

SEE INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON:

- A quick guide to dyslexia
- Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- Wakefield's Shout Out for Change

& news & views

Wakefield Local Offer



Welcome to your local offer Newsletter



Hello everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a busy time for the Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) Local Offer over the past few months.

The Wakefield Early Support Advice Information Liaison (WESAIL) service is now managed by Family Action. They took over the contract from Barnardo's on 1st April 2022.



The WESAIL team is now made up of 6 people and we are overseen by an operational manager. You can find out more on pages 4 – 5.

On page 6 you can find out what the Young People's Participation group have been doing. We also have included some much-requested information about dyslexia in this newsletter. You can read this on pages 8-9.

Turn to pages 10 and 11 for a look at some of our Early Years Distance Learning Package on play. There are ideas for sensory play and even some recipes!

We always use your feedback to inform our work. Please help us by completing our survey for this newsletter by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LXM9N3N> Thank you.

Finally, in exciting news, we are working hard on developing the new look SEND Local Offer website! We are working with Wakefield Parent Carer Forum, Wakefield Council and West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (who used to be Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group).

We are taking the feedback you have given us to put into the new website. Thank you very much to everyone who completed the consultation survey in the summer.

You can give us your feedback on what you like and what can be improved. Please email us at wakefieldlocaloffer@family-action.org.uk

Happy reading,

Usha



Who's New?

InspirED PD – alternative provision

Community Wakefield – things to do

The Play Station Ossett – things to do

Time To Talk Next Steps – young people support

Upskilled Autism Support and Training Service – autism support

Family Action



Family Action is delighted to be delivering **the WESAIL service**. We are a national charity that was created in 1869. We work with families in poverty, and those who experience disadvantage and social isolation. This means they might not have much money or chances to get other help. Family Action can help with practical, emotional, and financial support. Family Action also has lots of experience in delivering specialist support services. We are looking forward to working with you to deliver a fantastic service for families in Wakefield.

Family Action have been delivering SENDIAS services since April 2013. We have also delivered Small Steps since June 2017. We are based all around the country. Family Action also influence policy and legislation. This means that we can help change things to help you. For example, we helped with the SEND Code of Practice reforms in 2014. We also helped with the DfE funding for independent support and the development of children, young person, and young adult focused support.



Family Action have a **national FamilyLine service**. You can get support and advice through this service. Anyone in Wakefield can use it. FamilyLine is available online, by email, phone, and text. The service provides one-to-one specialist support. It is open Monday to Friday 9am – 9pm. Our crisis text messaging service is available outside these hours every day of the year.

Family Action also have a website for Special Guardians. This site has lots of information and resources you can download. People in Wakefield can also access our education and welfare grants services.

To find out more visit www.family-action.org.uk/



Who are WESAIL?



Welcome to the Wakefield Early Support Advice Information Liaison service. We are known as WESAIL.

We are managed by Family Action. The WESAIL service is jointly funded by Wakefield Council and the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

Our service helps people aged 0 – 25 who have, or may have, Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. This is known as SEND.

We help parents, carers, children, young people and professionals.

SENDIASS is part of WESAIL. The letters in SENDIASS stand for Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities Information Advice Support Service. We give advice based on the law.

Our service is free, confidential and impartial. This means we will not take sides - we will try to help everyone.

You can email us at wesail@family-action.org.uk

You can call us to leave a message on **01924 965588.**

You can find us on Facebook

facebook.com/WakeLocalOffer

facebook.com/WESAILWakefield

Meet the Team



Hello. My name is Sue. I am the Operational Manager for WESAIL. I work Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday for Family Action. I also oversee the Sheffield ADHD Project.



Hello. My name is Emma. I am the service manager and I also take on keyworking cases.



Hello. My name is Val. I am the senior SENDIASS officer. I work full time.



Hello. My name is Zoe. I am a SENDIASS worker. I work Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



Hello. My name is Tina. I am a SENDIASS worker. I work Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



Hello. My name is Joanne. I am a SENDIASS worker. I work Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Hello. My name is Usha. I am the Local Offer worker. I also do admin for the service. I work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Shout Out For Change



Wakefield Shout Out for Change is a group for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability aged 14 to 25. The group want to have their voices heard on issues that affect them and to influence local and national decision-making.

The group meets face-to-face every half-term. In between meetings, we exchange news and views via a closed Facebook page and WhatsApp group. We also feed into the Wakefield's Build Our Futures forum and into the Big Conversation, ensuring that the voice of children and young people with SEND is heard loud and clear.

We only formed in March 2022 and we have already been involved in a number of discussions. We contributed to Wakefield's local area response as well as submitting the group's own to the SEND green paper consultation. We have shared our work with the SEND Strategic Partnership Board. We also attended special events with the DfE and other participation groups across the country on the SEND green paper and transitions.

On the agenda for our September meeting are our concerns about the negative Ofsted inspection at Camphill College. We are delighted that the principal is going to join us to discuss the plans to turn it around. We are also going to look at how Wakefield Council and its partners can support us in creating a Co-production Charter that all services will sign up to.

If you would like further information about how a young person can join the group, please contact Julie Armstrong, SEND Development Team Manager, at send@wakefield.gov.uk putting Shout Out for Change in the subject line.





SELPH

Selph aims to grow your resilience & improve your mental wellbeing. Through group activity, we seek to improve your support networks, increase your self-esteem, and improve your capacity to manage your own wellbeing more effectively.



- S:** Security and Safety
- E:** Esteem – Prestige and feeling of accomplishment
- L:** Love and belonging needs including social needs
- P:** Physiological needs - food, water, warmth, rest
- H:** Happiness – sense of well-being and contentment



What to expect

- A youth worker will call you or contact via social media & chat
- Meet in-person in a park or a coffee shop
- Small group activities - meet other people with your youth worker
- Skills workshops, e.g. speaking with confidence & independent living
- Work on personal development plan & personal goals

SCAN ME

To register your interest, simply fill out the form...
youth-association.org/current-projects-2/selph
 ...or get in touch on social media

THE YOUTH ASSOCIATION



The Youth Association
 01924 333400
youth-association.org



/TheYouthAssociation



@YouthAssocUK



/the_youth_association



@YouthAssocUK



A Quick Guide to Dyslexia from the **British Dyslexia Association**

British Dyslexia Association



What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty that affects the way people process and remember information that they see and hear. It can impact how quickly and easily someone can read and understand information, and how much of the information they can remember.

Who does it affect?

Dyslexia affects around 10% of people. It is not due to poor parenting or poor education. It tends to run in families and is a condition that people are born with. It lasts throughout life.

What are the signs of dyslexia?

Everyone with dyslexia is unique and will have their own individual strengths and challenges. Typical signs include finding it difficult to match letters and sounds, or confusing left and right. Dyslexic people can find it difficult to remember instructions or follow directions. Spelling words and recognising unfamiliar words can also be a struggle.

Dyslexic people are usually good communicators but can find it more difficult to express their ideas in writing. Dyslexia is sometimes described as a way of thinking differently. Dyslexic people are often really good at identifying patterns, solving puzzles and problems in an innovative way. They can see quickly how things work and can be good at fixing things or inventing new things.

Dyslexia is usually first noticed when a child starts school. They may find it more difficult to learn to read, write and spell than other children in their class. Dyslexia can also make it harder to learn and remember things like times-tables. Dyslexic children are often seen as forgetful as they will not always remember what they have been asked to do. They may appear disorganised and lose items of clothing or personal things such as mobile phones because they cannot remember where they have left them.

What should I do if I think my child might be dyslexic?

Every school has a Special Educational Needs Coordinator – SENCo. This is a member of staff whose role includes monitoring, assessment, and supporting pupils.

Your child's progress should be monitored by the school. If the school has concerns about your child's

progress, they should put additional support in place and monitor the progress your child makes with this support. Some children may need additional support outside the classroom in a small group. Some children may need one to one support to help with phonics, reading, writing, or spelling.

If you are concerned about your child, make an appointment to talk to your child's school. Ask them how your child's progress is being monitored and if they have any additional support in place. Many schools will carry out dyslexia screening tests. A screening test will tell you how likely it is that your child is dyslexic.

Schools will also use standard skills tests such as phonics, reading and writing tests.

Some children will need more formal assessment with a specialist assessor to understand their needs. Many schools are not able to carry out diagnostic assessment in school as specialist assessment is costly.

Some parents may decide to arrange a private assessment from an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Assessor. This is expensive and should not be needed for your child to get support in school. All schools must make "reasonable adjustments" to their teaching to ensure that children can access their lessons. Most of these adjustments are simple changes that do not cost a lot of money and benefit all children in the class.

Children who require more specialist support may be referred for an assessment for an Education, Health, and Care plan (EHCP).



A Quick Guide to Dyslexia from the **British Dyslexia Association** (Continued)



How is dyslexia diagnosed?

A diagnostic assessment can be carried out by a Specialist Teacher Assessor with an assessment practicing certificate, or a Chartered Educational Psychologist. The process usually takes several hours and is very intense. It will identify strengths and weaknesses that might be making it tricky to learn. It will confirm whether these difficulties are due to dyslexia. Recommendations will be made on how to support learning.

What can I do to help my child?

Dyslexia can have a negative impact on a child's self-esteem. It is important for parents to find ways to boost their confidence and help them feel good about themselves. Parents can help by finding fun ways such as playing games to support learning at home. Encouraging activities outside school such as sport,

music or dance can also boost confidence.

Further Help

and Support

Look to see if there is a local dyslexia association or support group in your area.

The BDA helpline is a free confidential telephone and email service for all questions about dyslexia. For further information visit:

www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

About the Author Helen Goodsall is the Knowledge & Information Manager at the British Dyslexia Association. A qualified and experienced workplace needs assessor; former BDA helpline supervisor and mother of two dyslexic children.



Early Years Distance Learning Package - Sensory Play



This is an excerpt from the Early Years Distance Learning Package on the home learning environment. It has lots of information and idea on play, communication and independence. The full package can be found by visiting wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/Home

Sensory Play

Sensory play can aid your child's development by using one or more of their senses

- Sight
- Hearing
- Touch
- Taste
- Smell

You can adjust an activity to meet your child's needs, interests & abilities
Sensory play utilises household, everyday items as well as resources within nature



Parents' Toolkit: SEND - BBC Bitesize

Packaging items are often great fun for children ~ try enhancing play using audible items such as bubble wrap, dunnage and boxes or containers of various sizes



See
handout
for ideas

Believe in
children



Barnardo's



Sensory Play Ideas

Indoors & outdoors

- Malleable area -playdough; salt dough; cornflour & water ("gloop")
- Texture tray –cornflakes; rice crispies; shaving foam; jelly; custard; peelings
- Water – "paint" with water; splashing in puddles; use a colander to create a water fall; freeze in a variety of moulds or cases with food colouring;
- make ice lollies
- Attach ribbon to a wooden spoon and move to music or follow with eyes
- Paint –finger; hand; feet; whole body (best done outside!) *Edible paint recipes available
- Baking and faking –bake or decorate simple things (e.g. biscuits ; fruit kebabs; puffed rice cakes) or play with the items to bake with using malleable items, water or sand
- Bubbles –pop; chase; catch and encourage simple language
- Treasure basket –a shallow, wicker or woven basket then won't tip over easily containing natural or man-made & safe to chew items such as material; sponges; brushes; silicone or wooden spoons; texture mats; wooden curtain rings; herbs in a bag



Hungry Little Minds – Simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 – 5
(campaign.gov.uk)

Playdough Power | NAEYC

Believe in
children
Barnardo's

Sensory Play Handout



Here are two recipes for sensory play. You can also add ingredients to give flavour and colour. You could try food colouring, mint, garlic, paprika or fruit juice!

Gluten free playdough

You will need:

- ½ cup/118 grams white rice flour
- ½ cup corn starch
- ¼ cup table salt
- 2 tablespoons (tbsp) cream of tartar
- 1 cup water
- 1 tbsp oil, (coconut or canola)
- 1-2 drops gel food colouring



How to make:

1. Whisk the dry ingredients together in the saucepan.
2. Add the oil and food colouring to the water and stir.
3. Pour the wet ingredients into the saucepan and whisk to combine.
4. Over medium heat, stir constantly with a rubber spatula until all the liquid has absorbed and a ball of dough appears. About 5 minutes.
5. Remove from heat and place dough on a piece of parchment paper to cool.
6. When cool enough to handle, knead the dough until smooth.
7. Store in an airtight container.

Edible paint

Edible paint be used for painting onto food items such as biscuits, rice crackers or even toast. And of course - fingers! 😊

You can also explore using other ingredients, such as vanilla, to add colour or smell.

You will need:

- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- Gel food colouring
- Clean paintbrushes (new is best or better yet food-safe)

How to make:

1. Divide the sweetened condensed milk into containers.
2. Add a drop of food colouring and mix well.



Personal Independence Payments (PIP)



Personal Independence Payments (PIP) started to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people aged 16 to 64 from 8 April 2013.

PIP can help with extra living costs if you have both:

- a long-term physical or mental health condition or disability
- difficulty doing certain everyday tasks or getting around because of your condition

You can get PIP even if you're working, have savings or are getting most other benefits.

There are 2 parts to PIP:

- a daily living part - if you need help with everyday tasks
- a mobility part - if you need help with getting around

Whether you get one or both parts and **how much you get** depends on how difficult you find everyday tasks and getting around.

If you have less than 6 months to live, you'll automatically get the daily living part. Whether you get the mobility part depends on your needs. Find out how to claim and **how much you'll get if you have a terminal illness**.

Daily living part

You might get the daily living part of PIP if you need help with:

- eating, drinking, or preparing food
- washing, bathing, and using the toilet

- dressing and undressing
- reading and communicating
- managing your medicines or treatments
- making decisions about money
- socialising and being around other people

Mobility part

You might get the mobility part of PIP if you need help with:

- working out a route and following it
- physically moving around
- leaving your home

You do not have to have a physical disability to get the mobility part. You might also be eligible if you have difficulty getting around because of a cognitive or mental health condition, like anxiety.

Calling to start your claim

Call the 'PIP new claims' phone line. If you need someone to help you, you can:

- ask for them to be added to your call - you cannot do this if you use textphone
- ask someone else to call on your behalf - you'll need to be with them when they call

You'll need to give the following information:

- your contact details, for example telephone number
- your date of birth
- your National Insurance number, if you have one (you can find this on letters about tax, pensions, and benefits)

- your bank or building society account number and sort code
- your doctor or health worker's name, address, and telephone number
- dates and addresses for any time you've spent in a care home or hospital
- dates for any time you spent abroad for more than 4 weeks at a time, and the countries you visited

PIP new claims

Telephone: 0800 917 2222

Textphone: 0800 917 7777

Relay UK (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone): 18001 then 0800 917 2222

Video relay service for British Sign Language (BSL) users - **check you can use the service**

Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm

Find out about call charges

Start your claim by post

You can start a claim by post instead, but it takes longer to get a decision. Send a letter to 'Personal Independence Payment New Claims.'

You'll be sent a form asking for your personal information, such as your address and your age. Fill in and return the form.

You'll then be sent a form which asks about your disability or condition. Personal Independence Payment New Claims

Post Handling Site B
Wolverhampton
WV99 1AH



Max Cards

Have you got a Max Card? It can help you go on days out for free or with a discount. A discount is when you get money off the usual price. A Max Card lasts for 2 years. Find out more by visiting <https://mymaxcard.co.uk>

A Max Card is free if you join the Information Network. This is also called the IN. You can join the IN by visiting **the Information Network page on the Local Offer**.

If you have lost your card, or it has expired (this means the date has run out) then contact the IN.

They will help you get a new one. You can email them at informationnetwork@wakefield.gov.uk

You can also ring them on 01924 302471.

