

Doncaster Carers Centre Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to our third newsletter of 2024, with summer just around the corner this year does seem to be moving fast. In the last update we brought you the news of the EHCP application process going online. We hope you will find this process easier and more transparent, if you have any feedback on the new system, please e-mail us at dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk.



In the months leading up to the summer holidays we are looking at reviewing some of our services and events. We will be asking members for feedback and their thoughts on how we can improve our services. **From September 2024 there will be a revised timetable** with some events/session changing, but others will remain the same. Keep your eye on our [Facebook page](#) as we are putting out various polls and asking for feedback.

Community News

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a bright red, fuzzy heart. The hand is positioned against a light-colored, vertically-grained wooden surface. The heart is held between the thumb and index finger, with the rest of the hand open and palm facing up.

Health Care and you

As you may know we sit on a variety of boards and meetings all focused on SEND in Doncaster. At the last **Making a Difference Meeting** Karl Bower, Designated Clinical Officer for SEND was in attendance explaining his role to parents. These conversations with parents were taken to the **Doncaster SEND Board** meeting where it was discussed that some parents had identified gaps in provision but also didn't have good experiences with clinical/health appointments. Karl and the SEND Board are keen to hear more on the difficulties that parents face when trying to access medical/health services for their children/young people with SEND.

In order to do this we need your stories and your feedback. We need to know **what isn't working for children/young people with SEND in Doncaster** with regards to accessing health services? What are the barriers you face? Have you been refused, denied or been told that a service your child requires isn't available in Doncaster? What clinical services have been unable to deal with your child's needs?

These services could range from GP appointments, hospital appointments such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language etc and also mental health appointments with CAMHS.

Please can you send your feedback in an e-mail to us at dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk and we will pass along your stories. The information you provide will be anonymous and no names or e-mail addresses will be used.

Community News

Home Educators Group

We are looking at bringing together parents of children/young people with SEND who are currently being home educated.

Estimated figures from the Department for Education states that in census data in autumn 2023/24, **there were an estimated 92,000 children who were in elective home education.**



By law parents/carers must make ensure their children receive a suitable full-time education if they are of compulsory school age. For some SEND families this means that their children/young people are educated at home. Some children/young people are educated at home because they cannot attend school for a number of reasons, such as ill health, they don't feel safe in school, or because their special educational needs cannot, or are not being met by their school or college. As a result of this some families feel they have no choice but to home educate their children/young people.

Home Education is also known as **Elective Home Education** is often seen as a last resort for many parents. At [Doncaster Parents Voice](#) we recognise that home educator parents of children/young people with SEND are often overlooked and forgotten about, and that's why we are creating a **Home Educator Group** in order for parents/carers to come together share best practices, what isn't working and where children/young people with SEND are being let down. We need your voice to raise awareness of the issues that home educator parents face so we can take these concerns to leads in SEND education in Doncaster and look at solutions to improve SEND support for families. If you would like to be involved in this group then please get in touch and contact us on **01302 637566** or e-mail dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk and put **EMILY** in the subject box to register your interest. If you have already contacted us you do not need to contact us again, we will be in touch with you shortly.

maxcard

Max Card is the UK's leading discount card for days out for families of SEND and looked after children.

A [Max Card](#) gives you and your families access to discounted days out all across the UK to include top attractions like Butlins, Thorpe Park, Lego Land Windsor Resort and many more!

To get your Max Card please contact Andrew on **01302 637566** or e-mail us at andrew@doncastercarers.org.uk



What is ASCETS?

You have probably heard of the acronym ASCETS in school meetings, from other parents or even us and wondered who they are, and what they do. **ASCETS (Autism and Social Communication Education Training Service)** work with schools, children and young people and their families to support the improvement of learning outcomes, particularly where they have an autism diagnosis or social communication needs.

ASCETS work primarily with children **from the age of 5 years old when they start attending F2 / Reception, up to the age of 25** when young people could still be accessing college. This work is focused on the ways in which they can contribute to the assessment, planning, delivery and review of pupils' achievements and progress, particularly through SEN support plans or other targeted plans run by schools with pupils and families.

Children who are younger than this are supported by the **Early Years Inclusion Team (EYIT)**. The EYIT works with private, voluntary and independent early years settings and maintained nurseries to support children with SEND. This is inclusive of children who may have a diagnosis of autism or social communication needs.

ASCETS supports schools in developing robust provision for pupils with autism and social communication difficulties through the delivery of external training (ASCETS Autism Essentials) and bespoke training in school. The service consists of specialist teachers and specialist support officers whose work is mainly focused through the ways they can contribute to the support plans run by schools.

The ASCETS team are usually asked to assist with your child's educational needs at the request of a SENCO. **The ASCETS team cannot be contacted directly by parents/carers** and are designed to assist schools in providing the right support to your child/young person in a school setting.

The ASCETS Team also co-deliver workshops on a wide variety of topics connected to autism for parents/carers and young people. These are run in partnership with **Doncaster Autism Service, Doncaster Parents Voice, Doncaster Council** and **NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board**. The workshops are regularly advertised on the [Doncaster Autism Service](#) and [Doncaster Parents Voice](#) Facebook page and the [Doncaster Parents Voice website](#).

News Updates

Online Mental Health Support for Young People

Kooth is a new free safe and anonymous place for young people to find online support and counselling. Kooth allows users to create a daily journal to track their emotions and feelings, there are mini activities to complete on subjects such as managing emotions and connecting with others, there are also live chat features, discussions boards and articles. For further information on this platform please visit the Kooth website [here](#)



Free School Meals for Disabled Children

Contact for Families with Disabled Children have produced a great PDF on **free school meals** and disabled children's rights to them. It details what the law says on children's rights to free school meals, how to ask for reasonable adjustments and links to template letters to help you advocate for your child's right to free school meals. Please see the [Free School Meals PDF here](#)

What is the Local Offer?

The Local Offer website where you can find out about services and support available for children and young people, from birth to 25 years, with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The site covers areas such as **Early Years, Education and Learning, Health and Social Care, Activities and Leisure, Money & Transport, Preparing for Adulthood** and more. To see what help is available for children/young people with SEND and their families, please see the [Doncaster Local Offer website here](#)



News Updates



Carers Leave Act – New rights as a carer

New changes for the **The Carer's Leave Act** which came into effect on the 6 April 2024 has opened up many more possibilities for carers who are employed.

The new changes are:

- **The Carer's Leave Act covers employees in England, Wales and Scotland.**
- **Employees are entitled to one week's unpaid leave per year if providing or arranging care for someone with a long-term care need.**
- **This leave can be taken flexibly (in half or full days) for planned and foreseen caring commitments.**
- **It is available from the first day of employment.**
- **It provides the same employment protections to employees as other forms of family-related leave, including protection from dismissal.**

For further information please see the [Carers UK website](#)



Post 16 Options

Are you and your child/young person thinking about what happens after school and post 16? If you are, visit the **Doncaster Local Offer** website and take a look at their **Preparing for Adulthood** section. Here you will find information on higher and further education, transition to adulthood, pathways to employment, adult and social services and much more. Here is the link to their [website](#)



SEND Social

SEND Coffee Mates

FREE!



Like & follow us on Facebook;
northdoncastersendsupport /
scawsbysocialclub



sendscawsby@gmail.com

Peer support group run by
parents/carers, for
parents/carers.

Every Friday
9.15am - 12pm

Greenwood Centre, Latin Gardens,
Scawsby, DN5 8TE

What3Words; ///verge.hothouse.thin



Supported by:



SOCIAL EVENING

For adults with autism and learning disabilities



**Everyone
welcome!**

Second Tuesday of the month

6pm - 8pm

Thorne Democratic Club
Thorne
Doncaster
DN8 5NS

**50p
entry**



Come and join us for an exciting and inclusive social evening designed specifically for adults with autism and learning disabilities. A fantastic opportunity to connect and make new friends in a welcoming and supportive environment.



SAVE THE DATE



SKEGNESS COACH TRIP



**JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL SEASIDE
COACH TRIP!**

10th August 2024

9.30am pickup

5.30pm approx drop off

Booking details coming soon!



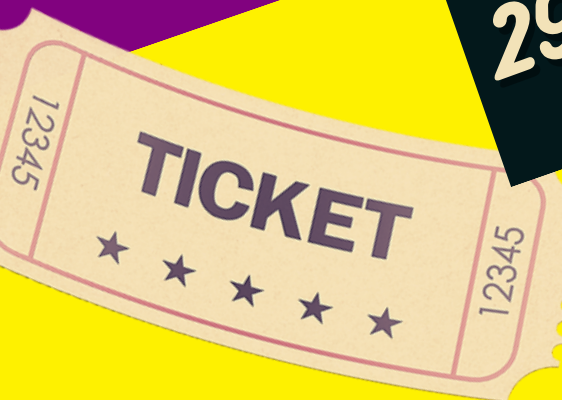
Doncaster Parents Voice Presents

SEND FAMILY FILM SCREENINGS

*Save the
dates!*



*15th August 2024
29th August 2024*



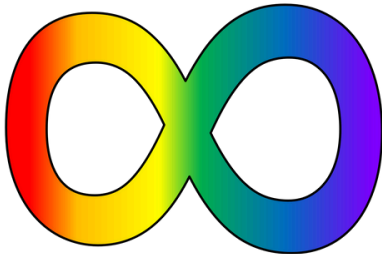
**SAVOY CINEMA
SIR NIGEL GRESLEY SQUARE,
DONCASTER**

Booking details coming soon!



Doncaster SENDIAS provides information, advice and support (IAS) to parents, carers, children and young people in relation to Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability and related health and social care issues. They can provide impartial and confidential advice and information on **EHCP's, SEN support in mainstream schools, resolving disagreements** and more. Please visit their **website** for further information on how they can help.

DONCASTER



AUTISM SERVICE

01302 637566

das@doncastercarers.org.uk

**DONCASTER
PARENTS'
VOICE**



01302 637566

dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk

www.doncasterparentsvoice.co.uk

If you would like to contact us about any of the information contained in this newsletter please contact the Doncaster Carers Centre on:

01302 637566

dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk