



## IAS Newsletter - May 2026

Welcome to this month's edition of our newsletter.

In this newsletter, we're pleased to share some valuable transition resources (towards the end of this newsletter) as we near the end of this academic year. You'll also find information about upcoming events with IASS and other services in the area. If there are any particular topics you would like us to cover in our information sessions next academic year, please do let us know.

Best wishes,  
**Donna, Jean, Kate, Lucy and Millie**

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### IAS RBWM Coffee Morning & Information Sessions for 2026

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**Special Educational  
Needs & Disability (SEND)**

Information, Advice  
and Support Service  
for children, young people and parents

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June**  
Online Session 1230-1345

# ONLINE SESSION: EDUCATION HEALTH CARE (EHC) NEEDS ASSESSMENTS EXPLAINED



An explanation of the process of applying for an Education Health Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) and what happens if the Local Authority agree to issue an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

**Book a free place via [www.ias-rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.ias-rbwm.gov.uk) or QR code**





Special Educational  
Needs & Disability (SEND)

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## Information Session for Post-16 Options with an EHCP

Join us for an informative session designed to help students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) explore their post-16 educational and vocational opportunities. Whether you're considering further education, apprenticeships, or employment, this session is tailored to provide valuable insights and guidance.



### Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Time:** 10-1130am ( coffee available from 9.30)

**Location:** Lavender Room, Riverside Family Hub, West Dean, Maidenhead SL6 7JB

### How to Register

Free tickets available via:

[www.ias-rbwm.info/events](http://www.ias-rbwm.info/events)

## Next years sessions

Millie is currently designing the programme for our coffee mornings and information sessions over the next academic year. What would you like us to cover? Send us your ideas via [ias@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:ias@rbwm.gov.uk)

[Visit our Events page on our Website](#)

## Schools white paper and SEND reform consultation

The government has recently outlined its vision through the [schools white paper, 'every child achieving and thriving'](#). This proposes a package to reset and reform support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The **Council for Disabled Children** (CDC) has been delivering a series of online consultation conversation events to discuss the SEND consultation paper in more detail. They have recorded webinars available to watch on demand via <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/work->

[us/events-training/events-training-calendar/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people](#) (link at the bottom of the page)

I.P.S.E.A has a webpage - What you need to know regarding the reforms

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/Pages/Category/schools-white-paper-what-you-need-to-know>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-send-support-in-every-school-and-community>

You will find up to date information via social media channels for the following organisations:

I.P.S.E.A - <https://www.facebook.com/IPSEAcharity>

Council Disabled Children - <https://www.facebook.com/councilfordisabledchildren>

Contact a Family - <https://www.facebook.com/contactfamilies>



### **SEND Voices RBWM**

SEND Voices RBWM is the parent carer forum for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. They are an independent group of parents and carers who have a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities, up to the age of 25, living or accessing services across RBWM. Membership is free and open to all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND who are residents or educated in the borough. To become a member or for more info, get in touch by email [info@svrbwm.org.uk](mailto:info@svrbwm.org.uk) or [visit their newly launched website](#).

## **Reading University Research Opportunity: Music and Early Word Learning in Autism Learning**

New words can sometimes take longer for autistic children, and using those words in different situations can also be challenging. While we know a lot about how children learn language in general, we still do not fully understand what best supports autistic children who experience language delays. Many autistic children show a strong interest in music, and research suggests the brain may respond more strongly to song than speech.

This study explores whether music could support word learning in young autistic children. We are looking for:

- Autistic children under 6 with little or no language (diagnosed or awaiting assessment)

The study involves:

- 2-3 visits to the University of Reading (4 hours total)
- Standardised assessments of autism, language, and cognitive skills
- Word learning task with and without music

Families receive a £40 Amazon voucher for taking part. If you are interested, please contact: Sina Meyer ([s.meyer@pgr.reading.ac.uk](mailto:s.meyer@pgr.reading.ac.uk))

## **Reading University Research Opportunity: Does your child have trouble sleeping?**

Many children with autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions experience sleep difficulties.

This study seeks to understand whether children benefit from sleep interventions and why some children benefit from sleep hygiene training while others may require melatonin.

Your participation will help us better understand the impact of sleep interventions for children.

Who are we looking for: Children with autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions aged 2-15.

What will the study involve:

- Up to three visits to the University of Reading involving,
  - questionnaires about your and your child's sleep and well-being,
  - a short play-based sensory assessment with your child- wearing sleep watches for up to 7 nights.

Families receive £20 per visit (for 2nd and/or 3rd visit).

If you are interested, please contact: Rhea Varghese ([r.varghese@reading.ac.uk](mailto:r.varghese@reading.ac.uk))



The SEND Register helps the borough support children and young people with disabilities or complex needs by:

- Giving you relevant information, advice and support that is targeted directly to your child or young person's needs.
- Giving you information from other agencies which specialise in working with children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities.

It also provides the following benefits:

- The register accurately reflects the range of disabilities and special needs of the resident population aged 0 to 25 years.
- Having a better understanding of your needs, the register helps us to plan services for the future of all children and young people with special needs.

To register, please complete the [SEND Register online form](#) and send a proof of diagnosis to: [disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk)



## Mencap chill out club

Maidenhead Mencap hosts a youth club called 'chill out club' for young people with a learning disability aged 15 to 24. The sessions offer a place to have fun, play games and make friends. The club is free for those who join Mencap, and it runs every Thursday between 7pm to 9pm during term time. It is located at Highview, **6 North Road, Maidenhead SL6 1PL.**

If your young person is interested in joining, call Linda Francis on 07783 626357 or email: [lindamencap23@gmail.com](mailto:lindamencap23@gmail.com)



## Libraries accessibility scheme

The libraries accessibility scheme is designed for RBWM residents with disabilities and their carers. The scheme offers various services and resources intended to remove barriers to accessing our libraries.

These include:

- Accessible council services;
- Computer access, printing and visual impairment software;

- IT support and accessibility sessions;
- Craft sessions and books and resources.
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[More information can be found on the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead council website](#)



## The NHS Berkshire speech and language enquiries line has expanded

The NHS Berkshire Healthcare Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT) service is continuing to expand their new Enquiries, Advice and Support Service, which now includes a school-aged speech and language therapies enquiries line.

Following the launch of the occupational health and physiotherapy enquiries lines in November 2025, the CYPIT service is building on the success of the early years speech and language therapy advice line, which is now also available to parents and professionals seeking support and advice for a school-aged child.

Phone lines are open from 9am to 3.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Phone number: 0118 9043700. If you require additional support to make a phone call, email: [cypittriage2@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:cypittriage2@berkshire.nhs.uk)

## Launch of the Pan Berkshire SEND employment forum

On 5 March, more than 50 members of the Berkshire community came together to launch the new Pan Berkshire SEND employment forum. This project is a huge team effort between six local councils: the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), Bracknell Forest, Slough, Wokingham, West Berkshire, and Reading.

The main goal of the forum is to bring together local businesses, schools, and councils to make hiring easier and fairer. It focuses on sharing lived experiences of young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and giving employers the expert support they need to feel confident hiring them. By working together, the forum ensures that "inclusion" isn't just a word, but a practical part of the local workforce.

[More information about SEND employment forum can be found on the Local Offer.](#)

## Transition Resources



**Anna Freud** is a world leading mental health charity for children and families. The website has a range of resources and information, including a research library and a variety of events.

<https://www.annafreud.org/resources/schools-and-colleges/supporting->



**Young Minds** are a mental health charity for children and young people and their parents. They have really good top tips for parents as well as other packs/resources and information.



### **BBC Bitesize**

Starting Secondary School, a campaign from BBC Bitesize aimed at 10-12 year olds, their teachers and parents, shines a light on the great potential of starting afresh in secondary school and also offers practical advice and emotional support to help take the stress out of taking the next big step

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/kc9pg8>



The **Witherslack Group** have several videos, to help with transitions. They also have advice online and their YouTube channel also has lots and lots of videos from webinars and advice.

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/resources/supporting-your-child-with-transitioning-to-a-new-school/>



**Coram Kidscape** is a children's charity that focuses on bullying. They have some useful resources around friendships, but also covers early years, new school and secondary school.

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers/starting-a-new-school/>



**Best start in Life** has some top tips on starting school for the first time.

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/preparing-for-school/>

The **Local offer** also has useful transition information - have a look here:

<https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/education/guidance-about-choosing-and-applying-for-schools/education-transitions-for-children-with-send>





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