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www.devonias.org.uk

Providing impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and to their parents and carers

DIAS – Keeping You Posted

The world of SEND is ever evolving and at DIAS we aim to ensure that parents, carers and young people are kept well informed when changes take place.

This autumn, we aim to run information sessions for families of children and young people with SEND so that you can be right up to date with recent changes to Devon assessment processes, learn more about Devon's SEND Local Offer and find out what support is available across the county.

We will be able to explain more about:

- the Early Help offer, which has recently replaced the Devon Assessment Framework (DAF)
- changes to the Education Health & Care (EHC) needs assessment process
- how to find information about the SEND Local Offer

Each session will run for 2 hours and we are looking for schools across Devon who would be willing to host them – if you think your school might be suitable, please let the school SENCo know about this opportunity so that they can discuss this further by emailing sendlocaloffer@devon.gov.uk or calling 01392 383000 and asking for 'SEND Local Offer'.

DIAS Goes National!

There is an Information Advice and Support Service (IASS), like DIAS, in every Local Authority in the country. Sue Brealey, the DIAS manager here in Devon, has a leading role at national level as she is Chair of the IASS Staff Association and she recently organised the association's national conference in Birmingham.

The key note speaker at the conference was Jane McConnell, the lead judge at the First-tier Tribunal with responsibility for SEND. Judge McConnell gave an update on the workings of the tribunal and looked at the role of services like DIAS within that context – such as supporting parents, carers and young people through appeals that are related to the Education, Health & Care (EHC) process.

DIAS has long been recognised nationally for the effective way in which we recruit, support and work with a great team of volunteers who help to expand the service that we can offer to you. To share our experiences with other services, our officer Amy Carey-Jones led a well-received workshop at the conference entitled 'Enhancing Capacity by using Volunteers'.

Overall, the conference gave us a great opportunity to share expertise and ideas with other IASS and this is fundamental if we are to continue to improve what we do and to ensure that our impartiality is maintained.

Look on our web site for our recently revised leaflets, factsheets and resources:

- **Assessments, Plans and Reviews (leaflet)**
- **Transfer Reviews – from Statements to EHC plans (factsheet)**
- **This is Me – an online resource to capture a young person's views**
- **All About My Child – to help you to convey your views about your child's needs**