





Our Voice coffee morning tomorrow 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Ponders End Family Hub	P1
Save the Date for Our Christmas party Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	P1
News about benefit changes	P2
Support for parents of children starting primary school	P2
Play and Leisure – relaxed events at the Science Museum	P3
SEN Coffee morning in Cockfosters this Friday	P3
Independent Travel Training	P4
Pre-internship & Supported Internship open evening	P4
Reminder of all our events coming up	P5-6



## What's New? 5<sup>th</sup> November 24

### Our Voice Coffee morning tomorrow at the Ponders End Family Hub (6th Nov)

Our next Coffee morning at the Ponders End Family hub will be an informal cuppa and chat session tomorrow, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. This is an opportunity to talk to the Our Voice team about any issues and concerns you may have, and to catch up with other parent carers over a cup of coffee or tea. Details [here](#).

**Our Voice coffee mornings and drop-in service**  
For parents/carers of children & young people aged 0-25 with  
Special Educational Needs/ Disabilities  
**At the Ponders End Family and Youth Hub**





Join members of the Our Voice team for our regular coffee morning sessions at the **Youth and Family Hub** in Ponders End.

- Updates & Q&A sessions with LA and Health professionals and other speakers
- A chance to talk to members of the Our Voice team about any questions and issues
- A chance for an informal catch-up with other parent carers over a cuppa

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Nov - Cuppa & chat**


**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Dec – Short Breaks – what are they and how do they work with Miri Dharmo, Head of Joint Service for Disabled Children**



**Info and future dates at**  
<https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/events>

Our Voice is the official parent carer forum supporting the families of children and young people aged 0 -25 years with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, living or attending school in the London Borough of Enfield. We are not part of the Local Authority but we work with them to improve services for the families that we represent.

**Ponders End Youth and Family Hub**  
Clement Medford room  
(1<sup>st</sup> Floor)  
129, South Street, Enfield,  
EN3 4 PX  
(next to Oasis Hadley Academy)  
**No need to book**  
**10 am to 12.30 pm**



An opportunity to talk to one of the parent carers from the Our Voice team about any questions you may have, and to chat with other parents of children with additional needs.

### Save the Date: Christmas Party Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Dec



We are currently planning our Christmas Party which will take place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2.30 to 4.30 pm at Russet House school.

Details and the booking link will be sent out to members of our mailing list very soon – watch this space as these events often get booked up quickly!

# National SEND news – benefit changes

Last week's budget included the announcement of several changes to the benefits system:

- The earnings limit for Carers Allowance will increase to £196 per week from April 2025 (equivalent to 16 working hours at the National Living Wage). This is the amount a carer can earn without losing entitlement to Carers' Allowance and is an increase of £45.
- The managed migration of individuals on income-related Employment and Support Allowance to Universal Credit will be brought forward to start from September 24 and complete during 2026
- The maximum amount that can be deducted from a Universal Credit award to repay a debt or loan will be capped at 15% of the claimant's standard allowance (reduced from 25%).
- Amending the Universal Credit severe disability premium transitional protection rules to better support those moving from supported or temporary accommodation into rented housing.
- The government intends to set out planned reforms to the health and disability benefits system early next year.

More information on these and other changes [here](#).

The government has also announced (before the budget announcement) an independent review into the issue of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) attempting to claw back overpayments of the carers' allowance when parent-carers have (often unwittingly) gone over the weekly earnings threshold. The government review will look at why the overpayments were made and what can be done to stop it from happening in the future. More information [here](#).

## Rising to Reception

'Rising to Reception' is a programme aimed at the families of children with communication difficulties who are due to start primary school. The current programme is for parents of children starting Reception in September 2025 (i.e. born between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2021).

The Enfield Communication Advisory Support Service (ECASS) service and partners will be running a series of **Rising to Reception** sessions throughout the year to help prepare your child for starting school.

Children with communication difficulties can find transitions to new settings challenging, so ECASS have teamed up with colleagues and volunteers across Enfield to put together a series of online information sessions to prepare you for the big day next September.

You can see the whole programme of events and the link to register your interest [here](#). The first sessions on 8<sup>th</sup> November (10 -11.30 am or 12.30 – 2 pm) will be online sessions with the Enfield Admissions team, who will give you information and tips for applying for a reception place for Sept 2025.

Second in the series will be the Our Voice session where we will share strategies to support your child with the transition to school, based on the lived experience of our team members. This session will be on 15<sup>th</sup> November 10 – 11.30 am.

If you have any queries, please contact the ECASS team at: [RisingtoReception@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:RisingtoReception@enfield.gov.uk)

# Play and Leisure

See our [‘What’s On?’ Guide to Play and Leisure](#) (last updated 9<sup>th</sup> Sept) for information about SEND-specific and inclusive leisure activities and days out in and around the Enfield area.

## Night Owls at the Science Museum

For ages 16+ the next relaxed ‘Night Owls’ session at the Science Museum will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 6.30 – 9.30 pm – an opportunity to explore the museum in a quieter session and enjoy fun activities and lower capacity sessions at Wonderlab and Power up at a reduced price. More information and booking [here](#).



## Early Birds at the Science Museum

Booking is now open for the next **Early Birds** relaxed session on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 8 am to 11 am. This is aimed at children aged 4- 15 (including siblings) and all places must be pre-booked. More information is available [here](#) along with the booking link. There will be further sessions on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February (6.30 – 9.30 pm) and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (8 – 11 am).

# SEN Coffee morning Cockfosters this Friday

Elena, who is a SEN parent herself, runs regular coffee mornings at Costa Coffee in Cockfosters.

The next coffee morning (and the last one for 2024) is this Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 9.30 – 11 am (see flyer).

Dates for 2025 coming soon.

## SEN COFFEE & CHAT MORNINGS

**To all Parent/Carers of children on the AUTISM/ADHD Spectrum, I would love for you to join me and other parents for my SEN Coffee & Chat Mornings.**



**DATES RUNNING AUTUMN 2024**

**FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER, FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER**

**(OUR VOICE WILL BE JOINING MOST SESSIONS)**

**COSTA COFFEE  
16 Station Parade  
Cockfosters  
EN4 0DN  
9.30am-11am**

**Instagram @sen\_with\_elena  
For more info  
email me on [senwithelena@hotmail.com](mailto:senwithelena@hotmail.com)**



# Independent Travel training

The First Route Scheme supports access to public transport for young adults and adults with learning disabilities to become confident with using public transport. The sessions take place on the first Thursday of each month from 10.30 am to 12 noon, and 1 – 2.30 pm, from Edmonton Green Bus Station.

More information [here](#) including [Poster](#) and [Bus Day factsheet](#)

To book or for further information please contact Claire Fenwick, Team Leader, Community Link Edmonton Tel: 020 8132 1476 email: [Claire.Fenwick@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Fenwick@enfield.gov.uk)



## ENABLING INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

A service for people with learning disabilities and or Autism  
 Venue: Edmonton Green Bus Station  
 The first Thursday of every month  
 First session: 10:30am – 12noon  
 Second session: 1pm – 2:30pm  
 Contact Claire Fenwick to place a booking: 020 8379 2450  
 Email: [Claire.Fenwick@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Fenwick@enfield.gov.uk)



# Pre-internship and Supported Internship Programme open evening 27<sup>th</sup> November

The Supported Internship Programme will be hosting their next open evening on 27<sup>th</sup> November for people to come and find out more about the **Pre-Internship & Supported Internship Programme** starting in **September 2025**.

These programmes are for young people aged 16 – 24 years old, with an EHCP, who want to find employment but need a little help getting started.

The open evening is an opportunity for young people and their families to meet some of the team and learn more about the programme, how it works and whether it's right for them. You can choose to express an interest following the presentation and the team will invite you in for a more detailed discussion and to get to you know better before offering a place. **There's more information on the SIP website at [www.westleasip.co.uk](http://www.westleasip.co.uk) and the link to register your interest.**



<b>Where</b>	West Lea, Horizon Campus, 219-221 High Street, Ponders End, EN3 4DX
<b>When</b>	Wednesday, 27th November, 2024
<b>Time</b>	5 pm - 6 pm

[Register Here](#)

## Reminder of our events for Nov & Dec

You can see details of all our events at <https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/events>

### Emotional Wellbeing and your Child – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Join Our Voice and representatives of the Educational Psychology Service and My Young Minds Enfield for this event focusing on supporting your child's emotional wellbeing, and helping them manage their fears and worries.

**When: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November** from 10 am to 12.30 pm (registration from 9.30 am)

**Where: Ponders End Family and Youth Hub**, 129 South Street, EN3 4PX (near Oasis Hadley Academy).

More information on our flyer [here](#) . Please book your place [here](#).

The event will include a panel discussion with senior representatives of the Enfield Psychology Service (EPS) and My Young Minds Enfield/MYME (part of CAMHS), a workshop on supporting your child with their worries and fears, and an opportunity to pre-book 1:1 appointments with members of the EPS team.

### Choosing a Primary School

If you are trying to choose a primary school for your child with additional needs, or thinking ahead to making that choice in a year or so, join one of our two Zoom information sessions in conjunction with Enfield SENDIASS and the SEN Team.

We'll look at the process (whether or not your child has an EHCP) and how to choose a primary school for children with additional needs, and expressing your preferences for what to look out for when making decisions. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions, in advance and also as part of the session.

**Book your place for Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 12.30 – 2 pm [here](#) or Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30 am to 12 pm [here](#)** See our event flyer [here](#) and for further information (including key dates) and resources see our website [here](#).

### Guest speaker Miri Dhamo to talk about Short Breaks: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Our last drop in coffee morning for 2024 will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Our guest speaker at this event will be Miri Dhamo, Head of the Joint Service for Disabled Children, Short Breaks and Social Care. Save the date for this event – a great opportunity to find out all you need to know about how Short Breaks work, how you can find out if you are eligible, and everything else you need to know! Details [here](#).

### Wills and Trusts workshops: 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.30 to 9 pm **or** 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 10 -11.30 am

Next month we will be holding two Zoom sessions on the important topic of wills and trusts, and how to make sure that your vulnerable dependants are protected in the long term. These sessions run in conjunction with Estate Planning Solutions and are specifically designed for the parents/carers of children and young people with additional needs. The sessions include a Q&A session as well as a short presentation. If you wish, you can also book a follow-up no-obligation individual consultation.

**13<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 - 9 pm** – info [here](#) and book your place [here](#)

**26<sup>th</sup> November 10 am - 11.30 am** info [here](#) and book your place [here](#)

## Behaviour support drop-in session this Friday 8th November

If you want to discuss specific questions about your child's behaviour, come along to the next Behaviour drop-in session which is this Friday 8th November from 10 am to 12 noon at Cheviots Children's Centre. See [here](#) for information (including a flyer). These sessions are run jointly by Cheviots Disability Service and Our Voice parents with personal lived experience.

Cheviots can provide creche facilities and/or translators for parents attending these sessions – please email Cheviots in advance to request – either [Lucy.Canton@Enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.Canton@Enfield.gov.uk) or [Gina.Giles@Enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Gina.Giles@Enfield.gov.uk)

## Introduction to Positive Behaviour Support Workshop 21<sup>st</sup> November

Our Voice will be running our next 'Introduction to Positive Behaviour Support workshops on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at Cheviots Children's Centre, 10 am to 12 pm. We will look at how to use PBS techniques at home to prevent and manage behaviours of distress. The training will be delivered by experts from the Our Voice team, who have lived experience of using Positive Behaviour Support with their own children.

Full details on our website [here](#). All places must be pre-booked via Eventbrite [here](#).

Cheviots can provide creche facilities and/or translators for parents attending these sessions – please include this in your booking form.

All dates and information in this update are correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of writing but please do confirm details directly with the organisers before attending any events.

Please note that our update contains information and events from external contributors. The views expressed by contributors may not always be those of Our Voice and inclusion in our update should not be taken to mean that Our Voice endorse any particular organisation, event or service.

We hope that you have found our update useful. If you have any feedback, or anything that you think we could be telling our families about, please let us know.

Our contact details are:

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Website: [www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk](http://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk)

You can also follow us on our Facebook page at

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Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/ourvoiceenfield/>



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