

DECEMBER 2025

# Listen 4 Change Newsletter



Contact Listen 4 Change:

Website : [www.listen4change.uk](http://www.listen4change.uk)

Email: [listen4change@outlook.com](mailto:listen4change@outlook.com)

Facebook private group -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1815692118888096>

Facebook page - [Listen4Change, St Helens Parent Carer](#)

Forum | Saint Helens | Facebook

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT  
LISTEN 4 CHANGE!**



As we come to the end of another year, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to every parent carer who has been part of our community. Whether you joined us at a coffee morning, took part in a workshop, completed a survey, or simply reached out for support – your voices are what shape everything we do.

This year has shown, once again, the strength, resilience and kindness within our parent carer community in St Helens. We are so proud to stand alongside you.

We hope this festive season brings you moments of calm, connection and joy with the people who matter most.

From all of us at Listen 4 Change, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and lived experiences with us - together our voice is stronger! 🎄🌟

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**Events in Spring Term**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January - Financial workshop in person or join us online**

10am-12pm. Wonderland Community Centre WA10 3JQ

Join us for a relaxed coffee morning where you can chat with other parent carers and take part in a workshop on how parent carers can better manage their personal finances to reduce stress and improve their financial wellbeing.

<https://us06web.zoom.us>

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January - Financial workshop in person or join us online.**

6:30-8pm Wonderland Community Centre WA10 3JQ

Join us for a relaxed coffee evening where you can chat with other parent carers and take part in a workshop on how parent carers can better manage their personal finances to reduce stress and improve their financial wellbeing.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j>

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) online**

**Workshop 10am-12pm.**Delivered by Eleanor Wright, SOS!SEN Legal Officer

This online workshop is for parent carers of children/ young people with SEND.

Places are limited so booking is essential. **Save the Date – booking opens 5th January**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Coffee morning**

10am-12pm. Wonderland Community Centre WA10 3JQ

The SEND Practitioner from the St Helens 0-19+ Service will be attending to listen to your feedback.

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**Events in Spring Term**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**- Coffee evening

6:30-8pm Wonderland Community Centre WA10 3JQ

Guest speaker TBC

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) online**

**Workshop 6-8pm** Delivered by Eleanor Wright, SOS!SEN Legal Officer

This online workshop is for parent carers of children/ young people with SEND.

Places are limited so booking is essential. **Save the Date – booking opens 5th January**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** - Coffee morning

10am-12pm. Wonderland Community Centre WA10 3JQ

A Specialist Paediatric Therapist from Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust will be speaking with parent carers on how the service can support with sensory difficulties and answering questions.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**- Coffee evening

6:30-8pm Wonderland Community Centre WA10 3JQ

Guest speaker TBC

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## **Listen 4 Change: What We've Been Up To in November**

- We attended a regional meeting with Parent Carers Forums from across Cheshire & Merseyside to discuss the progress of the implementation of the ND (Neurodiversity) Profiling Tool
- We participated in a Preparing for Adulthood Journey Workshop organised by St Helens Council and facilitated by the National Development Team for Inclusion to explore how local services support young people with SEND into employment and to identify areas for development in order to improve employment outcomes for young people with SEND
- We welcomed St Helens Council's Inclusion Manager from the Education and TESSA Team to our coffee morning to share information, to listen to feedback and to answer parent carers questions
- We attended the Autism in Schools Steering Group meeting to discuss action plans and training for schools and to hear updates on the ND Profiling Tool and from TESSA Autism
- We attended the Cheshire & Merseyside regional meeting of Parent Carer Forum Leads to discuss arranging focus groups to gain an insight into access to dental care for children and young people with SEND, the establishment of a regional model for diagnosing learning disabilities (LD) and services available to support those with a LD diagnosis and the All Together Smiling intervention used in education settings to support children with developing good oral health
- We attended a project meeting to discuss the sensory equipment ordered and updates on the progress made for launching Haydock library as a SEND-friendly library
- We attended a Cheshire & Merseyside regional workshop of professionals to share parent carers thoughts on the implementation of the ND Profiling Tool
- We attended a coffee event at Eccleston Mere Primary School to speak with the SENCO and parent carers about Listen 4 Change, what we do and services available locally to support parent carers and their children and young people with SEND
- We held a coffee evening to chat with other parent carers about what's working well for our children and young people with SEND and what needs improving

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Save the Date — booking opens 5th January

# **EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (EHCP) ONLINE WORKSHOP**

Delivered by Eleanor Wright,  
**SOS!SEN Legal Officer**

**This online workshop is for parent carers  
of children/ young people with SEND**

**The workshop will cover**

- What advice & information should be obtained during the assessment
- Timescales
- EHCP format & section-by-section content
- Discussion of a draft Plan with pointers on what to look out for
- Q&A session

**Places are limited so booking is essential. Book your  
place here**

**<https://forms.gle/ycGvjXG9rDY8TuR97>**

**ONLINE**

**Thursday  
12th February or  
10-12pm**

**Thursday  
26th February  
6-8pm**

**CONTACT US ➤**

Email  
[listen4changebookings@gmail.com](mailto:listen4changebookings@gmail.com)

Website:  
[listen4change.uk](http://listen4change.uk)

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## **Government Consultation on Down Syndrome Act 2022: draft statutory guidance**

This relates to people with Down Syndrome and those with other conditions or a learning disability who have similar needs.

As a result of the Down Syndrome Act 2022 statutory guidance has been drafted to inform services - such as healthcare, social care, local councils, education, employers and housing services - of the actions they should be taking to support the needs of people with Down Syndrome and those with other conditions or a learning disability who have similar needs.

This draft guidance brings useful information together in one document and aims to help improve support for people with Down Syndrome and those with other conditions or a learning disability who have similar needs to live fulfilling lives through accessing the health and care services they need, receiving the right education, securing living arrangements that work for them, and enabling proper employment opportunities and support.

The Department of Health & Social Care want your feedback on two documents:

**The draft statutory guidance -**

[Down Syndrome Act 2022: draft statutory guidance - GOV.UK](#)

**The Annex setting out examples of good practice and useful resources -**

[Annex: resources and examples of good practice - GOV.UK](#)

**The Easy Read version of the consultation can be found here:**

[Down Syndrome Act 2022: draft guidance \(easy read\) - what services should do to support people with Down syndrome](#)

**Here is the link to provide your response:**

[Down Syndrome Act 2022 draft statutory guidance - Department of Health and Social Care](#)

You don't have to answer every question and can just complete those that you feel are most relevant to you. We would urge you to at least respond to the questions about the Annex of good practice and useful resources. Please feedback with examples of anything that you think should be included here as a helpful resource or as good practice.

The consultation period closes on 28th Jan 2026. Following which, the Department of Health & Social Care will review all responses and will publish final Down Syndrome Act 2022 statutory guidance which relevant services will then need to have due regard to.

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## **St Helens Council Scrutiny Review of SEND School Provision in St Helens**

Thank you to those parent carers that attended the Listen 4 Change meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December and shared your views with the Task & Finish group from St Helens Council's Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee regarding the demand for school places for children and young people with SEND and the barriers to ensuring that provision is suitable to enable positive outcomes for children and young people.

For those parent carers that were not able to attend the meeting, we would encourage you to contact the Scrutiny Team at [scrutiny@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@sthelens.gov.uk) to share your views on the:

- current state of SEND provision in the Borough,
- whether existing provision is meeting the needs of your child or young person with SEND,
- what could be done to improve the provision of suitable support for pupils with SEND.

We'd suggest you title your email "Scrutiny Review into SEND School Places" so it reaches the right Task & Finish Group. The task group will finish their review in January, a report will be prepared and presented to the Scrutiny Committee in March recommending actions that can be taken and will then be agreed and submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

If you are interested in knowing more about the work of the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee and their oversight and scrutiny of children and young people's services, their meetings are available to watch live or recorded on St Helens public TV via the link: [Home - St Helens Council Public Meetings](#)

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## **Government launches national conversation on SEND Reform - have your say!**

The Schools White Paper will be published in early 2026 and will outline proposed reforms to the SEND system. Schools Minister, Georgia Gould, and a panel of experts are hosting a series of online events over the next few weeks for parents and professionals to discuss the 5 core principles guiding the government's SEND reform programme and to gather insights to help shape the policy in the White Paper.

It is vital that the proposed SEND reforms reflect lived experience so please do join and share your feedback. Further information and the link to book an event is here: [SEND Reform National Conversation - Online Series | Eventbrite](#)

If you aren't able to attend an online event, there is an online portal for sharing your views and experiences of the SEND system [SEND reform national conversation - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

We would urge you to make your views known and have your voice heard.

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## **Neurodiversity profiling tool**

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside are launching a new neurodevelopmental pathway and vision for how services across Cheshire and Merseyside can better support neurodivergent children and young people. One of the proposed changes is the use of a neurodiversity profiling tool to provide a holistic view of a child/young person's needs and to help identify strategies or further sources of support to help manage those needs. The profile will be completed by a professional in collaboration with parents and the child/young person (if appropriate).

Training sessions are being offered to help parent carers understand the profiling tool and how it will be used to support children and young people. Places can be booked here:

[C&M Neurodiversity Profiling Tool - Parent/Carer Sessions Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

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**St Helens IASS**



St Helens IASS is a statutory service providing free information, advice and support on matters relating to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The service is offered to children and young people with SEND, and their parents/carers

Please use the online form to help the team deal with your query in the most efficient way. Parents can contact the service, attend a SEND drop in and make a self-referral

<https://forms.office.com/e/ahV5HQfz6F>

More information can be found here

<https://familyinfodirectory.sthelens.gov.uk/kb5/sthelens/directory/service.page?id=CKytboDDiEw>

## **St Helens College Post 16 Options for SEND Students**

As previously shared with parent carers, an online event took place in October to provide information to students and parent carers about St Helens College post-16 pathway options for young people with SEND. The event included details about foundation level programmes, pre-internship and supported internship pathways and included discussions with staff and students at the college. The recording of the event can be accessed here:

[https://youtu.be/d3hhr4dtGnc?si=ml9OU3laGc4F-J\\_F](https://youtu.be/d3hhr4dtGnc?si=ml9OU3laGc4F-J_F)

## **PLAY GROUPS AND PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS IN ST. HELENS**

Please see the timetable of play groups for children and young people with SEND and parent carer support groups in St Helens. For further information, please contact the group directly. See link below.

<https://listen4change.uk/play-groups-and-parent-support-groups-in-st-helens/>

# ARE YOU IN NEED OF URGENT DENTAL CARE OR ADVICE? THEN WE CAN HELP!



The CWWM Dental Helpline offers urgent dental care for patients in Cheshire, Warrington, Wirral and Merseyside. The service can be accessed via the Dental Helpline on 0161 476 9651 from 8am to 10pm every day, including weekends and Bank Holidays.

**Service operating 8am-10pm, 7 days a week**

During the 'in-hours' period (08:00-18:00 hours Monday to Friday), if you already have a dentist you should contact them directly. If you do not have a regular dentist then the Dental Helpline will triage your call, give advice and guidance to manage your dental problem or assist you to find an appointment, as long as you meet all the eligibility criteria.

During the 'out of hours' period (18:00-22:00 Monday to Friday, Weekends and Bank Holidays 08:00-22:00) our call handlers and dental nurses can provide advice and support for all patients, whether they have a regular dentist or not.

**What happens between 10pm and 8am?**

Patients can still call NHS 111 for urgent dental advice. If patients do call NHS 111 with a dental issue between 8am and 10pm they will automatically be redirected to the dental service.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The service is provided according to strict clinical criteria.

The service is only available for urgent dental problems such as trauma, facial swelling, uncontrolled bleeding or pain that is persistent and is not being controlled by pain relief.



**WE COVER CHESHIRE, WARRINGTON, WIRRAL AND MERSEYSIDE**

Provider of services to

**NHS**

**CONTACT US: 0161 476 9651**