

Hello!

Welcome back from the Summer Holidays.

We hope you got to enjoy some of that summer sunshine and that the return to school is smooth- we know the transition back to school can be tricky.

We are very pleased to announce that we have recruited a new Adviser, please welcome Donna Hembury . Donna will work Tuesday - Thursday. Donna will join us at our Parents' Share mornings (details below) so please do come and say hello and catch up with Chris(tine) & Millie.

With best wishes,  
*Jean, Chris Donna & Millie*



## Parents Share

Thursday 29th September 0930-1130

Thursday 13th October 0930-1130

For parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

*Bringing parents together to share experiences, learn together and support one another*

Our Parents' Share meetings are open to all parents and carers. We meet once a month, during school term times. Our meetings are friendly and informal and, unless requested for a particular event, there is no need to book. Just turn up when you can.

We do understand that it is not always easy to turn up at a group where you do not yet know anybody. If you would like to come, but feel anxious about this, do let us know and we will make sure that we meet you when you arrive.

If you would like to receive further information about the Parents' Share and other events, please email us at [ias@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:ias@rbwm.gov.uk) or call 01628 683182 to join our mailing list.

We always welcome your feedback and suggestions for the Parents' Share programme. If there is something you would like us to include, please do let us know.

## Saying Goodbye to Her Majesty The Queen

As the country mourns the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we understand it can be hard to explain death to children and young people. Please find a link below to Child Bereavement Uk who have some advice and a video that may be helpful.

[Link to Child Bereavement Uk](#)



### Free webinar on 'Understanding Emotionally based School Avoidance from Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

The 2022 Attendance Audit from the Children's Commissioner found that in Autumn 2021, 1 in 4 children were persistently absent. In 2018/2019, this figure was 1 in 9 – meaning that persistent absence has more than doubled in this time period.

Join us for our first seminar of the academic year, where we will introduce and explore the topic of emotionally-based school avoidance.

We'll also look at the current national picture for school-aged children and explore the role of schools and parents and carers in supporting those who are affected.

This seminar ties in with launch of our free resource on addressing emotionally based school avoidance (which will be published in September 2022) and our new training, [mental health and attendance](#).

The seminar will be chaired by Natalie Merrett, Head of Knowledge Dissemination at the Anna Freud Centre.

She will be joined by two expert panelists Vicky Saward, Head of Training in the Schools Division at the Anna Freud Centre; and Brenda McHugh MBE, Consultant Psychotherapist and Co-Founder of Pears Family School.

Thursday 29 September 16.30 - 18.00

[\*\*Book your free place here\*\*](#)



### IPSEA - Back to school: your questions answered

The beginning of a new school year should be an exciting time. However, for many families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), going back to school can be another challenging period in the fight to secure the education their child is legally entitled to.

In our new online hub, ['Back to school: your questions answered'](#), we have pulled together all our useful information and resources to help guide parents and carers of children with

Sign up for a webinar for teaching and SEN professionals!

## Supporting an ADHD Learner in School

Presented by Presented by Colin Foley, National Training Director for the ADHD Foundation

Wednesday 28th September 2022

10am - 11am

# Live Webinar



Book your place at [www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/adhd-learners](http://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/adhd-learners)



### Kooth Webinars

Kooth hosts monthly webinars aimed at parents/carers. These are an opportunity to understand Kooth as a support for your child and can be used whilst waiting for additional services and interventions. The sessions will demonstrate the Kooth features and answer frequently asked questions.

[More information can be found here.](#)

### Free Webinars



Charlie Waller are running a series of live webinars for parents, carers and educators. They are all presented by our mental health trainers, speakers and guest speakers who come from a wide range of professions, including education, psychology, social work, youth work, public health, psychotherapy and nursing. Topics include 'The Teen Brain', 'Sleep' and 'Perfectionism'.

The webinars explore strategies for maintaining positive mental health, paying attention to our own wellbeing and supporting those around us. [Information can be found here](#)

### Opportunity to join young people's advisory group FLARE

Do you know or work with a young person who would like to share their expertise and experiences with professionals to help make support and services reflect disabled children and young people's needs?

The Council for Disabled Children are looking for disabled young people and young people with special educational needs aged 12 – 18 years old to be part of our young people's advisory group FLARE. FLARE stands for Friendship, Learning, Achieve, Reach and Empower.

FLARE represents the views and voices of young people with special educational needs and disabilities all over England. FLARE works together to share their views and experiences to help the Department for Education and other teams to understand how disabled children and young people and those with SEN want to receive the support and services they need.

Being part of FLARE will mean participating in 6 meetings a year and feeding back to professionals about how to make positive changes to improve things for all disabled young people. These meetings are held in-person in London, and we will support the young people with their travel arrangements.

To find out more and access application forms please click [here](#).

The deadline for applications is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

## We are recruiting for FLARE!



Join us and add your voice!

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### You will:

- Share your experiences and expertise
- Give feedback and advice
- Talk to professionals about how to make positive changes to improve things for all disabled young people
- Take part in 6 meetings a year

### What will you gain?

- Get to meet and work with new people
- Get to share your views and ideas
- Gain new skills
- Help to make support and services reflect what disabled children and young people think

Please visit this [webpage](#) for more information and how to apply. Email Ga-Ling at [ghardstaff@ncb.org.uk](mailto:ghardstaff@ncb.org.uk) if you have any questions.



## HOPE Study - can you help?

The HOPE study aims to explore any differences in the extra support received by children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across England.

As a relevant SEND Information/advice service in your Local Authority, I am emailing to ask for your help in promoting our three national surveys which aim to explore and highlight any variations in SEND identification and provision across all Local Authorities in England.

We are asking the following groups to share their experiences of SEND support in their local area and if you are eligible yourself, we would greatly appreciate your participation:


1. Children and young people with SEND (aged 11-27)

2. Parents/Carers of children and young people with SEND
3. SEND professionals in or working closely with education/health/social care

The information from these surveys will be used to help improve SEND provision for children and young people in the future.


The surveys are open until the 30<sup>th</sup> September and we would really appreciate it if you could share the link to the survey in any upcoming newsletters or webpage/social media posts.

Link: <https://redcap.link/HOPEsurvey>




**HOPE Study**


Health Outcomes for young People throughout Education



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



FUNDED BY  
NIHR | National Institute for Health Research



UCL

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This information will be used to help **improve SEND provision** for children and young people in the **future**.

Survey Link

<https://redcap.link/HOPEsurvey>

Contact us:

[✉ hope21@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:hope21@medschl.cam.ac.uk) [🌐 HOPE Study Webpage](#) [🐦 @HOPEStudy](#)



## GET SUPPORT:

### Home to school transport

There are often difficulties at the start of a new school term because the local authority has failed to organise transport to a new school in time, or because changes have been made which mean the new arrangements aren't suitable.

[Find out more about local authorities' duties to make suitable travel arrangements >>](#)