



BFS Newsletter

KIDS/ Sam's Journey

Autism – electronic referral form

Recognition of Great Work

SEND Edition – March 23



Sam's Journey

Names in this case study have been changed

KIDS are a charity for disabled children, young people and their families. The [KIDS Family Group](#) hosts a small, nurturing and supportive environment to allow for the individual needs of those attending with activities which are tailored to needs and interests. They also offer an opportunity to meet others, make friends and gain advice and information.

When Sam first attended the KIDS Family Group, he struggled to let go of his dad, got distressed at noises and wanted to sit quietly in the sensory room. During his time here, the team have seen a great improvement in how he copes around other children. Sam gradually began to let go of his dad, at first he was happy to sit next to him and by the end of the six week block he was able to walk across the room on his own. Dad was also gaining more confidence each week.

By the end of the second block, although Sam was not able to engage with other children, he was no longer distressed by noises and was able to go outside to play if his dad was with him.

These changes appear to be very small, but for Sam and his dad, they show a massive step forward. Sam now feels secure enough to leave the safety of his dad and explore the environment and dad has been able to relax a little, giving him more confidence to take Sam to other groups in the future.

Dad has been able to talk to the KIDS staff who have offered support and advice, he has also been able to talk to and share experiences with other parent/carers which has given him a social experience he was not able to access before.

100% respondents to impact of service of the Q3 report said KIDS were helpful and knowledgeable

100% of respondents said they would recommend the groups to other parents.

To refer, please [click here](#).

Outcomes:

- Both Sam and his dad have been able to **explore a new environment** and **socialise** in a way that they hadn't been able to before.
- Attending the group has opened up **new experiences** and helped to **reduce the anxiety** of what the world outside of the family home can bring.
- There has been an **impact** on and **improvement** in the overall **mental health** of both dad and Sam.
- Dad has **gained confidence** to explore other groups in the future, knowing that Sam now has **better skills** to adapt well to a new environment

Spotlight on SEND Navigators P1

KIDS SEND Navigators are a team of three who offer experience from diverse backgrounds to support children and families with additional needs. Children referred into the SEND Navigators must be 0-5 years old, have a diagnosis or be on a pathway for a diagnosis

The SEND Navigators are part of a wider team of Family Groups who work together to provide holistic support for families – families will typically attend the SEND specific stay and play groups across the city for half a term and can access SEND Navigators one-to-one support. The team also collaborate with other professionals to help parents/carers understand how to navigate ‘the system’ and provide support in the home or on the phone. They have an array of knowledge to assist parents with filling out daunting forms such as applying for Disability Living Allowance, understanding what is next for their child within their pathway and act as a guide whilst providing important support and advice.

The SEND Navigators can support parents with a range of different needs, such as helping parents gain a better understanding of their child’s behaviour and suggesting strategies to support. All behaviour is communication, and the team can help parents to understand what their child may be trying to communicate. They can offer support with sleep routines, toileting, and sensory needs and can signpost families onto other teams where they feel a child would benefit such as speech and language, occupational therapy, sleep, diet on top of housing and finance support



“Thank you for helping with the DLA form – I would have never finished it without your help.”

“Thank you for your help with everything. You have told us about a lot of people who can help. You have helped with getting DLA, we didn’t know about this. We now understand autism more.”

Spotlight on SEND Navigators P2

The team as a whole are able to unpick behaviours and break down how a child is communicating and how to respond to individual behaviours for parents/carers and have helped them integrate in the community again and realise they can anything.

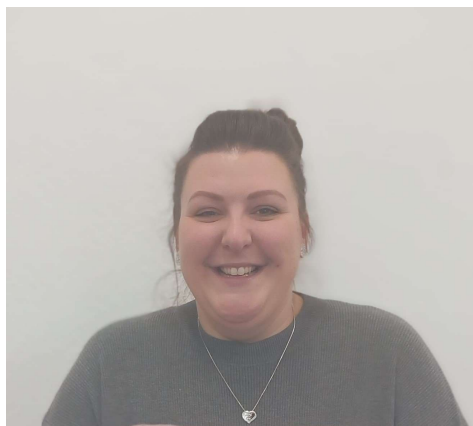
SEND Navigator, Amy Bruck said: “the parents who received support from the KIDS SEND Navigator service feel understood, listened too, and realise that they aren’t bad parents. Our support means a lot to families, and we are able to build confidence in terms of services and child’s behaviour and how to respond with strategies. When referred, parents can speak to us at anytime for extra support or to talk. Many have fed back that they feel much better going out with their children and have even connected with other parents going through the same or similar things which has really helped.

We are a charity and there are only three of us on the team and we all work part time so waiting times can be a bit long, but anyone can refer to our service and we will help in anyway we can.”

To refer a family to the KIDS SEND Navigators service, please [click here](#) or call 0121 362 4580.



Amy Bruck



Lucy Crowe



Katie Foster

Early Intervention – Assistant Practitioner Good Practice

AP received concerns regarding a young persons (YP) EYOW development reviews so AP arranged a home visit with the family to which AP completed new questionnaires and discussed concerns with YP's parents.

AP provided the family with advice lines, explained the process and referred to the relevant agencies whilst providing support and advice. AP also sent a speech pack and a list of websites and agencies that can help as well as my mobile and office number if they need to contact me for any help. AP discussed a range of techniques, solutions and different ways to help and/or deal with a situation. AP arranged a review in three months which will be earlier if the parents need. AP liaised with other professionals, observed in an early year setting and communicated with the nursery.

AP visits this family regularly to provide parental support at mom's request. AP has gave advice and support on behaviour, sensory tendencies, sleep, speech and picky eating. The family can contact the AP for support and advice.

AP has emailed paediatricians for advice, liaised with nursery and completed observations. All relevant referrals have been completed.

The parents have taken AP's advice onboard and have put the techniques discussed in place and you can see improvements.

AP visits this family every few months for parental support, reassessing the development review so mom can see how her child is developing and have completed all relevant referrals to different agencies, liaised with other professionals and update health visitors.

AP has advised the family on different techniques, offered a listening ear to the young persons mom and she knows she can contact the AP if she needs more support.

The YP has improved during this early intervention.

(NDP) Electronic Referral Form for Autism Referrals

As part of ongoing work to improve Autism diagnostic services within Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, we are excited to announce the launch of our new [Neurodevelopmental Pathway \(NDP\) website](#) **launched 1 December 2022.**

All referrals for Autism assessments now need to be made online using the [new electronic referral form](#).

Referrals **must not be sent to Community Paediatrics**. Any referrals sent via this route will no longer be accepted and will be returned to you.

The new electronic referral form has been through rigorous testing by BCHC and stakeholder groups including GPs. After submission of the referral you will receive an automated acknowledgement. The referral form will then be triaged by our NDP clinical team and, if accepted, families and education settings will be issued with questionnaires for completion.

Please make families aware that these questionnaires **must be returned within 3 weeks** in order for any further assessments to be considered. Failure to return the forms may result in automatic discharge from our service.

The new website and referral form coincides with the launch of our Neurodevelopmental Pathway. This service provides Autism Diagnostic Assessments for children aged from 2½ years up to their 16th Birthday who are registered with a Birmingham GP.


We hope that you will support this exciting change to our patient pathway which will enhance and streamline the services we provide to our children, young people and their families.

Useful resources

- [ADHD Foundation](#)
The ADHD Foundation is the UK's leading neurodiversity charity, offering a strength-based, lifespan service for those who live with ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, DCD, Dyscalculia, OCD, Tourette's Syndrome and more.
- [Autism West Midlands](#)
The leading charity in the West Midlands for autistic people who use their expertise to enrich the lives of people on the autism spectrum and those who love and care for them.
- [BFS Child Development Centres](#)
The service is for pre-school children with physical or developmental delay who may need additional help, support or intervention in order to reach their potential
- [Cerebra](#)
A national charity dedicated to helping children. Provides advice from education and transport to managing behaviour.
- [Contact](#)
Introduction to Disability Living Allowance videos, available in English, العربية, Polski and Soomaalida
- [Council for disabled children](#)
The umbrella body for the disabled children's sector with a membership of over 300 voluntary and community organisations and an active network of practitioners that spans education, health and social care.



Useful resources

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- **Disability Access Fund**
The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is new funding for early years providers to support children with disabilities or special educational needs.
 - **Family Fund**
Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people
 - **KIDS**
KIDS has provided a wide range of services nationally for disabled children, young people and their families. Our services cover three main areas: information, advice & family support; play and social; and learning and development.
 - **Paediatric Short Breaks Training Service**
The aim of our service is to enable children and young people with disabilities and additional healthcare needs access to a wider range of respite and short break services through the training of care staff.
 - **SEND Local Offer**
Here you will find help, advice and information about the services available for children or young people from birth to 25 years with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) across Birmingham.
 - **Sense**
Help thousands of people who are deafblind or have complex disabilities to communicate, experience the world and fulfil their potential

New SEND Local Offer website

The [SEND Local Offer website](http://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk) gives information about the support that the local authority expects to be available across education, health and social care. The information on the website is clear and easy to find. It says who a particular service is for, how to apply, and how decisions are made about who gets that service.



SEND BIRMINGHAM
www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

SEND

**VISIT THE NEW BIRMINGHAM
SEND LOCAL OFFER WEBSITE**

 Help, support, advice and information
for children and young people with
special educational needs and disabilities.

BE BOLD BE BIRMINGHAM

  BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST   Birmingham
City Council

Noticeboard

Local Offer SEND Webinars

The Local Offer have lots of SEND webinars available to view on their website.

You can also find upcoming webinars that may be of interest to you or the families you work with.

For more information, please [click here](#).

Upcoming SENSE events

Sense have released a range of play sessions from stay and plays to after school club for children with complex disabilities and their families in Birmingham.

For more information, please [click here](#).

Birmingham City Council's SENDIASS service meeting

The Birmingham Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) offers impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities.

Parents and carers of children with SEND are invited to regular meetings to ensure their voices are heard.

To join the next meeting, please email:

SENDIASS@birmingham.gov.uk

For more information, please [click here](#).

[Look, Say, Sing, Play - Brain-building tips | NSPCC](#)

Right from birth, every time you play with your baby, use silly voices, or even sing, you're not just bonding, you're building their brain.

Educational Health and Care Plan

An educational health and care plan (EHCP) is for children and young people aged up to 25. EHCP's identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs.

To learn about the ECHP assessment process, take a look at the KIDS SENDIASS information webinar 20 week EHCP process by [clicking here](#).

The video goes through the following:

- Requesting an assessment for an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)
- The Local Authority's decision whether to assess
- The right of appeal
- Gathering evidence throughout an assessment
- Naming a placement
- The draft EHC Plan
- Consultation and finalising of the EHC Plan

The 20 Week Process of the Education, Health & Care (EHC) Plan

By KIDS

SEND Information, Advice & Support Service
(SENDIASS)

Created by Olivia Mohr-Barber
(SENDIASS Practitioner)

The Next Edition

The next editions of the Birmingham Forward Steps newsletter will focus on:

**Family Hub's
Temporary Accommodation**

If you have any news, helpful support for colleagues and/or families or a positive story, please email:

amba.fellows@nhs.uk

**CONNECT WITH US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**



[Birmingham Forward Steps](#)

[BFS Health Visiting](#)



[Bham Forward Steps](#)