

SENDIASS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Newsletter



March 2023

The new and improved SENDIASS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough service is committed to supporting families. We are receiving between 170 and 180 new referrals each month, and now have a dedicated Database and Advice Line Officer who will ensure that all your calls and emails will be received in a timely manner.

We believe that communication and networking are both key elements to ensure that our young people receive the support they require throughout their education journey. We work closely with all the individual services, LAs, schools, health and social care, to ensure a collaborative working environment is very strong throughout the Authorities.

SENDIASS in both authorities continue to have their own contact numbers, but we also have a new generic contact number for ease. Please see below for further details...

When you call for the first time, your case will be referred to the Advisor who covers your area. You will then have direct contact with your Advisor, and they will be your point of contact throughout. Our service is available throughout the whole year - we continue to support families throughout the school holidays, although there is sometimes a limited service.

Meet the team:



Bob Wilson (Cambridgeshire)

I am the Manager for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. I am a parent and a brother of someone with SEND. Prior to starting in SENDIASS over 20 years ago I worked in areas where the law and knowledge of it was crucial to service delivery. That personal knowledge and experience of working within legal frameworks as well as expertise in working in areas of conflict, I am a trained mediator, has meant I can bring these skills to my work in supporting parents, carers and young people through the regrettably sometimes difficult SEND system.



Angela Buxton (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough)

I am the Deputy Manager for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. I have gained valuable knowledge and experience from every angle, a parent, a Deputy SENCO in a large secondary school and a Complex Case and Resolution Officer for Peterborough City Council. Having awareness from each section of education, I have the understanding and skills to guide families through the sometimes-difficult journey of SEND education.



Abigail Cook (Cambridgeshire)

I'm Abi Cook and I am the SENDIASS Adviser for East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon. I have a BA(hons) in Education Studies and Special Educational Needs, Disability and Inclusion and particularly focused on autism stigma and inclusive education within mainstream schools. Before my role as a SENDIASS Adviser, I worked as the Parents School Preference Adviser and in this role, I helped parents with all thing's admissions!



Catherine Wisbeach (*Peterborough*)

I am now a SENDIASS Advisor and support the area of Peterborough, although I originally worked in Cambridgeshire as an EHCP Supporter. I have previous experience as a legal publisher so have excellent working knowledge of the legal framework surrounding EHCPs. As a parent myself, I am very compassionate, and I have a very calm and methodical approach that helps me to guide families through the SEN education processes.



Charlotte Maylor (*Cambridgeshire*)

I am a SENDIASS Adviser and support Sawson, Linton, Bassingbourn, Melbourn, Comberton and Gamillingay. I have children with special needs so have been through many of the experiences that parents face. Now that my children are about to leave college, I have gained the knowledge and experience to support other families through SEND education.



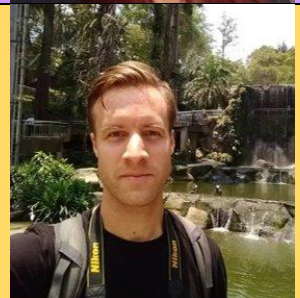
Donna Sparrow (*Cambridgeshire*)

I have been working in this lovely, supportive team since 2013, and I cover Wisbeach, March, Chatteris and Whittlesey. I have 2 children, one of whom has SEN / Dyspraxia. I have a legal background and I am a non-practicing solicitor - which gives me a passion for SEND law. I love researching legal rights for parents and empowering them so they can decide how they wish to move forwards. Advocating for those that are unable to do so, for whatever reason, is important to me.



Jackie Pluckrose (*Peterborough*)

I began supporting families throughout the EHCP process as an Independent Supporter for SCOPE, where I worked very closely with the SEND Partnership (previous SENDIASS) at Peterborough City Council. Now I am a SENDIASS Advisor for the Peterborough area, and although the role can be challenging, the job satisfaction from supporting parents and young people makes it all worthwhile.



Jonathan Mitchell (*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*)

I am the first point of contact for SENDIASS as the Database and Advice Line Officer. I ensure that all new cases for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are correctly entered into our system and allocated to an Advisor. I have recently embarked on a new independent venture but I'm remaining at SENDIASS for three days each week so I can continue to support families in our region.



Lindsey Lord (*Cambridgeshire*)

I am a SENDIASS Adviser and support Cambridgeshire South, St Neots, Cottenham and Swavesey. My background is a teacher and more recently a SENCO in a primary school. Also, as a mother myself, my aim is to make the education journey as smooth as possible for our families.



Tracy Anderson (Cambridgeshire)

My name is Tracy Anderson, I'm the SENDIASS Adviser for St Ives, North Huntingdonshire and Cambridge North. I'm originally from London where I was a Graphic Designer for over 20 years. I am mum to three adult children, all with varying SEND. While caring for my children when they were young, I became a pre-school SENCo and studied, finally receiving my MA in Intellectual and Developmental Disorders. In my spare time, I like researching topics which interest me, reading and doing Logic Problems!



Joan Adamson - Special needs Community Information Point - SCIP

SCIP is a free service for children and young people (0-25) who have special needs or a disability and live in Cambridgeshire.

SCIP provides information on events, activities, general information – we can help to find a support group, information on grants, transport, tutors, youth clubs, and much more.

If you would like to join SCIP, apply for a SCIP Card, or find out more information, complete the online form at - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/scip

SENDIASS Cambridge

Cambridgeshiresendiass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

01223 699214

SENDIASS Peterborough

Sendiass@peterborough.gov.uk

01733 863979

New joint service contact number

0300 365 1020

Have you heard of the Local Offer?

If you are a young person with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), or have a child/ young person with SEND, the **LOCAL OFFER** is the Local Authority's **central source of information for SEND services and support.**

CAMBRIDGESHIRE – LOCAL OFFER

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer>

PETERBOROUGH – LOCAL OFFER

<https://fis.peterborough.gov.uk/kb5/peterborough/directory/home.page>