Luton SENDIAS Service provides confidential information, advice and support relating to special educational needs and/or disability

for:

Parents/carers of children with special educational needs and/or disability

and

young people (up to the age of 25 years) with special educational needs and/or disability

There are two SENDIAS Officers, who have joint responsibility for delivery of the service.

The service operates at arm’s length from the Local Authority. It is able to act, and needs to be seen to act, independently and impartially from the Local Authority.

The information, advice and support:

- enables the participation of children, their parents and young people in decision-making relating to their education.
- encourages partnership working, in order to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for children and young people
- supports parents and young people to have their views heard, including in situations where the views of education providers and services differ.

We can also signpost to other organisations, including voluntary organisations, who can provide additional advice and support.

Luton SENDIAS Advisory Group

Luton SENDIAS Advisory Group is made up of service users, Luton SEND Information, Advice & Support Officers and representatives from Luton’s People Directorate, Health, Social Care, Leisure, and voluntary organisations.

The group gives service users and other agencies a chance to contribute ideas to the service and to help inform local policy and practice.

Thursday 5 July 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Futures House, The Moakes, LU3 3QB

If you would like to book a place to join us and share your views

Contact: Luton SENDIAS Service

For information, advice and support, contact: Luton SENDIAS Officers

Vicki Lloyd
01525 71 97 54

Olwen Davies
01582 54 81 56

Or write to: Luton SEND Information, Advice & Support Service, People Directorate, Futures House, The Moakes, Marsh Farm, Luton, LU3 3QB
(Email: SENDIAS@luton.gov.uk) Website: www.luton.gov.uk/sendias
We are Student Voice and our purpose is to help people learn new things for their future. We meet at Luton at the TOKKO to work together and learn new things. Education, fun, co-operation is what we accomplish here and you can be part of it.

A recent tweet about the last SVF meeting

On Tuesday the SVF made their voices heard. Dr Linda Delmar, Principal Educational Psychologist for LBC shared plans for the Luton Emotional Wellbeing Strategy and gathered the opinions and recommendations of the forum. Some excellent points made!

Follow us on Twitter on @studentvoiceLBC

Student Voice Forum is for students with additional needs. It is a place for young people with additional needs to have their say about how schools, colleges and council services can work better. It is also a good place to meet other students and enjoy social events.

- The forum is for young people who need extra support with learning, behaviour, friends and emotions.
- Young people are welcome whether or not they have an education, health and care (EHC) plan, and whether or not they get extra support in school or college.
- Luton’s Student Voice forum wants to include all young people who consider themselves to have additional needs.

If you would like to join us call 01582 54 81 56 or email studentvoice@luton.gov.uk and ask for a participation form

The next meetings
Tuesday 17th April Tuesday 5th June 2018
4 pm to 6 pm at
Tokko Youth Space, 7 Gordon Street, Luton, LU1 2QP

Luton SENDIAS Service

has
a dedicated team of Independent Parental Supporters.
These are volunteers, who provide support to parents/carers.
We would like to recruit and provide training for new volunteers

If you would like to:

Train for voluntary work

and if you can: • spare some time to help others • are a good listener

Please contact Luton SENDIAS Service for more information
The Luton Parent Carer Forum CIC is an organisation that facilitates the voices of parent carers living in Luton with children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The forum aims to work in co-production with local services across Education, Health and Social Care, to enable professionals and parents to work together on developing and evaluating services for children/young people with additional needs. This is done through membership feedback. Membership is free. The forum aims to empower families to have a voice in shaping local services for the future of their children and young people with SEND. It also supports parent carers to gain increased confidence when meeting with professionals in relation to their child/young person with SEND, and raise awareness of their rights under the Children and Families Act.

For further information, contact: Lyn Asquith – 07534 62 50 66 or Email: admin@lutonforum.org.uk.

Follow on Facebook Luton Parent Carer Forum
Twitter @Lutonparentcare
Website www.lutonforum.org.uk

Finding Your Voice and Knowing Your Rights Workshop
28th February 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
(Registration 10.15 a.m.)

What does it cover? A workshop to help families communicate with professionals and how to get the best out of your appointments and meetings. This session will also help you to understand some of the terminology that may be used (including handout of most common terms referred to), and to help you to plan ahead for your child/young person.

Where? Co-op Sports and Social Club, Stockingstone Road, Luton LU2 7NF – Ascot Rooms at top of free car park, past main building on your left

How do I book? Email: admin@lutonforum.org.uk or call/text 07534 62 50 66

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL, as places are limited. The session needs a minimum of 5 people to run.

Unfortunately, we do not have crèche facilities available, therefore, we cannot accommodate children at this session.

Luton Parent Carer Forum is holding an end of year event
Cradle to Adulthood, a SEND Journey
19th March 9.45 a.m. to 2.45 p.m.

For Parent Carers living in Luton who have children and young people with additional needs. This is an opportunity to gain an overview of some of the services our children and young people may encounter as they grow older covering Education, Health and Social Care. The event chart the journey of children with special educational needs/disabilities from 0-25 years; 0-11 years in the morning and 12-25 years in the afternoon. This is an open event, and it is possible to attend either the morning session, afternoon session, or stay all day.

Where? Centre for Carnival Arts, 3 St Mary's Road Luton LU1 3JA

This event is FREE, but places must be booked

How do I book? Email: admin@lutonforum.org.uk or call/text 07534 62 50 66
If a child has special educational needs (SEN), a school needs to use its best endeavours to give the child the support that they need. For most children, a school can meet the needs through measures, such as, providing a differentiated curriculum. For other children, it may be necessary to obtain advice from professionals, such as an educational psychologist or a speech and language therapist.

Children with SEN have to be provided with SEN support. The support provided is to help children achieve the outcomes or learning objectives that have been set for them.

Guidance on meeting the needs of children with SEN and disability, including in early years settings and in further education, is set out in: ‘Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years’. There is also a DfE guide: ‘Special educational needs and disabilities: a guide for parents and carers’. Both can be downloaded from: www.gov.uk (search for the title).

The duty to provide reasonable adjustments applies to Local Authorities (LAs) and to all schools, irrespective of how they are funded or managed.

The duty requires that disabled pupils can be involved in every aspect of school life. This means being able to fully participate in the education provided by the school and being able to enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services which the school provides for pupils.

As well as changes in practice, it is the school's duty to provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled pupils. That is, pieces of equipment and/or support from a member of staff, as necessary. For children, who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, auxiliary aids and services can be provided through the EHC plan.

The duty to make reasonable adjustments is an anticipatory one. Schools need to think in advance about what disabled pupils might require and what adjustments might need to be made for them.

It is good practice for schools to work with pupils and their parents in determining what reasonable adjustments can be made.

Equality and Human Rights Commission
For further information, or to download a copy of the guide: ‘Reasonable Adjustments for Disabled Pupils’

Equality Advisory Support Service (EASS)
For advice, tel: 0808 800 0082
Textphone: 0808 800 0084
Website: equalityadvisoryservice.com

Reasonable Adjustments for Disabled Pupils
M is 15 yrs old and is in Yr 10. At age 10, he was diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. He is a very high achiever and enjoys school. His main interest is sport, particularly playing and watching football, and he loves his PlayStation and Xbox. M is very kind and helpful in his own way.

Meeting M’s needs mainly focuses around his difficulties with social communication. He finds it hard to read situations and to respond appropriately to them. The staff have been informed of his needs and have been advised on ways of communicating with M, in order to aid his understanding. However, M gets very frustrated, as he feels that some teachers understand him better than others.

In some situations, M gets very anxious and his behaviour can spiral out of control. He is very determined and when he sets his mind on doing something, it is very difficult to redirect him. He has a time-out card, so that when situations in the classroom get too much for him, he is allowed to leave and go to a quiet place to calm down.

The school have arranged for M to sit tests in a different room from his peers, so that he feels more at ease and it isn’t so overpowering for him.

He finds it hard to discuss his difficulties with anybody, but school have arranged a mentor, who provides regular sessions for M and he gets on great with her. The mentor also helps him with positive ways of managing social interactions.

P is 13 yrs old and is in Yr 8. He is achieving well. P has medical needs, as well as auditory processing disorder. P loves sports, including hockey and football. He particularly enjoys swimming and is currently working towards his stage 5 swimming badge.

Because of P’s medical needs, he has been advised that he shouldn’t take part in contact sports, but he is so enthusiastic that he wants to take part in everything. The PE department are very good with him and encourage him to take as full a part as possible, but ensure that everybody at school is mindful of the limitations relating to his medical needs.

‘I like going to school, because I like talking to my friends. PE is good. The other lessons are alright.’

P has a care plan which clearly outlines his medical needs and how they are to be met. The care plan is regularly reviewed and updated. The staff are well informed of his needs and the good communication is very important.

P chooses where to sit in the classrooms, so that he can hear the teachers clearly and so that he can receive discreet individual support from the teachers, when needed. He gets support from a teaching assistant in some lessons. Teachers are very good with him and are in the habit of constantly checking with him that he has understood.

A Luton parent and young people
Together
Come and join us
A new group for all families and carers of young children with Special Educational Needs.

Together we will support, inform and learn.

We are able to accommodate children if you need to bring them along.

10am-11.30am
1st March, 3rd May

Where:
Families United Network
Britannia Estate Unit 5 17
Leagrave Road LU3 1RJ
Tel: FUN 01582 42 08 00
Tel: SENs 01582 54 81 51

SEN / ASD Advisors look forward to meeting you.

Coffee Mornings
for carers of children with autism

The Autism Spectrum Team (SENS), in partnership with the school team run half termly coffee mornings to support local families:

CAUSE (Carers for Autism Support & Education)

Parents and carers from all over Luton are welcome and interpreters will be available.

All welcome. Interpreters available for Polish, Urdu & Bengali speakers

Beech Hill Primary School
Dunstable Road,
Luton, LU4 8BW

Join us on the following Wednesday mornings
9:30 – 11:00am:

14th March
9th May
27th June

Phone Mrs. Knight-Davies on 01582 429434
The Disability Resource Centre is an independent organisation and a registered charity, that has disabled people at the centre of its decision making.

This service provides up-to-date information and advice to people of any age and with any disability, their families, carers, friends and associated professionals throughout Bedfordshire and Luton. The Service is open to everyone. There is no formal referral process and it is FREE.

Information is available on a variety of topics including:

• Benefits and benefit forms. This includes help with filling in Disability Living Allowance (DLA) forms for children
• Employment
• Support Groups
• Sport and Leisure
• Carers

For more specific advice you can make an appointment with one of their benefits advisors who can help with benefits checks and form filling.

For further details contact: The Disability Resource Centre, Poynters House, Poynters Road, Dunstable, LU5 4TP.

Tel: 01582 47 09 00 Website: www.drcbeds.org

Fully inclusive sports opportunities

Access2Sport provides a range of sport and physical activities for disabled young people aged 5-18 in Luton.
Activities include, athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, football, dodgeball, tennis, rock-climbing, swimming and dance.
Children must be booked on to activities to ensure appropriate staffing is provided.

For further information, contact:

Colby Nicholls-Brown,
Outreach Development Officer,
Tel: 01582 40 02 72 or 07976 74 59 80
Contact A Family
Support, advice and information

Contact a Family helpline  For information or advice on education or on any aspect of caring for a disabled child, call the freephone helpline.

Medical information directory  Up-to-date and validated information on hundreds of disabilities and conditions, their symptoms, treatment and the support available.

Advice and support online  Browse information on different aspects of bringing up a disabled child, including information about the special education system, and visit the resource library.

Helpline Tel: 0808 808 3555
Website: www.cafamily.org.uk

Luton Law Centre
Areas of law covered:
• Housing  • Community Care
• Welfare benefits  • Debt
• Asylum  • Immigration

Tel: 01582 48 10 00
Email: admin@lutonlawcentre.org.uk

Luton Rights is a free advice service to the community. The centre offers free information and advice, including on welfare rights. The centre includes advice on all welfare benefits, including disability benefits.

Tel: 01582 45 33 72
Email: admin@lutonrights.org
Website: www.cafamily.org.uk

The Local Offer is an access point for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs. It gives information about education, health and social care services available in the Luton area.

The aim of the local offer is:
➢ To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about support and opportunities available for children and young people with special educational needs in the Luton area

➢ To ensure that the provision of services in education, health and social care are more responsive to local needs and aspirations of children and young people by directly involving them, their parents/carers and service providers in its development and review.

The Local Offer:
• Provides one place to go for all information needed on education, health and social care services
• Is easy to navigate through complex information from a wide range of sources
• Helps users find the information they need quickly and easily
• Provides clear, transparent, relevant and accurate information about current services in a way which can be understood and accessed by all
• Provide links to other websites (such as early years settings/schools/colleges) where further information about a service will be available

The Local Offer is accessed as part of the online Luton Directory on the Luton Borough Council website at directory.luton.gov.uk/send

For further help or information on the Local Offer contact the Family Information Service on 01582 54 88 88.