

Local Area Newsletter



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



Local Area Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- ★ Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) events
- ★ Autism Berkshire offer for adults
- ★ How to register for the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Register
- ★ Events to support parents and carers
- ★ Summer holiday events and activities in and around Windsor and Maidenhead

and much more

**Seventh edition
June 2024**

Carers Week

This week is Carers Week, so... happy Carers Week everyone. Carers Week aims to raise awareness of the work, care and support unpaid carers do in our community.

We hope that this week carers get a chance to take some time for themselves in recognition of the amazing work they all do in caring for loved ones. To assist with this, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) and local businesses have put together some activities and offers aimed at carers.

Below you can find a timetable of activities for carers living in RBWM, and a leaflet of offers from local businesses in the borough. In order to claim the offers, carers will simply need to present the leaflet.

Supporting carers: **visit the NHS Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust Health Bus**



www.rbwm.gov.uk

Next stop for carers

Celebrating and supporting carers in our communities

If you want to learn more about unpaid carers, their roles and the support available, please feel free to drop by the NHS Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust Health Bus, which will be touring Berkshire during Carers Week.

Friday 14 June, 2.30-5.00pm – Dedworth Tesco, 290 Dedworth Road, Windsor, SL4 4JT

More information can be found on the [Berkshire NHS website](http://www.berkshire-nhs.uk).

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Royal Borough
of Windsor &
Maidenhead

Carers Week

10-16 June 2024



Monday 10th June	Time	Additional Information
Walking Football (Free) York Road Stadium, Maidenhead	10am — 11am	Our FREE weekly adult fitness session is held on our covered 3G AstroTurf at York Road. The session is fun, friendly and is suitable for all abilities with a focus on building confidence to help individuals take part in wider activities to enhance their physical and mental wellbeing.
Men's Matters All Saints Church, Windsor	2pm — 4pm	Meetings where men can enjoy tea & biscuits, social activities & friendly conversation. Contact: Tim Walker mobile: 07827 642 504 email: timwalker1666@gmail.com
Knit and Natter Boyn Grove Library Cookham Library	2pm — 3.30pm 2.30pm — 4.30pm	Do you love to knit or crochet, or maybe you are just a beginner? Knit and Natter provides an opportunity to get together informally with like-minded people, have a good chat and do some knitting at the same time. Pick up your needles and yarn and join one of our cheerful Knit and Natter groups.
Tuesday 11th June		
Parent Carer Webinar Online In-person (Family Action, Maidenhead)	9am (in-person) 1pm (virtual) 7.30pm (virtual)	This informative session will help you to understand what is meant by the term 'young carer', how having a caring role impacts your child and how you can support them as they continue to provide care for family members. To register to attend, email: rbwm.yc@family-action.org.uk
Health Hub The Wraysbury Hub, Wraysbury	9.30am — 12.20pm	Interactive kiosk measuring 16 key health areas, medication reviews, repeat prescription, general health advice, blood pressure reviews, osteopathy, massage and wellbeing advice, Household Support Fund, welfare benefits checker, housing options advice, debt and money advice, tech help, social clubs, sports and activities.
Community Learning and Skills Service Maidenhead Library	10am — 4pm	In partnership with Slough Borough Council, staff will be based at Maidenhead Library every Tuesday 10am – 4pm. Adult courses include: ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), Digital Skills, English, Maths, Health and Wellbeing, Employability. For more information, email lifelonglearning@slough.gov.uk
Talkin' Tables Maidenhead Library	10.30am — 11.30am	Make friends and socialise over tea and coffee. For more info, visit Maidenhead Bridge Rotary club's website or email info@maidenheadbridgerotary.org.uk
Health Bus (Reading) Outside Sainsbury's, 7-8 Broad Street, Reading	10.30am — 2pm	Raising awareness of the role of the unpaid carers and their rights and promoting local carer support. All are welcome to attend.
Social Crafting Group (Free) Woodlands Park Village Centre, Maidenhead	1pm — 3pm	A FREE friendly and sociable group of individuals who meet every week to chat and craft. Individuals are able to bring their own crafts from home (knitting, embroidery etc) or have a go at something new on the day.
Community Dementia Friendly Café The Royal Foresters pub, Ascot	11am — 12.30pm	Dementia friendly quiz and prizes. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Tracy on 01344 798430 or email: enquiries.signatureascot@signaturesl.co.uk

Tuesday 11th June (continued)	Time	Additional Information
Walking Football Braywick Leisure Centre	12.30pm — 1.30pm (Women's) 1.30pm — 2.30pm	Walking Football is a slower version of the popular sport and perfect for anyone who wants to play football for longer, make new friends and stay active. With no running, jogging or physical contact it's a fun and safe way for individuals to enjoy football for longer.
Crafternoon Norden Farm, Maidenhead	2pm — 3pm	This week is peg doll décor. Suitable for ages 60+ years. £5 per session, including a cup of tea
Chess Club Sunninghill Library	From 5.30pm	No booking required, just turn up and play
Wednesday 12th June		
Led Social Walk Desborough Bowling Club, Maidenhead	10am — 12pm	A friendly and welcoming group meeting weekly for a leisurely paced inclusive walk. Walking routes vary each week but will be approximately 2–2½ miles in distance lasting approximately one hour. Following the walk there will be an opportunity to purchase refreshments from inside the Bowling Club and we hope that you will be able to join us for a coffee and a chat afterwards.
Health Bus (Bracknell Forest) The Lexicon Shopping Centre, Bracknell	10.30am— 2pm	Raising awareness of the role of the unpaid carers and their rights and promoting local carer support. All are welcome to attend.
Knit and Natter Cox Green Library Sunninghill Library	10.30am— 12.30pm 3.30pm—4.30pm	Do you love to knit or crochet, or maybe you are just a beginner? Knit and Natter provides an opportunity to get together informally with like-minded people, have a good chat and do some knitting at the same time. Pick up your needles and yarn and join one of our cheerful Knit and Natter groups.
Men's Matters Maidenhead Community Centre, Maidenhead	2pm — 4pm	Meetings where men can enjoy tea & biscuits, social activities & friendly conversation. Contact: Paul Samuels. Mobile: 07923 494 744 email: samuelsberks@aol.com
Crafternoon Norden Farm, Maidenhead	2pm — 3pm	This week is peg doll décor. Suitable for ages 60+ years. £5 per session, including a cup of tea
Thursday 13th June		
The Parents' Share Drop-in coffee morning Windsor Family Hub, Windsor	9.30am — 11.00am	Meetings that we call The Parents' Share where parents and carers can come and share their experiences, knowledge and successes. Open to carers of people with SEND.
Tai Chi Session (Free) Maidenhead Library	10am — 11am	A fun, safe, and welcoming weekly Tai Chi session delivered by a qualified instructor and free to attend - it is open to all abilities. All welcome.
IT Support Dedworth Library	10am — 12pm	Also available every other Saturday, check website for dates.

Thursday 13th June (continued)	Time	Additional Information
Knit and Natter Ascot Library Dedworth Library Windsor Library	10.30am — 12pm 10am — 12pm 3pm — 4.30pm	Do you love to knit or crochet, or maybe you are just a beginner? Knit and Natter provides an opportunity to get together informally with like-minded people, have a good chat and do some knitting at the same time. Pick up your needles and yarn and join one of our cheerful Knit and Natter groups.
Free Walking Cricket for men and women Holyport Cricket Club, Maidenhead	11am	At Holyport Cricket Club. Runs all year. Email tristan@329marketing.com for details. Free Disability Cricket for adults and juniors: Sunday 16 th June, 9am at Holyport CC. Runs all year. Email tristan@329marketing.com for details
Health Bus (West Berkshire) Thatcham Rugby Club, Thatcham	11am — 3pm	Raising awareness of the role of the unpaid carers and their rights and promoting local carer support. All are welcome to attend.
Our Maidenhead Craft & Chat Club (Free) Craft Coop, Nicholsons Shopping Centre, Maidenhead	2pm — 4pm	(Tea and coffee available) All welcome.
Natures' Haven Garden Volunteering sessions Nature's Haven, Maidenhead	4pm — 6pm	We're looking for friendly and approachable people with an interest and a passion for the work Nature's Haven promotes. We are grateful for any time you can spare - thank you! Email: info@natureshaven.net (Also Saturday 16th 10am—12pm)
Friday 14th June		
Clewer Leisure Painters New Windsor Community Association, Windsor	10am — 12pm	A sociable group of amateur artists who meet weekly to paint or draw in the medium of their own choice. There is no set programme of work or formal instruction. Instead, they're a self-help group and happily wander around the hall during a tea-break to look at each other's work and give advice. Email: clewerleisurepainters@outlook.com
Health Bus (Wokingham) Woodley Town Centre Shopping Precinct, Woodley	10.30am — 1pm	Raising awareness of the role of the unpaid carers and their rights and promoting local carer support. All are welcome to attend.
Health Bus (RBWM) Tesco, Dedworth Road, Windsor	2.30pm — 5pm	Raising awareness of the role of the unpaid carers and their rights and promoting local carer support. All are welcome to attend.
Sound Bath Norden Farm, Maidenhead	6.30pm — 7.30pm	Sound Baths are deeply relaxing, anyone can join in. Lay down, cosy and Janette will share beautiful sounds and take you on a journey into the heart of Sacred Sound. You will need to bring a yoga mat or blanket to lie on. A small cushion for under head comfort. A blanket to cover up. Anything else you want to bring to make a cosy nest. Eye mask if you use one. £15 per session. Suitable for 18+ years. Please note, to prevent disruption to the class, latecomers may not be admitted.

Looking after
someone?

Putting
carers on
the map

Let us look after you!

Carer [noun]
/'keərə(r)



[1] Cares (unpaid) for family or friends who have a disability, illness or who need support in later life:

Washing them. And their laundry. And their dishes.
Keeping appointments. And records. And tempers.
Giving medicine. And time. And hugs.
Filling forms. And fridges. And silences.
Dealing with doctors. And nurses. And pharmacists.
And social workers. And benefits agencies.
And care workers. And a lack of sleep.

[2] Needs support to manage a life of their own.

Unpaid carers come from all walks of life, but play a vital role in our community.

From caring for a friend with addiction; or looking after a partner with dementia or a child with learning disabilities; they may even be a young person supporting their parent.

Caring can be hugely rewarding but it can also have an impact of all aspects of carers' lives. Many carers can feel lonely or isolated and often prioritise the health and wellbeing of their loved one over themselves.

To celebrate Carers Week, we're working with local businesses in Windsor and Maidenhead to offer a special thank you to the many residents who provide unpaid care for a family member, friend, or neighbour.

We hope these offers will provide carers with an opportunity to take a break and prioritise their own wellbeing.

If you'd like to learn more about unpaid carers and the support that's available follow these links



For Young
Carers



For further
information
and support visit
the RBWM Carers
Hub



For Adult
Carers

Carers Week in RBWM

10-16 June 2024

Carers Week in RBWM

Offers just for you



A FREE EVENT AT MAIDENHEAD LIBRARY

A talk followed by a Q&A with local author Ruth Fogg, who's new book explores stress management for carers

- Monday 10th June
- Time: 2pm - 3.30pm
- Maidenhead Library
- Free



Find out more about Ruth here!

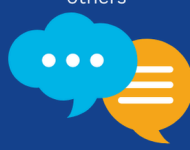


JOIN THE MAIDENHEAD BRIDGE ROTARY WEEKLY TALKING TABLES!

Every Tuesday, 10.30am - 11.30am
Rio Deli Cafe at Maidenhead Library

How Talkin Tables Works:

- 1. Join us at Rio Deli Café**
From 10.30am for an hour
- 2. Find our Table**
Our table will be marked with a small sign inviting you to sit and join in
- 3. Get Comfortable**
This is a safe, inclusive space so pull up a chair & enjoy the company of others



Conquering Loneliness one Table at a Time!

FREE PIZZA AND A DRINK DURING CARERS WEEK!

Enjoy a lunch or dinner
- without the washing up!



Show this flyer when ordering



FREE TICKETS FROM THE OLD COURT ARTSPACE

All of Us Strangers Fri 14 Jun, 7.45pm
Jeanne Du Barry Sat 15 Jun, 7.45pm

'The Hypochondriac' by Moliere
Thur 13 Jun, 2.30pm or 7.30pm

Visit the Box Office or
call 01753 911333 to
book
age restrictions apply



RELAX WITH A CUPPA AT A CRAFTERNOON

Try something new and meet new people
(plus a cuppa is included!)



Can't get out the house to attend? Log in to join in the chat and activity online!



JOIN THE 'OUR MAIDENHEAD' CRAFT AND CHAT CLUB

Thursday afternoons 2pm - 4pm in the
Craft Coop. Nicholsons Shopping Centre,
Maidenhead.

The kettle is usually on!
Just drop in!



JOIN A LED SOCIAL WALK

Maidenhead United host activities every
week day for all ages. Walks, crafts and
five-a-side!



Find more information, support and
offers at the RBWM Carers Hub



www.rbwm.gov.uk



Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) events

Preparation for Adulthood event for parents and carers

Who: Parents and/or carers of young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Year 9 and above.

What: An opportunity for parents and/or carers to learn more about employment routes which are available for their children. This includes the chance to hear about a successful Supported Internship placement from the point of view of the young person, their family and their employer. Parents will also have the opportunity to ask questions of a panel of professionals who currently work with young people who are leaving school and transitioning to college or a work placement.

Where: Desborough Bowling Club, 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead, SL6 1SF

When: Friday 28 June 2024, 10.30am-1.00pm

Please see the [Local Offer](#) which provides more detail on what this event will cover.

To book: Parents and carers can book via [Eventbrite](#)

Preparing for Adulthood Information and next steps

EVENT DETAILS

Friday 28 June
10.30am to 1pm

**Desborough Bowling Club, 10 Green Lane,
Maidenhead SL6 1XZ**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Parents and carers of young people with special educational needs (SEND) who are considering their next steps following school (Year 10 onwards)

WHAT THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE

- The key information and dates for a young person transitioning to college or employment
- An explanation of what supported employment options are available
- An opportunity to share your concerns and anxieties, and ask questions
- Information from key supporting agencies

How to attend

If you are interested in attending please book via the QR code or Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/7hrj39ps>.



TO BOOK

Created by RBWM as part of 'Internships Work', funded by the Department for Education.

www.rbwm.gov.uk



In collaboration with:



**achieving
for children**

Careers event for young people with SEND

Who: Young people who are RBWM residents with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) from Year 8 to 11 (up to Year 13 in our special schools).

What: An opportunity to find out more about what support is available to young people to support their decision about “What next?”. There will be a range of colleges, apprenticeship, and Supported Internship providers there. Other support agencies will also have stalls.

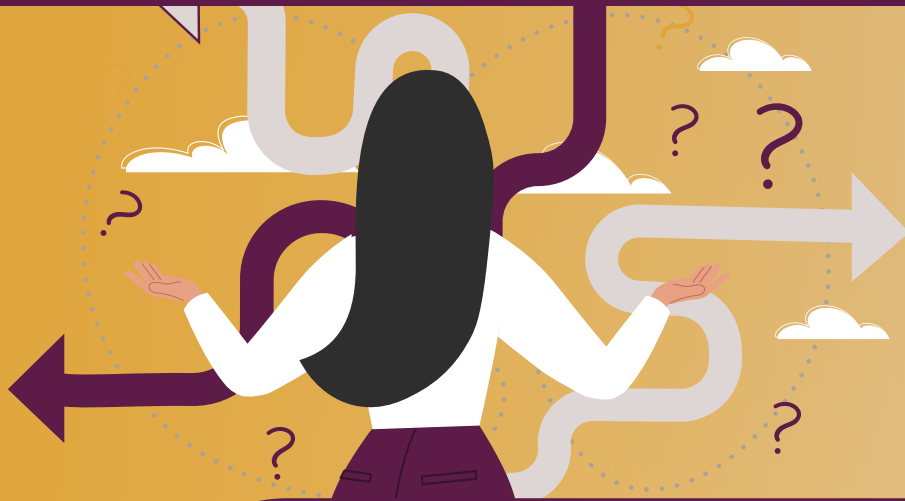
Where: Windsor Racecourse, Maidenhead Road, SL4 5EZ

When: Thursday 24 October 2024

To book: More information can be found on the [Local Offer](#). Young people will attend with their school, so please contact the SENCo if you would like them to attend.

Leaving school: what's next?

www.rbwm.gov.uk



**Thursday
24 October**

**Royal Windsor
Racecourse**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Anyone from Year 8 (with an education, health and care plan) who wants more info about what to do after school.

WHAT THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE

- Information from local colleges and supported internships
- Information about how to get into work
- Information from other RBWM services, like Social Care
- A friendly environment including quiet room

HOW TO ATTEND

If you are interested in attending - Talk to your school leaders or careers advisors about coming. Schools can book a group slot via the QR code.



TO BOOK

Created by RBWM as part of 'Internships Work', funded by the Department for Education.



**achieving
for children**

Autism Berkshire support for autistic adults in Windsor and Maidenhead

Autism Berkshire offers a range of support for autistic people aged 18 and above who live in RBWM, from practical advice about autism and navigating daily life and social situations, to leisure and social activities.

Support currently available for RBWM residents is as follows:

- **Berkshire Adult Autism Support Service.** Funded by the NHS, this free service provides a helpline, advice, problem-solving appointments and meet-ups, workshops and courses for autistic adults throughout the county, whether they have an autism diagnosis or are waiting for an assessment and are not being supported already by other NHS-funded specialist services, such as mental health and learning disability teams. The service is also able to advise parents and family carers of autistic adults.
- The **Bear With Me social group**, which meets weekly on Wednesday evenings in Maidenhead town centre. It offers an opportunity to meet other autistic people to chat and enjoy a meal and drinks. Its programme also includes a summer barbecue and a Christmas party.
- The **Walk & Talk activity group**, which meets fortnightly on Tuesday mornings to walk in parkland and in the countryside at locations around the east of Berkshire. The walks are a chance to get some exercise outdoors and ask for advice from the Autism Berkshire staff who accompany the group.
- The **Thames Valley Autism Alert Card** is available free of charge to autistic people of all ages in Berkshire who have a diagnosis. The card is recognised by Thames Valley Police, whose frontline officers have been trained about autism by staff from Autism Berkshire and the Buckinghamshire charity Talkback.

More information about all these services is available in the Adult Support menu of the [charity's website](#), or you can email adult.support@autismberkshire.org.uk or call 01189 594 594 and leave a voicemail. Autism Berkshire aims to respond to all enquiries within 24 hours.



Autism Berkshire

About Autism Berkshire

Autism Berkshire is a leading charity in Berkshire that helps and supports autistic people of all ages across the county, and their families. They aim to enhance the current provision of services and support, with the purpose of improving autistic people's quality of life and giving them maximum independence.

The charity delivers quality specialist services, training and social and leisure activities throughout Berkshire, guided by a team of trustees with personal and professional experience of autism.

We do this by:

- Providing information and advice through a helpline, events, workshops and newsletters;
- Running accessible social and leisure activities for children, adults and families;
- Providing autism-specific training and support;
- Working with education, health, emergency and employment services and the six main local authorities in Berkshire to deliver autism-appropriate services;
- Raising awareness of autism in the wider community to promote greater understanding.

Key links for autism and ADHD

Autism links

- [National Autistic Society](#)
- [Ambitious About Autism](#)
- [ASD Family Help](#) (Wokingham and West Berkshire)
- [The PDA Society](#) (advice and workshops about the Pathological Demand Avoidance profile of autism)
- [West Berkshire PDA Support Group](#)

ADHD links

- [The ADHD Foundation](#)
- [UK ADHD Partnership](#)
- [ADDISS ADHD Information Service](#)

NHS links

- [Berkshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service \(CAMHS\) Autism and ADHD assessment services](#)
- [Berkshire Healthcare Trust Adult Autism Assessment Team](#)
- [Berkshire Healthcare Trust ADHD and ADD Assessment Team](#)
- [NHS Autism information](#)
- [NHS ADHD information](#)

[Click here](#) for more links to local and national sources of advice, information and support.



Talking sense about autism.

New Safe Spaces trial launches in Windsor for children and young people

A new scheme has launched to give young people dedicated places to go if they feel unsafe whilst out and about in Windsor.

Safe Spaces are registered businesses, charities and community hubs whose staff have received training on how to respond to young people who need help or support. This could be in a situation where a young person feels intimidated by one of their peers or needs a place to go when they feel unsettled.

If a young person enters a Safe Space and asks for help, staff will offer them somewhere to sit. They can also phone someone to help assist them to get home, or call the police, if necessary.

All these spaces are displaying the Safe Spaces logo in their front window. They have also been given information on how to signpost to RBWM's Library Service or the local Family Hubs, should there be any further support required.

In addition to the trial launching in Windsor, all libraries in RBWM are designated safe spaces, for people of all ages.

The Safe Spaces currently registered are:

- All libraries in RBWM, including Windsor Library and Dedworth Library
- Windsor Family Hub
- Windsor Leisure Centre
- Imperial Park Café, Imperial Road
- Harvester – Windsor Lad, Maidenhead Road
- Thames Valley Hospice Shop, Dedworth Road
- Costa Coffee, Dedworth Road
- Tesco Superstore, Dedworth Road

The full list of registered locations and interactive map can be found on the [AfCinfo webpage](#).



SEND Voices RBWM

What do we do?

We give a voice to families who have a child or young person with SEND. We work in partnership with the local authority and decision makers to ensure that these views and experiences are heard and understood. Our aim is to improve the lives of all our children and young people with SEND.

How do we do this?

By listening to our members and ensuring our membership is diverse. We do this through:

- events
- training courses
- consultations and surveys
- information sharing

Join us, become a member

All parents and carers of children and young people (aged 0 to 25 years) with any SEND, living or accessing services in RBWM, are welcome.

Professionals and practitioners who work with children and young people with SEND such as SENCos, teachers and therapists are welcome to become associate members.

Membership is free. To become a member or for more info, please email info@svrbwm.org.uk.

Our year in numbers

- 116 members representing 150 children and young people with SEND
- Nine active parent carer representatives attended over 22 meeting with strategic partners
- 27 members in our group
- 103 responses to our first survey
- 36 parent carers attend our online and face to face coffee mornings
- Over 46 parent carers attend two joint workshops
- Seven steering committee members

Get your voice heard

The independent voice of families
representing their experiences to improve lives

What do we do?

We give a voice to families who, like ours, have a child or young person with SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disabilities). We work in partnership with the local authority and decision makers to ensure that these views and experiences are heard and understood. Our aim is to improve the lives of all our children and young people with SEND.

How do we do this?

By listening to our members and ensuring our membership is diverse. We do this through:

- **Events**
- **Training Courses**
- **Consultations and surveys**
- **Information sharing**

Join us, become a member

All **parents and carers** of children and young people (aged 0- 25 years) with any SEND, living or accessing services in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, are welcome.

Professionals and practitioners who work with children and young people with SEND such as SENCOs, teachers and therapists are welcome to become associate members.

Membership is FREE

To become a member or for more info, email us at info@svrbwm.org.uk

Together we can improve lives



Coffee Morning

Meet your local Designated Clinical Officer for SEND

SEND Voices RBWM is a group of parents and carers who have a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). We are an independent group working together with health, social care and the local authority to ensure that parents and carers are represented and have a voice in decisions relating to SEND services, and that parent carers are part of the solution. We are delighted that Clare Jenkins, the Designated Clinical Officer for Frimley will be joining us to introduce herself and her role in implementing SEND reforms and supporting joint working between health services and all SEND partners, to ensure children and young people with SEND have the right health support to achieve the best outcomes they possibly can.

Please join us on:

Wednesday 19th June

9.30am soft start for 10am - 11.30am

with Clare Jenkins, Designated Clinical Officer,
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities,
Frimley Integrated Care System

Woody's Cafe

Clewer Memorial Recreation Ground
(Pirate Park)
Dedworth Road
Windsor
SL4 5AY

Free parking available outside

IAS - Information, Advice and Support Service

How we work

Our service is free, confidential and impartial. Any personal information you give us will only be shared with your consent*. The IAS Service for Windsor and Maidenhead is a statutory service provided at "arm's length". This means that we work separately from councils and other services that make decisions about provision for children and young people. This ensures the information, advice and support given is impartial. We can support you to share your views and make sure your voice is heard.

*unless there is a safeguarding concern

Who can we help

- Children and young people with disabilities (0-25 years)
- Parents or carers of a child/ young person with disabilities
- Parents or carers who are worried that their child/young person may have special educational needs.

Our service is for people who live in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM). We can help whether your child's education is within the borough or elsewhere.

How we can help

We offer an individual service to provide the information and advice that is right for you.

This may include:

- listening to your views and concerns
- explaining your options, rights and responsibilities
- help in preparing for meetings and/or attending meetings with you
- advice regarding SEN Support
- supporting you through an Educational Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment
- answering questions about EHCPs and Annual Reviews
- guidance around school avoidance, suspensions and exclusions
- support to resolve disagreements including through mediation and appeals to the SEND Tribunal

Contact us to find out

- Email: ias@rbwm.gov.uk
- Confidential Voicemail: 01628 683182
- [Website](#)



**Special Educational
Needs & Disability (SEND)**

**Information, Advice
and Support Service**
for children, young people and parents



INFORMAL SEND COFFEE MORNINGS

with the Information, Advice & Support (IAS)
Service

Drop in Coffee morning - Windsor 13th June 9.30-11.30am

Have a cup of tea with us and other parents, meet our advisers - including our newest member of the team. Ask questions, share experiences. No need to book - just turn up.

65 Alma Rd, Windsor SL4 3HD

Drop in Coffee morning - Maidenhead

18th July 9.30-11.30am

Have a cup of tea with us and other parents, meet our advisers - including our newest member of the team. Ask questions, share experiences. No need to book - just turn up.

Friends House, 14 West Street, Maidenhead SL6 1RL



**Special Educational
Needs & Disability (SEND)**

**Information, Advice
and Support Service**
for children, young people and parents

www.ias-rbwm.info

Events supporting parents and carers

Virtual SEN Conference

When: Wednesday 10 July, from 10am-3pm

Join GEMS and Witherslack Group for a day of learning practical strategies to support your child, exploring behaviour, mental health, communication and more.

Each presentation will hold a live Q&A at the end of each session, meaning you will have the chance to submit your questions and have them answered by our panel of expert speakers.

You are welcome to join and leave the conference as you please throughout the day.

If you register for the event, you will automatically receive copies of each presentation recording direct to your inbox - even if you don't attend!

Please be aware we have two British Sign Language interpreters joining this event and they will be signing throughout each presentation, meaning their video will be on show throughout each session.

Conference agenda

- 10am-11am: Promoting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing. Presented by Colin Foley, National Training Director from The ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity
- 11.15am-12.15pm: Understanding Behaviour: The Language Of Communication. Presented by a member of Witherslack Group Clinical Team
- 12:45pm-1:45pm: Preparing for The Holidays: Autism and ADHD Friendly Days. Presented by Anne-Marie Harrison, Education Director from Ideas Afresh Education
 - 2.00pm-3.00pm: Establishing Routines To Improve Your Child's Sleep. Presented by Lisa Rudge, Director of Parent Services from The ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity

To register, please [visit the Witherslack Group website.](#)

Over 5s autism course

A 3-week course hosted by Parenting Special Children:

Session 1: Introduction to autism, what is autism, myths and facts, and assessment overview.

Session 2: Autism and behaviour, becoming a detective, sensory differences, anxiety, Sleep.

Session 3: Autism and building a support toolkit, communication, visuals and routines, identifying and supporting emotions, de-escalation and low arousal.

For parents and carers of children up to the age of 18.

The sessions will be hosted online on 3, 10 and 17 July from 7-9pm.

To book your free space, please [visit Eventbrite](#).

Connect workshop from Home-Start Berkshire East

Does your child have:

- Meltdowns
- Special interests
- Anxiety
- Sensory issues
- Needs of daily routine

Join our face to face workshop to:

- Learn strategies to encourage the behaviour you like, and manage challenges.
- Meet other parents and/or carers going through the same issues. Make friends and support each other.

When: Five weeks from 19 September till 17 October, 9:30-11:30am

Where: Penn Road Children's Centre, Penn Road, Slough, SL2 1PG

To book or gain more information, please call on 01753 572958 or email office@homestartberkshireeast.org.uk

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Register: sign up

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Register is a list of children and young people from Windsor and Maidenhead, who have special educational needs or a disability. All local areas must have a register by law, but it is your choice if you would like to complete it.

Parents, carers or guardians can register on behalf of a child or young person. If you are a young person, you can register yourself if you are over the age of 13. To be able to be added onto the register you must live in RBWM and be under 25 years of age.

Why should you register your child or young person?

The SEND Register helps the borough support children and young people with disabilities or complex needs by:

- giving you relevant information, advice and support that is targeted directly to your child or young person's needs
- giving you information from other agencies which specialise in working with children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities

It also provides the following benefits:

- the register accurately reflects the range of disabilities and special needs of the resident population aged 0 to 25 years
- having a better understanding of your needs, the register helps us to plan services for the future of all children and young people with special needs

For more information on the SEND Register, please go to the [Local Offer](#) or scan the QR code. To complete the registration, please follow the [link](#)



Short Break and respite feedback

If your child or young person receives a Short Break from the Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS), we would welcome feedback on the support you receive.

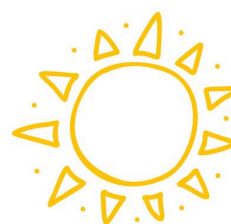
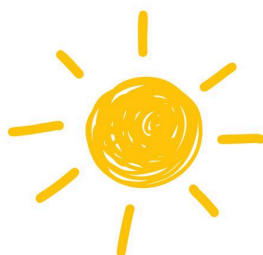
Please follow the link below and complete the feedback form.

[Short Break and respite survey](#)

Your feedback will help us improve our services.

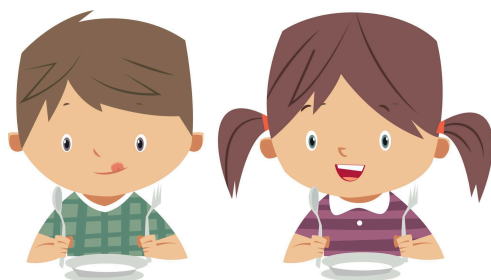


Summer activities: where and when?



Event, activities and websites	Where?	When?	Do you need to attend or can you just book for your child or young person?	How to register
Coral Reef Waterworld SEN sessions	Nine Mile Ride, Bracknell RG12 7JQ	7, 21 and 28 August	N/A	Please book through this link
Thames Valley Adventure Playground	Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, SL6 OPR	Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday	N/A	Please call 01628 628599 or email theplayground@tvap.co.uk
Thames Valley Adventure Playground Music Festival	Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, SL6 OPR	24 August	N/A	Please call 01628 628599 or email theplayground@tvap.co.uk
Family event Buzzing Bees and Beautiful Butterflies - Activities are for 4 year olds and above - younger siblings may accompany but please note activities are not accessible for those under 4 years.	Woolley Firs, Maidenhead, SL6 3LJ	31 July, 1 and 2 August	Parents or carers will need to attend	Please book through this link
FUEL Children who receive benefit-related free school meals are eligible to book free sessions	Multiple locations	School holidays	N/A	Please see this link

Places where kids can eat for free or £1 during the 2024 holidays



<u>Asda</u> Kids eat for £1 all day every day at Asda cafés, with no adult spend required.	<u>Morrisons</u> Spend £5 at a Morrisons Cafe and get one free kids meal all day, every day.
<u>Tesco</u> Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p and above from Tesco and show a Tesco Club card. Applies Monday 24 July to Friday 1 September.	<u>Gordon Ramsey restaurants</u> Kids under eight eat free all day, every day at selected restaurants.
<u>Sainsbury's Café</u> Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11.30am every day.	<u>Travelodge</u> and <u>Premier Inn</u> Buy one adult breakfast from £8.99 and up to two children eat breakfast for free.
<u>Pausa Café at Dunelm stores</u> Kids get one mini main, two snacks and a drink free with every £4 spend. Applicable after 3pm.	<u>Whitbread Inns</u> Two kids under 16 eat free with every adult breakfast purchased.
<u>The Real Greek</u> Kids under 12 eat free every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult.	<u>Bella Italia</u> Children eat for £1 with any adult main. Applies Monday to Thursday, between 4pm to 6pm.
<u>TGI Fridays</u> Kids eat free when 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase an adult's main meal. (App required)	<u>Bills</u> Two kids can eat free all day during weekdays with one adult main.
<u>Ikea</u> Kids mac and cheese and a soft drink for 95p, or any other kids meal for £1.50 valid Saturday to Thursday.	<u>Dobbies Garden Centres</u> For every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for free every day.
<u>Sizzling Pubs</u> Kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal. Applicable Monday to Friday, 3pm-7pm.	<u>Hungry Horse</u> Kids eat for £1 on Mondays.
<u>Beefeater</u> and <u>Brewers Fayre</u> Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult.	<u>YO! Sushi</u> Kids eat for free for every £10 spent on food by an accompanying adult. Children aged 12 and under. One free kids meal deal bento box per child. From 1 July to 30 August, only Monday - Friday.

Activities available in and around Windsor and Maidenhead:

- Thames Valley Adventure Playground - [Website](#)
- Jungle Mania (SoftPlay) - [Website](#)
- Science Museum (Turn it up event) - [Website](#)
- Story and rhyme time, weekly on Mondays from 10.30am to 11am at Windsor Library - [Website](#)
- Braywick Court Sprites: fun football and fantastic gymnastics - [Website](#)
- Autism Berkshire for adults - [Website](#)
- Pan disability football for 8 to 11 year olds, Mondays 6pm to 7pm at Wexham School - [Website](#)
- Teen disability football, Wednesdays 5pm to 6pm at Salt Hill Park - [Website](#)
- Clip'n'Climb, climbing sessions for young people with SEND - [Website](#)
- Jump In trampolining SEN session - [Website](#)
- Slough Ice Rink, level 2 additional needs ice skating lessons for 5 to 16 year olds - [Website](#)
- Bracknell Trampoline Centre, additional needs sessions, Saturdays at 12.30pm and 1.30pm - [Website](#)
- Building for the future - [Website](#)
- Chance to Dance Stars CIC - [Website](#)
- 4Motion CIC dance for 12 to 21 year olds, Thursdays during term time - [Website](#)
- Moo Music for 0 to 5 year olds - [Website](#)
- Make/Sense Theatre - [Website](#)
- GEMS Bear Cubs for 5 to 10 year olds - [Website](#)
- The Look Out Discovery Centre - [Website](#)
- Maidenhead United FC Community Trust, Sundays for 5 to 12 year olds and Mondays for 13 to 16 year olds - [Website](#)
- Farm Buddies - [Website](#)
- Slough Football Club for 12 to 18 year olds with Neurodiversity and pan disability, Wednesdays - [Website](#)

Max Card: What is it?

The Max Card can be provided to children, young people and young adults with additional needs (0 to 25 years) living in RBWM, whether it is a physical, sensory, or a learning disability.

The Max Card is a credit card size card which can be shown to certain organisations as proof of your child or young person's disability.

Why should you register your child or young person?

By registering for a Max Card, the information you provide also helps us to:

- maintain the SEND Register
- support our planning for future services and identify any gaps in current service provision for children and young people with additional needs
- ensure that families with a child or young person with additional needs are kept fully informed of issues that may affect them, and to advise them of relevant new services and opportunities

It also provides the following benefits:

- This is a service offered by Achieving for Children, through the Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS), and there will be no personal cost to families for this card.
- Families will also benefit from discounts at multiple attractions nationwide. A full list can be found on [My Max Card](#) however please do not register through this website.

For more information on Max Cards and how you can sign up, please go to the [Local Offer](#) or scan the QR code



Spotlights

Dr Frances Lee | Associate Director Educational Psychology and Wellbeing

How did you get into the role?

Growing up as a Chinese ethnic minority in Northern Ireland at the height of the troubles where the ethnic population at that time was not diverse or large, trying to make sense of my identity, sense of belonging, feeling safe and understanding difference in a strengths-based way was a challenging time during my adolescent years. My friendships and relationships were protective factors throughout. Discovering the science and art of psychology helped me to make sense of things starting with human development, neuroscience, systemic psychology and behaviours which are communications. My journey to become an Educational Psychologist started off as a primary school class teacher for two years before I took a postgraduate course in Educational Psychology at the Tavistock Clinic. My first post was in the Westminster local authority.



What do you enjoy about the role?

I feel privileged and excited to work with such a great team of psychologists and therapists, where we share psychology and research with schools, parents, carers, children and young people and all professional partners to collectively support children and young people, schools and families in promoting positive outcomes in learning, wellbeing and inclusion for all. Working at the individual, group, family and whole school levels allows us to apply psychology and evidence based practice at different levels and impact policy and practices. The five psychological principles of sense of safety, sense of belonging, sense of control, sense of calm and sense of hope and planning promote resilience, recovery and inclusion, impacting on sustainable change at the community level, thus promoting the community as well as children and young people to thrive.

An interesting fact about yourself:

I love cruising holidays. The delight of not having to plan, how we get there, where we stay, packing and unpacking bags due to multiple destinations and what and where we eat. Cruising takes the stress all away. All you do is sit back and relax, take in the sunsets and sunrises, decide which shows you want to see or not and look forward to arriving at a new destination each day and enjoy the excitement and discovery of the destination that lies ahead - bliss!

Rachael Park-Davies | Associate Director for Early Help and Family Support



How did you get into the role?

When I trained as an Early Years teacher in 2015 I realised that if we get it right for children who are differently abled, we get it right for every child. I started my professional life 35 years ago as a nurse and subsequently a health visitor, and came into the local authority in 2008 to manage the Sure Start Children's Centre programme. Over the years, my role has changed and I now lead on Early Help, Youth Justice and the Health Visiting and School Nursing teams.

I am passionate about early intervention and family support and firmly believe that "a stitch in time saves nine!"

What do you enjoy about the role?

I just love the people I work with, both colleagues within Achieving for Children and those from the wider system. That, combined with the variety of the work and the sense of achievement and satisfaction when a good outcome has been achieved, makes it my perfect job.

Some days I wish I had more opportunity to work directly with children and families, so any opportunity to speak with a young person or a parent, I grab it!

An interesting fact about yourself?

Years ago, I learned about the neuroscience of brain development in babies and the topic still fascinates me. I'm currently listening to an audiobook called "Sapiens- A Brief History of Humankind", and am enthralled learning about the difference in animals' brain development.

Alasdair Whitelaw | Pupil Inclusion and Support Manager



How did you get into the role?

Apart from a few years in the back office of a stockbroking firm and various jobs through Manpower in the early 2000s, I have always worked with those marginalised in society. I was a mentor for the long term unemployed and ex-offenders, and realised that education is the driver of change for people. I retrained as a teacher and worked in prisons and probation, then worked in mainstream settings and for a long time in a Pupil Referral Unit. Finally, I settled in a special school in Surrey for primary school boys that had been permanently excluded. I worked through the school up to a short term in headship. In that position, I saw less and less of my family so when the job in RBWM, leading the Social Emotional and Mental Health Team to reduce permanent exclusions and increase capacity within school came up, I jumped at the chance for a change. I am so glad I did as my role has grown since 2019, and the teams I work with make the difference for the children, families and schools we support.

What do you enjoy about the role?

Building relationships is the core of the Inclusion Service and supporting children to enhance their life chances is the reason I keep doing it. I really enjoy visiting schools, meeting families, delivering training to school staff and trying to break down the barriers to learning that some of our young children face.

An interesting fact about yourself?

I wrote my dissertation on Red Dwarf - the BBC sitcom. 20,000 words and this was before Microsoft, so on a word processor where I could only see one sentence at a time.

Abbreviations and commonly used terms

- **Achieving for Children (AfC)** - Community interest company providing children's services in Windsor and Maidenhead.
- **Annual health check** - A free check-up of your overall health.
- **Assessment coordinator or annual reviews officer** - The individual working within the SEND Team at Achieving for Children who coordinates education, health and care needs assessments, and the creation and maintenance of education, health and care plans.
- **Children and young people** - Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- **Children and Young People's Disability Service (CYPDS)** - The social care team supporting children with disabilities within RBWM.
- **Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT)** - NHS team encompassing occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy.
- **Department of Working Pensions (DWP)** - Responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy.
- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** - A payment to help with care and mobility needs if you're living with a disability.
- **Dynamic support registers (DSRs)** - The mechanism for local systems to identify children, young people and adults who are at risk of admission to mental health inpatient services.
- **Education, health and care needs assessment (EHCNA)** - A statutory process undertaken by the local authority (Achieving for Children) to determine what support a child or young person needs. This might result in the issue of an education, health and care plan.
- **Education, health and care plan (EHCP)** - Education, health and care plan.
- **Educational setting** - Where a child or young person is educated: early years settings, schools or colleges.
- **EHCP annual review** - The review that is held each year to monitor the progress the child or young person has made towards achieving the intended outcomes in the education, health and care plan.
- **Emotional literacy support assistant (ELSA)** - A specialist teaching assistant providing targeted and time-limited intervention support to pupils who have social, emotional and mental health needs.
- **Emotionally related school avoidance (ERSA)** - A term referring to pupils who do not attend school, often having prolonged absence due to underlying emotional reasons.
- **IAS Service** - Information, Advice and Support Service.
- **MASH** - Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (also known as SPA) is the single point of contact for all safeguarding concerns about children and young people living in RBWM.
- **NEET** - young people not in education, employment or training.

- **Occupational therapist (OT)** - Supports children and young people with physical or sensory needs.
- **Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)** - The process of moving from childhood into adult life. It is used by professionals to describe the changes in services when a child becomes an adult. This transition can happen at different times for different people.
- **Preparing for Adulthood education engagement officer** - Does short pieces of targeted work with young people (aged 16 and above) who need additional support with transition into their next educational provision, and with young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) to re-engage them with educational or training placements.
- **Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM)** - Local authority in Berkshire, south east England.
- **Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)** - A specialist teacher with an additional qualification in special educational needs.
- **Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** or special educational needs (**SEN**).
- **Single Point of Access (SPA)** - Single point of contact for all safeguarding and wellbeing concerns regarding children and young people (also known as MASH).
- **Speech and language therapist/ therapies (SALT)** - Supports children and young people who have difficulties with speech, language and communication, and swallowing.
- **Transition social worker** - Supports the transition out of children's social care into adult services.

Helpful resources

Website	Number	Email
Autism Berkshire	01189 594594	contact@autismberkshire.org.uk
Autism Group	01753 373244	info@theautismgroup.org.uk
Activities and clubs	N/A	N/A
Disability Register	N/A	disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk
GEMS	01753 373244	gems.4health@nhs.net
IAS (Information, Advice and Support Service)	01628 683182	ias@rbwm.gov.uk
Local Offer	N/A	local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Max Cards	N/A	maxcard@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Slough - NotJUST A Store	07768 656 973	hq@not-just.org.uk
SEND Voices	N/A	info@svrbwm.org.uk
SPA (Single Point of Access)	01628 683150 option 2	MASH@achievingforchildren.org.uk



If you would like to provide feedback on this local area newsletter edition, please email disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk