

SEND Update for Parents and Carers

School Year 2020-2021 - September

It's the beginning of the start of another school year, albeit one that is very different from the beginning of any other school year we can remember. We will be releasing these updates over the school year to keep you informed about what is happening and work that is being carried out within SEND.

SEND Survey

Understanding the impact of COVID19 on children, young people and their families with SEND in Northumberland

We developed a survey with Northumberland Parent Carer Forum to help us understand the impact of COVID19 on children, young people and their families with SEND in Northumberland. The survey was live between 6th July and the 14th August 2020 and we received 426 replies, which is the largest response we have received for any survey.

Some of the key findings were:

- Lockdown impacted negatively on the mental health and wellbeing of most parents and carers as well as that of their children with SEND.
- Over a third of families reported having to decrease their spending in order to manage and a quarter reported struggling financially.
- Home schooling was difficult for many families, for a variety of different reasons.
- Some families reported their child's school provided good support for learning and support for wellbeing, while others reported a lack of communication and work being sent home that was too difficult for their child to do.
- Families remained worried and anxious about their children starting school, worrying about the virus and how their child would catch up and reintegrate to school.

A summary of the report is available [HERE](#). The full detailed report of the findings is also available on the Local Offer.



What next?

A group of professionals from education, health and social care agree working with Northumberland Parent Carer Forum to look at what actions need to be taken as a result of the findings of the survey. We will tell you about this in October and place it on the Local Offer.

Returning to School

In the survey, many families said they were worried and anxious about their children going back to school. Schools have now been open for a few weeks and many children are now back in school. The most recent advice from the Government is available here: [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)

We have also produced a FAQ (frequently asked questions) about returning to school which you can find [HERE](#).



A Message from Northumberland Parent Carer Forum

Northumberland Parent Carer Forum is the Department for Education recognised parent forum for Northumberland. We work with the local authority, health and social care to improve services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families.

Communication is key to what we do. We listen to the experiences and wishes of families and make sure that those views are heard by those providing services, so that we can be part of every stage of planning and decision-making. Wherever possible, we aim to work in co-production.

You can find us on Facebook, Twitter or can contact us via email.



Northumberland Parent
Carer Forum



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In order to represent the views of children, young people with SEND and their families, we need to hear from as many families as possible.

Please look us up or get in touch.

Question and Answer Session for Parents and Carers on SEND

You are invited to join Sam Barron for a Question and Answer session for Parents and Carers. She leads the strategy for children and young people with SEND in Northumberland, and jointly appointed between the NHS (Northumberland CCG) and Northumberland County Council.

There will be two question and answer sessions being held virtually on:

- Wednesday 7th October 7pm to 9pm or
- Friday 9th October 10-30am to 12-30pm

This is an opportunity for you to ask any question you might have on what is happening within SEND in Northumberland.

Sam is not able to answer any questions about individual cases but can talk about the work that is happening across services and organisations to improve services and support for children, young people and their families with SEND.

This session is being hosted by Contact, a national charity for families with disabled children.

If you would like to attend, please email Catherine Ratcliffe, Contact Associate on Catherine.Ratcliffe@cafamilly.org.uk with your question and which session you are able to attend.



Northumberland
County Council