wash
Sound and light panel
Flip sequin boards
Rainmaker
Bluetooth speakers
UV light panel
Families and professionals working with children will be able to book this room throughout the week, in hour-long sessions, for your sole use or to share with a family of your choosing.

When accessing the sensory room, you will be able to book out developmentally appropriate resource boxes. They have been designed in consultation with families, to meet a range of sensory, hearing and visual impairment needs.

On Monday and Thursday from 3:15 to 5:30pm, Home Start will be running drop in sessions for children with SEND needs, and their parents or carers, and people will be able to access the sensory room, in turn, during this time if they wish.

We have changing places facilities in the building and accessible toilets.

There will be SEND session for children under 5 years old run by the Early Years team, Home Start will be running evening support groups for children who are siblings of children with neurodiversity (Sam Sibs) , and also a group to support children with neurodiversity (Belong and Grow) both of these are for children 6 – 15 years

We have Early Years workers and Outreach family workers, who can work one to one in the family home, supporting children with SEND needs, ensuring you are linked in to services that meet your needs as well as supporting parents to understand your needs and how they can be the best parents for you.

Riding the Rapids course will be running (book on), which will enable parents and carers to meet others in similar situation, and to SEND Advice team and Outreach.
How to book: If you have any questions, or would like more information on how to book, please contact the Neurodiversity Hub— hmr-ndhub@nca.nhs.uk

RAISING ROCHDALE

SEND Stay and Play Sessions



Description:
SEND Stay and Play sessions (0-5) – Come along to our welcoming weekly stay and play sessions run by our Early Years workers with a monthly visit from the Early Support Keyworker team (no formal diagnosis needed).

Starting Monday 20th April
Monday 09.30-11.30am - Woodland Best Start Family Hub
Monday 10.00-12.00pm – Norden Best Start Family Hub
Monday 1pm -3pm Newbold Best Start Family Hub

Starting Tuesday 21st April
Tuesday 12.45-2.45pm – Littleborough Best Start Family Hub
Tuesday 1.00-3.00pm Langley Best Start Family Hub

Funded by UK Government

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SCAN ME

Family Hubs provide a single access point to integrated family support services for early help early years with social, emotional, physical and financial needs. Each family hub is designed for the local community while incorporating three key delivery principles: access, connection and relationships. Service 0-19 25 if SEND.

Early Help
Early Help is about helping children, young people and families deal with any issues as early as possible.

It's available to families with a child up to the age of 19, or a child up to the age of 25 if they've got special educational needs or disabilities.
Give one of our centres a call to speak to on of our staff members and for more information, scan the QR code.

News from Norden Family Hub

We also have a Best Start Family Hub in Norden situated next to Norden Community Primary School, Shawfield Lane - Norden – Rochdale - OL12 7RQ.
A specially adapted space for children and young people with SEND and their families.
For families

- **Inclusive access to services and support. No diagnosis needed.**
- **Somewhere families can spend time together.**
- **A calming and low stimulation environment.**
- **A range of toys and interactive sensory equipment available.**
- **Fully accessible wet room with hoist and changing bed.**
- **Family room with cooking and laundry facilities.**

For professionals

- **Bookable, accessible spaces to support assessment, group session sand direct work.**
- **Small health room – ideal for 1:1 sessions with children.**

To find out more please call Norden Family Hub on 01706 926740.

Derby Street Family hub also has a sensory room , which is closed at present. It is planned that this will be refurbished in the near future. We have tried to ensure that these sensory rooms have different features so that, if you can travel you have a range of different resources, activities and provision that you can access.

SEND Champions

Did you know that each Neighbourhood has its own Early Years SEND Champion? The SEND Champions also run the SEND Stay and Play Sessions featured above.

Pennine: Caitlin Dolan
South: Emma Whittaker
Middleton: Jo Morris
Heywood: Sonia Kousar
North: Margaret Brayshaw