



SEND Parent and Carer Newsletter

December 13- 26, 2021

This is the final SEND newsletter before Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2022.

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New EHCP Co-ordinators

Meet our new EHCP Co-ordinators.



Emily-Rose James

Hi everyone,

I have worked within the local authority for almost 9 years now. I began as a Community play development worker and stayed within that role throughout various transitions into a Families first practitioner. Within my previous role I worked directly with children, young people and their families offering support for various reasons including supporting children with SEN and their parents.

Throughout the COVID pandemic my work became primarily involved with providing parenting support to families of children with SEN and supporting them with behaviour management, supporting through the Access Pathway process and helping them to access the

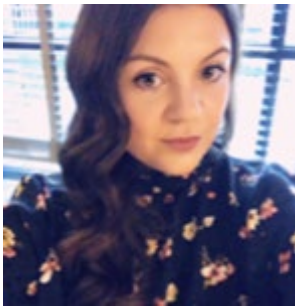
support they need. I am really looking forward to working within this team as an Education, Health and Care plan co-ordinator as this is an area of my role that I have always been passionate about.

Outside of work I like to spend my time with my little boy and my husband. We also have a crazy 2 year old springador, so we spend lots of time arranging play dates with his doggy friends to try and tire him out!

Stacey H

I have been a part of team NELC for over 11 years now. In this time, I have worked for various departments such as environmental services, Education transport and most recently, Education Welfare. Having worked in education within children's services for the past 6 years, it is somewhere I wanted to stay but progress and enhance my knowledge further therefore I felt the move to the SEND service was an exciting opportunity to enable me to do this. I am looking forward to starting my new role as an Education, Health & Care plan Co-ordinator and meeting new people/colleagues along the way.

In my spare time I enjoy playing netball, eating out and spending time with friends and family.



Jo Eggleston

I started work with NELC around 5 years ago as a sessional worker for the youth offending service while I was at university completing my health and social care degree. I moved over to the Willows project a year later on a more permanent basis to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children (USAC) aged 16-18 to live semi independently.

I am always looking to progress my knowledge and skills and taking the step to become an EHCP Coordinator is a welcome challenge, whilst concentrating on post 16 utilises some of my current skills.

I have a 9 year old son and we both have a love of all things space and astronomy so we spend a lot of time looking through our telescope.



Parent representatives needed

Parent representatives are needed to get involved in our work across education, health and social care preparing young people for an adult life that enables them to live the lives they want to in their communities, including employment, being independence, friends and social activities.

The preparing for adulthood group meets monthly at 1.30pm on the first Thursday of the month. If you would like to join to drive and shape our developments to improve outcomes for young people with SEND aged 14-25 so they have full and fulfilling lives.

Please contact Angie Kershaw to learn more and get involved, Angie.Kershaw@nelincs.gov.uk.

The first in the series of preparing for adulthood Q&A's for professionals was a success.

Professionals can see this recording on the 'Professionals' page of the Local Offer. [NELC SEND Local Offer | Professionals \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

Autism in Schools



One of the themed areas of the autism in schools project is around promoting a better understanding of neurodiversity by providing training or continued professional development to increase knowledge and awareness of parents/carers and professionals. This programme of support will be rolled out into the 10 pilot schools which are:

Primary Schools

- Bursar Primary Academy
- Littlecoates Primary Academy
- Queen Mary Avenue Infants
- Signhills infants Academy
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary
- Weelsby Academy
- Woodlands Academy
- Wybers Wood Academy

Secondary Schools

- Havelock Academy
- Ormiston Maritime Academy

What have we done so far?

- Undertaken a training needs analysis of SEND in ALL schools in NEL
- Reviewed with our highly specialist clinicians most common presenting needs
- Asked some of our parents/carers and ex-service users what training would be useful
- Developed a draft training framework for the project – outlined below

Training Framework – Parents/ Carers Autism in schools project.

- Making Sense of Autism
- Autism and Girls
- What is ADHD?
- Intellectual Disability Vs Learning Disability
- Awareness and understanding of Sensory Processing difficulties (introduction)
- Anxiety
- Selective Mutism
- Trauma and attachment
- Positive Behavioural Support/ how to regulate emotions
- Bereavement and loss
- Transitions

The list above is only the start for the project and as we start to have more conversations, with children, young people, parents, carers and professionals I'm sure more suggestions will follow. We would also like to say that although this training will be targeted to the 10 pilot schools initially, we are looking to expand this opportunity to all parents in NEL once we have evaluated the programme, so please take a look and let us know if there is anything missing and help us shape the offer further!

Please email us at fml@nelccg.nhs.net with your suggestions or if your child attends one of the 10 pilot schools, register your interest to find out more about these workshops.

Did you know?

We have bitesize training available totally free of charge, online and able to be taken at a time that suits you? To find out more visit [Parent/Carer workshops](#)

Topics include; ADHD, Anxiety, Autism, Health Anxiety, what is mental health, low mood-depression, self-harm and social anxiety.

Christmas tips for autism



"Christmas can be an exciting and fun time. But new activity can be overwhelming for some of us, particularly when we're also dealing with the impact of coronavirus. We might have to adapt some of our usual plans but that shouldn't stand in the way of an autism-friendly Christmas."

Read the Christmas Tips from National Autistic Society. [Tips \(autism.org.uk\)](https://www.autism.org.uk).

Vaccinations



For up-to-date information regarding eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations and booster doses please visit the NHS Website [COVID-19 Vaccination page](https://www.nhs.uk).

[Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

If your child aged 12 and over missed their vaccination at school they may be able to be vaccinated at a drop-in clinic.

[COVID Vaccine Drop In Clinics • NHS North East Lincolnshire CCG](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk)

If you have any queries about boosters please contact Sarah Harding, Designated Clinical Officer, designatedclinicalofficer@nelincs.gov.uk.

Support for children and young people to be vaccinated

We appreciate that for some children and young people attending a vaccination appointment can be daunting and they may require additional support to prepare in advance for this.

If you require any adjustments to be made such as centre access arrangements, specific appointment times at quieter times of the day, photographs of centre facilities and staff to support with preparation for an appointment please do not hesitate to contact our vaccination sites directly or contact Sarah Harding the Designated Clinical Officer (SEND) who will be happy to support with this.

Issues with the EHC Hub



Following Thursday's upgrade to live EHC Hub, our service desk has received several recurring queries about users not being able to progress a case, save changes, and similar issues.

In these instances, the most likely cause is the user's own web browser having cached the previous view of the hub. This means that the web browser remembers the make-up of a web page from a previous visit.

The resolution should be for the user to clear the cache and cookies in their web browser. Clearing the web browser's history should not be necessary.

Find out how: [NELC SEND Local Offer | Issues with the EHC Hub \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk)

Support over winter



Lots of support is available to help people with everything from financial problems to homelessness and mental health.

Learn about some of the main services out there for you. [Support available for people who are struggling this winter - NELC | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

The Household Support Grant scheme, funded by the Department of Work and Pensions, is now open to North East Lincolnshire residents over 16 years of age to provide support to households in most need this winter as the economy recovers from the impact of COVID. The maximum grant available is £250.

The grants are specifically for those who are struggling to afford food, energy and water bills, and other related essentials. To be eligible the household will need to provide evidence that they have an income of less than £20,000 and have savings of less than £500.

Read more: [NELC SEND Local Offer | Household Support Grants to help those who are struggling this winter \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

Useful contacts



1. The Sector Support [‘Community Service Fact Sheet’](#) has an extensive list of community support available for money, food, wellbeing, welfare and more.
2. See the [Voluntary Sector Alliance](#) website for North East Lincolnshire.
3. [Report a concern online](#) or call 01472 326292 (option 2)
4. Support for those isolating without anyone to support them for supplies and more call the [Council](#) (01472) 313131
5. [Health](#) – if you are struggling to manage your symptoms, call 111. If you are in urgent need of medical assistance, call 999
6. Domestic Abuse (women and men). [NEL Women’s](#)

[Aid](#) (01472) 575757, and [Men’s Helpline](#), 0808 8010327

7. [Wellbeing](#)– if you are struggling with your mental health, call (01472) 256256
8. [Carers’ Support Service](#) (support for informal carers). Go online or call (01472) 242277

Alcohol

Parents/carers are aware that at this anxious time some families have reported struggles with mental health and sought support for the overuse of alcohol.

[Alcohol change UK offers COVID tips on alcohol and mental health.](#)

[We Are With You](#) provides support for drugs and alcohol. You can also get in touch if you are worried about someone else's drinking or drug use. Chat online or call- 01472 806890. Local charges apply. They also have information on their Facebook, [@wearewithyoucharity](#).

SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs Disability Information Advice Support Service).

Special Educational Needs and/or Disability



[SENDIASS](#) provides free impartial information, advice and support to disabled children and young people aged 0-25, and those with SEN. Get in touch Monday-Thursday, 8.30am- 4.30pm. Friday 8:30am- 4pm. Leave a message and we'll get back to you within three days.

Email: nelincs@barnardos.org.uk

Facebook: [@NELSENDIASS](#)

Web chat

We're pleased to announce that in the New Year we will have more availability to be contacted through our webchat facility.

Simply visit the [SENDIASS website](#) between the hours of 9.30am and 1.30pm, from Monday to Friday, and a project worker will be available to chat to online.

SEND Awards



The SEND Award Ceremony was an idea from local children and young people with SEND

who thought that an award ceremony would be a lively, empowering, uplifting, and positive way to bring people together and put SEND at centre stage showing all the great things we all can achieve.

There were over 100 nominations. Read the nominations. [NELC SEND Local Offer | SEND Award winners and nominations \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#).

And the winners are...

Children and young people

Community Award– [Sponsored by VANEL](#)

For someone who goes to remarkable lengths to help others lead their best life.

Winner- Kendra Theaker-Gregersen

Kendra is a wonderful member of our community. She spends considerable amounts of time supporting others in school. However, it is her extra curricular activities that really set Kendra apart. Kendra is an avid Lego builder and enthusiast – who uses this passion to support those who have helped her. Before COVID struck, Kendra would take her Lego models and displays around the country to different conventions and exhibitions, where she would fund-raise for a group of different charities. These charities support the work done to help children like Kendra who herself has needed support from. Her way of giving back to these incredible people has been to raise thousands and thousands of pounds to support the continued and fantastic work of The Children’s Hospital Charity.

Kendra even arranged and ran her own Lego Convention in Grimsby to further raise funds for those who have helped her with her own conditions. I’m sure Kendra is itching to get back following COVID to support those in need.

-Rob Burnett

Creative Arts Award– [Sponsored by The Culture House](#)

For someone who has made an outstanding artistic achievement.

Tomos Marland

Tomos has a passion for cinema.

He says ‘cinema held me up during lockdown. It shaped me as a person in a way.’

He shared this in his creative writing piece for the Young Reporters. He enjoys writing regularly and critiquing moves in his spare time.

Tomos says: ‘People with needs can still create great content through writing, and other creative work.’

‘Seeing someone like me challenges peoples expectations of what someone with autism can do.’

‘If you know the stereotypes of a person with special needs you may think they are not creative, don’t have an in depth personality, and cannot think abstractly and put flair and

originality into stories.”

‘It surpasses peoples expectations when they read a piece of creative work and they do not realise that the person who wrote it has autism.’

‘Using cinema and movies certainly gives me the hand in communicating with adults. From the way I see it, I could have a chill conversation in which I’m not being seen as the child during the talk, its an ideal that many people with needs want to have; have their voice heard in the chat and be on the same level as an adult. You’re basically an adult yourself when the talking get’s going. Your no longer invisible if you ask me. ‘

He is expanding his interest from cinema and movies to photography.

He can see the power of story telling and wants to use this to break stereotypes of special needs and create a movement locally in NEL.

Tomos wants to be a SEND Ambassador and his articulate way of expressing his interest as a movie buff makes him a lot of fun to spend time with and translates well into his creative work.

– *Lauren Thompson*

Sports Award– [Sponsored by Grimsby Town Sports and Education Trust](#)

For someone who’s sporting achievements deserve to be celebrated.

Charlie Huntley

“Charlie, has made exceptional progress regards to building his confidence . He works hard on developing his skills in football , boxing and swimming and achieved six medals for his football skills . Every weekend (Saturday and Sunday) Charlie, attends two different football clubs and works extremely hard. He also spent the majority of his summer taking classes with GSET football club which, consisted of long days (six hours) of training with Grimsby town.

Charlie, also commits’ to two evenings a week to train with Grimsby Amature boxing club. His determination has been infectious and I have seen him grow in confidence , thanks to his teachers and coaches (In and out of school)

Charlie, adores sports and never misses his sessions, I truly do believe it has helped him overcome some of his struggles with dyslexia. It has massively helped build his confidence.

I’m so proud of him.”

–*Rachael Nelson Huntley*

Friendship Award

For someone who goes that extra mile to support others and be a great friend.

Winners

Joint First Place- Ryan Roffee and Riley Carnan-Bird

Ryan Roffee

When one of Ryan's friends suffered a bereavement, Ryan was extremely supportive. He begged his family to buy gifts for his friend in memory and always asked how he could best support his friend. Supporting his friends on a daily basis emotionally, if they are struggling, Ryan will guide them to manage their emotions better and stay with them until they are settled if appropriate.

– Jodie Bromley

Riley Carnan-Bird

Riley is a wonderfully helpful and supportive young man. He is someone who doesn't always find school the easiest, and uses his own experiences to support those around him to ensure that everyone in his group is at least happy! He always finds a way to put a positive spin on everything that happens at school and can always be relied upon to support those who require a bit of a pick-me-up or a lift. His friends report that Riley is one of the kindest, most thoughtful people in school who will always go the extra mile for anyone.

He has been especially supportive during this year with those younger children starting out in the academy, giving them helpful tips and support if he feels they need it.”

–Rob Burnett

Education and Learning Award

For any student who is dedicated to their education and strives to achieve the best they can in their chosen curriculum areas.

Winners

Joint First Place- Tegan White and Justin Dunford

Tegan White

Tegan lost many close family members, often in difficult ways, in a short period of time as a young girl from age 7-11. As a result she has an attachment disorder relating to school as each death happened while she was at school. Tegan's attendance plummeted. She became withdrawn, had continuous anxiety attacks that last days even weeks. She received an end of year school report and saw her education was becoming effected. Since going back in September she chose to go back full time instead of the part time timetable that was in place for her. She has had no days off in relation to her anxiety and attachment disorder. She is engaging in more lessons and has joined after school clubs. The efforts she has gone to deserve to be recognised. For what she has been through she still strives to help others. Every year she holds a charity fundraiser for Macmillan, Amethyst Unit at Grimsby Hospital or Mental Health UK all in aid of those she has lost. She has applied to a new school that will allow her to study Psychology along side her curriculum to gain knowledge and understanding of her own experiences and feelings. She has underlying bowel conditions – colitis and slow transit chronic constipation. Her younger sister also has multiple complex disabilities to which Tegan is always hands on to help me care for her.

– Misha White

Justin Dunford

Justin would refuse to read anything and would turn 'mute', he is now confident enough to have a go at reading and can complete a reading comprehension with very little support. Justin also uses reading and spelling skills when he is playing on his game on the laptop.

Justin now completes all his work in every lesson, he no longer uses his blanket and does not hide under the table. He is starting to verbally communicate his feelings to staff members, and this then allows him to complete his work.

At the start of Year 8, Justin was completing Foundation Maths and needed to be fully supported, he now is completing Bronze Maths and will attempt the work by himself once he has had it explained. There have also been a few occasions when Justin has attempted Silver and even gold work in Maths. (He is now in Year 9)

Maths is a subject that Justin enjoys and is always trying his best in the lessons. Justin has put a lot of effort into improving in Maths and when he is unsure, he listens and tries to understand it. Justin will complete his work independently and will only ask for support if he really needs it. Justin is hoping he will be able to get a job in the fire service when he is older, therefore is trying hard with his Maths as he knows this is a subject he will need to know.

– Jodie Bromley

Environment Award– [Sponsored by Outdoor Learning Schools](#)

This award provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and promote the outstanding achievements of environmental volunteers and supporters who are determined to look after our planet.

Riley Gault

Riley was a leading member of the school group who designed and created our garden at Laceby Road. Work was completed in conjunction with the local recycling centre and Bush tyres. Donated recycled tyres are used as growing vessels and a member of staff from Grimsby's recycling centre has donated items for learners to upcycle, including a bench. A compost heap has been included and Riley adds to this weekly. The staff member from the recycling centre has has a Q&A to help all learners understand the impact of recycling on climate change.

Bird boxes and a bird table have been made from recycled material and fruit bushes have been planted to provide food for squirrels and birds. Riley is currently enjoying building a bug hotel.

The garden area is also now used as an outdoor classroom.

– Jodie Bromley

Student Personality of the Year Award– [Sponsored by Youth Action- external site](#)

For anyone aged 5-25 years in education or training who really stands out as an inspiration to us all.

Winners

Joint First Place- Jeanie-May Cooke and Millie Allenby

Jeanie-May Cooke

She has and is still battling everyday with cancer along hips, uses a wheel chair, and cannot walk is an amputee and still inspired everyone around her smiles everyday has gone to Havelock school in September which she is very much enjoying due to the teachers and children accepting her for who she is and how she is. She hasn't had much education over the past 4 years due to bone marrow transplant she inspires everyone around her everyday she is amazing and positive a girl who just has not had an easy life so far. This girl is amazing inside and out so kind caring thoughtful.

-Michelle Cooke

Jeanie-May Cooke

Because Jeanie has gone from primary school (which she didn't really attend due to pain etc for the last 3 years) to secondary school in September and has tried her hardest to attend every day since. With only a few absences required. Having a through knee amputation in July 2018 and cancer which spread around her whole body this put a few stops in Jeanie's once normal, active life. She absolutely thrives through school and is an inspiration to everyone who knows her

- Anonymous

Millie Allenby

This child has cystic fibrosis, she has a strict regime she has to follow everyday and night and still achieves so well at school, she amazes me everyday of how much she's so motivated, brave and just an my inspiration to many around her, and she continues to smile even on her bad days.

- Kelly Allenby

Adults and organisations

Inspiring Teacher Award

For an adult working with children with special educational needs who has had a huge impact. A committed individual who raises the aspirations for young people with SEND.

John Blades

For delivering lessons in a positive and kind manner.

- Callum

Just an inspiration to all the young people he teaches; I wouldn't be where I am without Mr. BLADES.

– *Anonymous*

He does great for my child Leo. He will go above and beyond for Leo and very helpful.

– *Anonymous*

Never switches off even outside of working hours. The differences he makes is of a positive nature.

– *Anonymous*

Outstanding SEMH support, lessons and resources for the Academy's children and young people.

– *Harriet Barber*

His excellent inclusive approach to teaching students at Parkside. Goes above and beyond to arrange appropriate interventions for EHCPs such as SEMH lesson plans and organising SALT sessions.

– *Sophie Ladd*

Education Setting Award

This award is for an Early Years setting or a school or college that stands out by making a real difference to the lives of children and young people with SEND and their families in our community.

Pheonix Park, Parkside (SEMH Provision)

Pheonix Park Academy, Parkside

The staff at Parkside have shown outstanding patience and dedication for our new EHCP SEMH pilot. It is never easy settling a new cohort of students but staff have persevered and shown a willingness to develop their own skills sets to ensure learner needs are being met.

– *Sophie Ladd*

Pheonix Park Academy, Parkside

Parkside (SEMH Provision) The work, the passion, the determination to make a difference for each learner that walks through the door. Over the past four years, Parkside have create a safe haven for the most vulnerable young people who suffer from SEMH difficulties.

– *Anonymous*

Special Recognition Award– [*Sponsored by Focus- external site*](#)

For achievements not covered in other categories, such as inspiring parent/carers, support workers, health care workers or social care workers who have made a real difference to the lives of children and young people with SEND and their families in our local area.

Winner-Glenis Vessey

Glenis Vessey

BEING SHE HAS BEEN A AMAZING SUPPORT OVERF THE MANY YEARS. SHE IS ALWAYS AT THE END OF THE PHONE AND NOMATTER WHAT NOTHING IS EVER TO MUCH FOR HER! WE APPRECIATE HER FOR EVERYTHING SHE DOES TO SUPPORT THE LEAPAHEAD TAEM OF 3 NURSERIES IN GRIMSBY IN HER SEN KNOWLEDGE AMANDA HOLLINGSWORTH

– *Anonymous*

Glenis Vessey

Glenis is always on the end of the phone to be a helping hand to us and the support she gives us as professionals and the children is Outstanding.

– *Anonymous*

Glenis Vessey

Glenis is special, she supports so many families and children with special needs, she goes above and beyond in her role within the early years sector, if anyone needs advice she will always telephone you or email you straight away, its never a bother, it doesn't matter if its 10pm on a friday night, Glenis always appears to be available 24/7, she has been doing the job for so many years she deserves some recognition! she is absolutely amazing.

– *Debbie*

Glenis Vessey

For all the amazing work she does and the support she gives to children across all settings.

– *Anonymous*

Glenis Vessey

She always goes above and beyond to help wherever and whenever needed. She works extremely hard to support early years settings and wil be sorely missed when she leaves.

– *Anonymous*

Glennis Vessey

Glenis goes over and above her contractual duty to offer the best care and support to the early years team and their students. She provides advise and guidance and does her utmost to visit even though her schedule is very tight. It is often know that emails are sent to providers after hours as she has not had the time in the day due to her diligence of attending settings to visit the children. Her proffessionalism is first rate and knowledge is invaluable.

– *Anonymous*

Glenis Vessey

She always goes above and beyond to support local setting with children with SEND. She is always on the other end of the phone for any advice needed, although she is always booked up with appointment to see children requiring help and support, if an urgent visit is required she will do her best to get in to see the child to offer support and advice.

– *Anonymous*

Glennis Vessey

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– *Anonymous*

Mrs Glenis Vessey

For her outstanding dedication to helping and supporting settings in the early identification and support for our SEND pupils. We know Glenis works long hours to support our setting alone so how she spreads herself across the authority to such a high standard is remarkable and so obviously going above and beyond her official working hours. Nothing is ever too much for Glenis and it is reassuring to know that she always makes time to answer any queries so quickly. Our authority and our children and families are lucky to have a Glenis!

– *Anonymous*

The other contributors from the community who are supporting the initiative with donations and prizes are:

- [Lincs Inspire](#)
- The Waste Team Charity
- [Candiland](#)
- [Eclipse Gymnastics](#)
- [Daniella Draper](#)

Thank you

We really appreciate all the local businesses, charities, and organisations and the people behind them who have generously donated to our ceremony to make it extra special for the children and young people and their families. Your generosity is going towards some exciting prizes, as well as food and decorations at the event to bring the children's idea of 'a night at the movies' to life.

We would also like to thank everyone who nominated a friend, colleague, education setting, teacher or anyone who they think deserves to be recognised. There have been many grateful messages from people who are delighted and surprised to be recognised. It's inspiring to see so much pride and gratitude shared by everyone.

Attending the ceremony

The panel was made up of the YPAG group and four special guests, Councillor Ian Lindley, Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills, Rob Walsh, Chief Executive at North East Lincolnshire Council and NHS North East Lincolnshire CCG, local teacher and lunchbox hero Zane Powles, and Debra Gray, Principal at Grimsby Institute.

These special guests will also be presenting awards at the Ceremony alongside The Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of North East Lincolnshire Cllr David Hasthorpe.

There were a total of 141 nominations. The whole panel were very impressed by the quality of the nominees and said that “everyone deserves to win.”

The SEND Award Ceremony will take place on Friday, 21 January from 5pm-7pm in the Assembly Room at the Grimsby Town Hall, Town Hall Square, DN31 1HU.

Because there are a limited number of tickets for the event, they are by invite only and have been reserved for winners and their family to attend.

The ceremony will be recorded and shared publicly. This way anyone who cannot attend can still enjoy the event. There will be a separate area at the event for anyone who cannot be filmed.

If you have questions about SEND we are always here to help. Please don't hesitate to email sen@nelincs.gov.uk. We always try to make sure that children and parents/ carers voices are heard.

These Weekly SEND parent/carer newsletters are shared with teams within education, health and social care as well as parents/carers SENCOs, the DfE and local charities.

If parents/carers or young people over 16 do not have access to the internet or if they prefer to receive paper copies only please contact sen@nelincs.gov.uk.