



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in NE Lincs

Parents/carers weekly NE Lincs SEND meeting with partners from education, health and social care.

DATE 23/09/2020

This week in NE Lincs

This is the third full week that children and young people in NE Lincs have returned to school for the Autumn term. There are 57 schools which are now fully open. There is a changing picture of schools that are partially closed due to COVID bubbles self isolating, as suspected and new cases are confirmed.

Attendance data submitted from our local education settings to the local authority shows that pupils in our area have a better attendance rate this week than nationally with a combined Primary and Secondary attendance overall of 90.4% compared to 88.3% nationally.

83.2% of NE Lincs pupils with an EHCP have returned to school. We know that some families who have previously been shielding and now no longer need to shield are understandably anxious about their child returning to their education settings. Work is being done with families to help and support them in getting their child back in school and feeling confident to do so. If you have any health worries, Sarah Harding will be happy to help and she can be contacted at designatedclinicalofficer@nelincs.gov.uk

SENDIASS haven't had any reported problems brought to their attention around children going back to school and say feelings amongst families are quite positive. Our special schools have also reported that children and young people who have returned are pleased to be back at school and their behaviour and acceptance of the new normal is, on the whole, really very good.

Secondary Schools Head Teachers update



Local authority education officers met with NE Lincs Secondary Schools Heads this week who have reported that the procedures that have been put in place to keep staff and students safe are going well. There are some transport issues with public transport but these are being worked through. Overall, Secondary Head Teachers gave a positive picture on the re-opening of schools.

An Update from Primary Head Teachers will be given next week following meetings this week.



SENDIASS Update



SENDIASS report that enquiries/referrals are picking up as the school year gets going, although there is no set theme around these contacts so far. Some parents/carers are looking for advice on choosing a Secondary School, as settings are not able to offer the usual traditional open evenings. Many schools are doing their transition year open evenings virtually and have set dates for these. Individual school websites and social media platforms give the details of the dates and events available. The local authority admissions team have provided a collated list for SENDIASS to share with interested parents/carers. If families do have any queries, they can contact

SENDIASS on Tel: [01472 355365](tel:01472355365).

SENDIASS gave a big 'thank you' to Nicola Lambert at the Special Educational Needs Assessment Review Team (SENART) for being a named contact for the SENDIASS team to contact with any queries. This system is working well and it is very much appreciated to have a named contact. If any parent/carer would like to contact NE Lincs SEND Assessment and Review Team (SENART) for information regarding Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) they can do so by contacting SEN@nelincs.gov.uk

Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Update



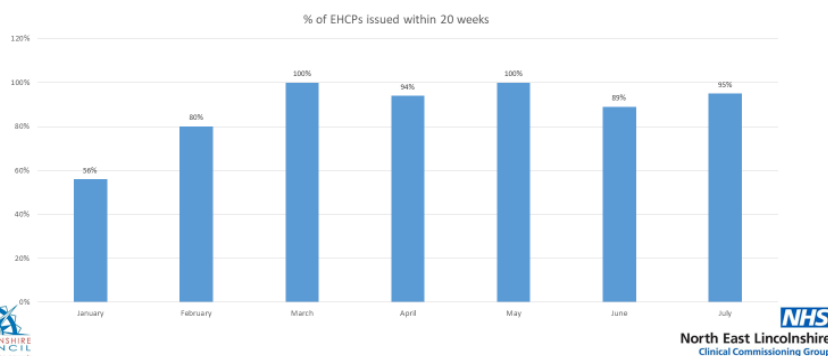
There has been a significant increase in the number of requests for an EHCP coming through. Some are from young adults who have been out of education for a few years. The SENART team are busy processing these requests.

There is a recognised backlog with EHCP Annual Reviews but the SENART team are working through them as quickly as they can. A new letter for parents has been written, which will be sent to the families of children and young people who have had an Annual Review. It will give them prior notice of the amendments being made/suggested for the EHCP.

SENDIASS gave feedback from some parents that they felt their Annual Review had been rushed through. Schools are still being careful with visitors and meetings so many Annual Reviews are still being held virtually. The SENART team recognise that some meetings can feel rushed particularly if completed via phone. If there are any parents who are not happy with amendments or the EHCP annual review they can speak to their EHCP co-ordinator or Nicola Lambert SEN@nelincs.gov.uk.

The SENART team are currently achieving a rate of 50% for the 20 week statutory timescale for issuing EHCPs. This has been due to the knock on effect of COVID and the Educational Psychologist's (EP) and health professionals having

% of EHCPs issued within 20 week timescale



to do their assessments very differently. In addition, some schools have been closed and some parents/carers have understandably not been available due to having children at home. Once again, the SENART team are working really hard to get these assessments done.

Previously this year the SENART team achieved 89% in June and 90% in July for meeting 20 week timescale for assessment. We are keeping families up to date and parents/carers have been very understanding about the current situation which is much appreciated.



Website:

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-and-local-offer/>



Contact:

07974 082474
01472 323236



Email:

SEN@nelincs.gov.uk

Workshops for professionals

Over the next three weeks five workshops have been offered to all SENCOs, EHCP Co-Ordinators, Key Stage Team and other professionals to update them on the EHCP Hub and introduce them in more detail to the Valuing SEND tool. Both of these updates, have already been shared with representatives from NELPPF and SENDIASS too.

Rebecca Taylor is to attend a SENDIASS Team Meeting on Wednesday 30th September to give an update to all of the staff on the EHCP hub and Valuing SEND.

Education, Health and Care Plan Hub Update

Plans are in place for any new Education Health and Care Plan Assessment Requests (EHCARs) requests to go onto the the Hub system from 7th October 2020. Currently work around the Annual Review process is taking place. This will be an evolving process and may take the academic year to be fully implemented due to the high number of EHCP in our local area. Communication around these processes will be made really clear and support and guidance offered.



Demonstrations for parents took place last academic year. There is a self-help guide which is currently in draft. This will show parents/carers how to log on, change passwords, put a request through etc. There will also be videos to accompany the guide which will be available on the Local Offer. Any questions about the EHCP Hub please contact Rebecca.Taylor@nelincs.gov.uk

Health Update

The Designated Clinical Officer (DCO), Sarah Harding, gave an update around Annual Reviews. Sarah is working closely with schools in the area helping them ensure they are following the process around getting health advice in time to feed into the Annual Review Meeting.



Positive feedback was given to Sarah from SENDIASS around their service now having somebody to contact for families to have health included in the draft EHCP.

Sarah reported that there are still limitations of face to face appointments in some health service areas due to COVID. The ADHD and ASC assessments are currently limited as to what can be completed because whilst part of the assessment is completed over the telephone, this process of assessment then comes to an halt when it comes to needing a face to face appointment.

Any health queries can be sent to designatedclinicalofficer@nelincs.gov.uk.

Next week

Next week the SENART team will be bringing questions to the weekly parents/carers meeting for SENDIASS and parents/carers to give their advice and views. Anyone who would like to be involved in the weekly meetings are most welcome and can contact clare.linfitt@nelincs.gov.uk for more information.

Suggestions for Speakers

SENDIASS have requested to hear more about developments in the local areas Early Help offer. Matt Clayton from the Early Help team will soon be popping into to our weekly meeting to bring us up to date on developments.

If there is anything parents/carers would like to hear more about please do get in contact and we can arrange for a specialist in that area to speak to the group. Contact details are below.



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Contact:

07974 082474
01472 323236



Email:

SEN@nelincs.gov.uk

Keeping everyone safe

A safety poster with a yellow background and black and white hazard stripes on the left and bottom edges. It features the NHS logo, North East Lincolnshire logo, and HM Government logo in the top right corner.

Do your bit to
**keep North East
Lincolnshire
SAFE and OPEN**

- Keep your distance
- Wash your hands and use hand gel
- Avoid crowds and wear a face covering if it's not possible to social distance
- If you have even mild symptoms, self-isolate and visit www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or ring 119 to book a test.