



Somerset SENDIAS
Special Educational Needs and Disability
Information, Advice and Support (0-25)

SENDIAS Newsletter

Spring 2023

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the Spring edition of the SENDIAS newsletter for 2023!

SENDIAS Team Update

Somerset SENDIAS say a warm welcome to the new members of the team.

Richard Donley – Richard is the SENDIAS Officer for Mendip who will be offering Information, Advice and Support on the EHC Plan process, Annual Reviews, support with preparing for Mediation and First Tier Tribunals.



Debbie Mason – Debbie is the Choice Advisor who will be offering support with school admissions and appeals. Debbie works Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Rebecca Harrison – Rebecca is one of the administrators who will be carrying out general admin tasks, such as answering the phones and replying to emails both for Choice Advice and SENDIAS. Rebecca works Tuesday – Friday.

Meet the SENDIAS Team!



The Somerset SENDIAS team:

- Service Manager
- Development Officer
- 5 SENDIAS Officers
- 5 SENDIAS SEN Support Workers
- 2 Administrators

SENDIAS SEN Support Workers

SEN Support Workers cover the county. Their role is to support parents/carers with SEN support within schools. This includes school meetings and making sure the graduated response is followed.

Please see link for new graduated response tool kit for Somerset:

[Somersets-Graduated-Response-Tool.pdf \(somersetsend.org.uk\)](https://www.somersetsend.org.uk/Somersets-Graduated-Response-Tool.pdf)

Somerset SENDIAS

The Hollies Children's Centre, South Road, Taunton, TA1 3AG
01823 355578 SomersetSENDIAS@somerset.gov.uk www.somersetsend.org.uk



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Did you Know?

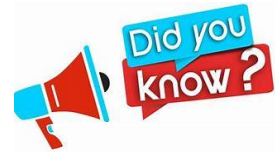
CAOT Coffee Mornings

SENDIAS will be attending some of the CAOT coffee mornings, which are happening around the county from 10-12. There is going to be a member of the SENDIAS team at the following venues:

18 April – Mendip School, Shepton Mallett.

24 May - Polden Bower, Bridgwater

12 June – Selworthy School, Taunton



Autism Pathway

Did you know that Somerset have a pathway to start the process towards a diagnosis of Autism and ADHD. The ASD Pathways are from 0-17 years old. The ADHD pathway is from 6-17 years olds.

Here is the link to find out more information:

[2. Assessment pathway for Autism and ADHD \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/2-assessment-pathway-for-autism-and-adhd)

There is also a helpline to support and answer your questions in regards to a new referral.

This line is open to parent, carers, young people or practitioners from health, education or social care.

Phone the Referral Query and Advice line on **0303 033 3002** – open 9am to 12pm every Wednesday and Thursday morning

Supported Employment Forum

There is a supported Employment group that has been set up to include the 4 areas of Somerset being covered, Sedgemoor, Mendip, South Somerset and Taunton and West Somerset. These are currently being chaired by Abri. Abri are a housing association but they have several careers and skills advisors who have knowledge of what is available to post 16 young people. There is about 80 professionals who attend these meetings on a quarterly basis. They are informative sessions about what is available for those young people post 16 who don't want to go down the college route.

Tribunal guidance

Ipsea have produced some new information packs around tribunals which give detailed information about the processes. This is for all areas of the tribunal including refusal to assess and appealing against the contents of an EHC Plan.

[Appealing to the SEND Tribunal | \(IPSEA\) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice](#)

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Attendance Guidance

Parents and carers must ensure their child is in education (section 7, Education Act 2006)

There is a service within Somerset Council called Education Safeguarding and they make checks to identify any child missing from Education. Each school in Somerset has a named Officer who can be contacted via the school.

There is recent national guidance that has been published in regards to attendance.

[Attendance is everyone's business | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/attendance-is-everyones-business/)

Information is always available on the SENDIAS website
www.somersetsend.org.uk

Helpline is available 9.30am – 2.30pm Monday to Fridays

01823 355578 or email somersetsendias@somerset.gov.uk



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