

Southampton Parent Carer Forum

Review and Updates

June 2026

Welcome to this month's Southampton Parent Carer Forum Review and Updates



As we head into half term and the warmer weather arrives, we know many SEND families may be feeling a mixture of excitement, exhaustion, and anxiety about the weeks ahead. Changes to routine, managing the heat, and supporting children and young people through transitions can bring additional challenges for families.

This month's newsletter includes upcoming events, transition support, SEND reforms, local activities, and opportunities to have your voice heard through co-production. We continue working closely with local services and decision-makers to ensure lived experience remains at the heart of future improvements across education, health, and social care.

As always, thank you for continuing to share your experiences, feedback, and ideas with us. Your voice plays a vital role in helping shape positive change for SEND families across Southampton.

Key Updates

- You can now text or whats app the forum on 07354 940 838
- Transport deadline for post 16 applications and exceptional circumstances forms is approaching. Deadline is 31st May.

Meeting in the Spotlight - EBSA Support

Southampton Parent Carer Forum has recently been working alongside local partners on the development of the EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) pathway. As part of this work, we held two face-to-face workshops, one online session, and gathered additional feedback through emails and social media.

Families shared honest experiences around school anxiety, transitions, support gaps, and the wider impact EBSA can have on children, young people, and families. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took the time to contribute and help shape this important work.

A summary report is now available on our website, with more work planned in this area over the coming months.

Key Dates - More info on the following page

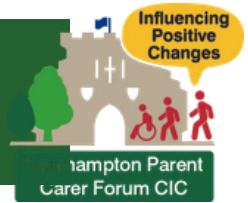
Tuesday 2nd June - 10-12 Transition workshop with the ND team followed by a summer survival event 11-2pm with various providers.

Thursday 28th June - 4 to 7pm Transition event with secondary schools and colleges.

Scan the QR code for the link to our facebook page for the most up to date info.



Continued ...



SEND Reforms

Southampton Parent Carer Forum has continued working closely with the Local Authority around the developing the local SEND Reform proposals and draft submission. We have been involved in ongoing discussions to help ensure the lived experiences and priorities of families remain central to the proposals before the final submission deadline on 19th June.

As part of this work, we also have an upcoming workshop with Local Authority staff to hear directly from families about their experiences, concerns, and priorities for the future of SEND services in Southampton. This is an important opportunity to ensure family voice helps shape future planning and local delivery as the reforms continue to develop.

SEND REFORMS – HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

We are inviting parent carers and professionals to join us for an upcoming SEND Reforms Workshop in partnership with Southampton City Council staff. This workshop is an opportunity to hear directly from the senior SEND team about the proposed local area response plan to the SEND Reforms. Families will be able to discuss their experiences of SEND support in Southampton, discuss the proposed reforms, and help shape what happens next.

Your voice matters and will help influence how services develop over the coming years.

TOGETHER WE WILL:

- ✓ HEAR FAMILY EXPERINCES & FEEDBACK
- ✓ IDENTIFY WHAT IS WORKING WELL
- ✓ EXPLORE IDEAS FOR IMPROVING SUPPORT
- ✓ HELP SHAPE FUTURE SEND SERVICES THROUGH CO PRODUCTION

MON 8th JUNE	Noon to 2.00pm HARBOUR LIGHTS PICTURE HOUSE, MARITIME WALK, SOUTHAMPTON SO14 3TL
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www.sotonpcf.org.uk



Below is a summary of the current draft submission. Please note that this may change following feedback from the Department for Education (DfE) before the final version is submitted.

Understanding the SEND Reforms

Building a better future, together.

The SEND reforms are all about making sure children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) get the right support, at the right time, in the right way.

Over the next three years, the local area partnership will focus on three overarching goals:

- 1 Improve long-term life opportunities for children and young people with SEND**
We want every child and young person with SEND to have the best possible start in life, do well in education, enjoy good health, build friendships and skills, and achieve their goals.
More opportunities. Brighter futures.
- 2 Increase confidence and trust in the SEND system**
We will listen to families and children, be clear and honest, and work together in a respectful and inclusive way so that you feel heard, valued and supported.
Listening. Working together. Building trust.
- 3 Build a SEND system that is sustainable and reliable, so children's needs are supported well over time**
We will strengthen local services, make the best use of our resources, and plan for the future so that support is there when children and families need it, now and in the years to come.
Strong today. Ready for tomorrow.

These goals will only be achieved together. Families, children and young people, schools, health services, local services and the community – working together for a SEND system that works for everyone.

Whats on ..

FREE ENTRY



Date	Event Info	Time	Location
Tuesday 2 nd June	WORKSHOP - Transistion	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Tuesday 2 nd June	Summer Survival - See Flyer on previous page	11-2	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Wednesday 3 rd June	WORKSHOP - Sensory support with Jessie (Sensory OT with the ND MDT)	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, SO19 8BR
Monday 8 th June	SEND Reform session with SCC Staff	12-2	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Tuesday 9 th June	WORKSHOP - School Avoidance with the mental health in Schools team	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, SO19 8BR
Thursday 11 th June	SEND Get together with ND (Neurodiversity) Multi Disciplinary Team	10-12	Freemantle and Shirley Community Centre, Randolph Street, SO15 3HE
Wednesday 17 th June	SEND get together with Portage	10-12	Jumpin Jax, Ashley Crescent, Sholing, SO19 9NA
Thursday 18 th June	Transition event for year 5/6, year 10/11	4-7pm	Saints Stadium, Britannia Rd, Southampton SO14 5FP
Monday 22 nd June	SEND get together with Jigsaw (Social Care team)	10-12	Townhill Farm Community Centre, Wessex Rd, Southampton SO18 3RA
Tuesday 23 rd June	WORKSHOP - Sleep dififcuties	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Wednesday 3 rd July	WORKSHOP - to gather family feedback on ND profile tool		ONLINE
Thursday 4 th July	SEND get together	10-12	Robins Nest, Unit C, Atlantic Works, Oakley Rd, Southampton SO16 4LL
Tuesday 7 th July	SEND Get together with ND (Neurodiversity) Multi Disciplinary Team with EP	10-12	Lordshill Community Centre, Cromarty Rd, Lordshill, Southampton SO16 8LX

Whats on locally ...



Join The **Super 1s**

All disabilities welcome
Ages 12-25

CHALLENGE YOURSELF
BE MORE ACTIVE
IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS
MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Free inclusive cricket sessions!

WHEN:
Mondays
6pm - 7.30pm

WHERE:
Old Netley & Highfield Cricket Club, Portsmouth Road, Southampton, SO19 9PW

CONTACT:
Michael Powell
michael.powell@utilitabowl.com

www.utilitabowl.com/cricket-board/disability/super-1s/

Registered Charity No. 306054 | OSCR No. SC046238

SOUTHAMPTON PARENT CARER FORUM INVITES YOU TO ...

FREE ENTRY
Summer Survival

Helping you and your child feel confident about managing the summer holiday

Transition workshop with the Neurodiversity Multidisciplinary team

- ✓ Ideas and strategies to support your young person as they transition to a new class, year group or even school.
- What to expect 11am -2pm:
 - ✓ Meet a range of activity providers
 - ✓ Friendly advice and guidance from SEND Team, School transport and ND Team
 - ✓ Ask questions in a relaxed setting

Date: Tuesday 2nd June

Times: 10-12 for Workshop
11-2pm for chatting to providers

Where: Harbour Lights Picture House, Maritime Walk, SO14 3TL

SOUTHAMPTON PARENT CARER FORUM INVITES YOU TO ...

Transition event

Helping you and your child feel confident about their next step

What to expect:

- ✓ Meet schools, colleges & services
- ✓ Friendly advice and guidance from SEND team and SENDIASS
- ✓ Ask questions in a relaxed setting

Who is this for?

- Year 5 parents (moving to secondary school) without EHCPs but who need support
- Year 10 & 11 parents (moving to college)

Date: 18th June

Times: 4pm to 7pm

Where: St Marys Football Stadium, Britannia Rd, Southampton SO14 5FP (parking available on site)

SEND Awareness

Focusing on neurodiversity in our communities

Sunday 7th June 2026

Vedic Society Hindu Temple

Frances Akinde

A neurodivergent educator, former headteacher and author of *Be An Ally, Not a Bystander*. With over 20 years in education, Frances uses her lived experience to champion allyship, intersectionality and inclusive practice.

The Children's Mayor of Southampton

Special guest

On the day

11:00-12:30	○	Information stalls
12:30-14:00	○	Lunch for all attendees
14:00-16:00	○	Key speakers

Brought to you by The Vedic Society Hindu Temple, Ghana Association, Southampton City Council and Parent Carer Forum