



Dorset SENDIASS

A free, independent, impartial advice service for children, young people and families who have, or care for, someone with additional needs aged 0-25

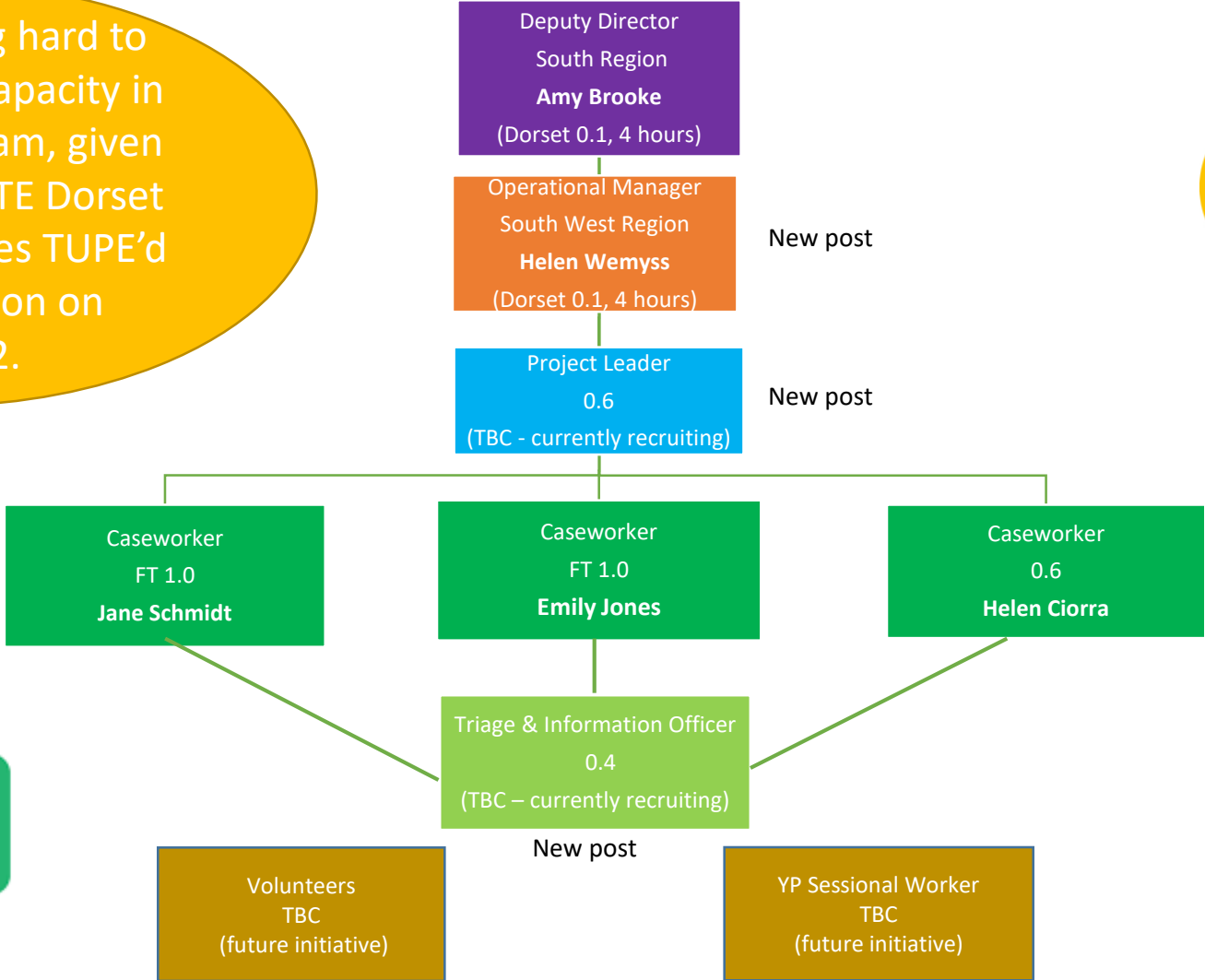


Who we are

- Formerly known as the **Parent Partnership Service**, the service changed its name in September 2014 with the introduction of the **Children & Families Act 2014 (CAFA)**. Our remit is outlined in **Section 2** of the **SEND Code of Practice 0 to 25, 2015**.
- With the introduction of the Children and Families Act , the role of the service expanded to include:
 - *providing support with Social Care, Health and Towards Adulthood, where issues have an impact on the education of the child or young person.*
 - *Working with a wider age range of children and young people (0 - 25)*
- The service is a **statutory body** that every **Local Authority** is required to provide.
- Dorset Council commissioned **Family Action** to take over the **SENDIAS service**, effective from 1st February 2022, when 2.6 FTE DC staff members transferred over on this date.

Dorset SENDIASS Family Action: Proposed Team Structure

We are working hard to develop future capacity in the SENDIASS team, given there were 2.6 FTE Dorset Council employees TUPE'd to Family Action on 01/02/22.



SEN and Disability
Information, Advice
and support service



Volunteers
TBC
(future initiative)

Further build capacity/
support networks

YP Sessional Worker
TBC
(future initiative)

'Child's voice'



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What we do

Dorset SENDIASS provides a **free, impartial and confidential** information, advice and support service to parents, carers, children and young people in relation to SEND, covering a wide range of matters:

- Education and Portage
- Early Help
- Informing parents/carers/children/young people about their rights and the law relating to SEND
- SEND support and advice e.g. regarding speaking with the SENDCo/ relevant questions to ask
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and Annual Reviews (AR)
- Tribunal appeals process
- Transport applications and transport appeals
- Exclusions
- Bullying
- Alternative Provision
- Health, Wellbeing and Social Care advice if impacting on education and towards adulthood



Impartial means we will not tell people what to do. We will not take sides.

- We are **independent** from nurseries, schools, colleges, the Local Authority and other services
- We provide information in order to support parents/carers/young people to be able to make choices for themselves/their children



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What SENDIASS Caseworkers know...

Every frontline **SENDIASS Caseworker** and **Information & Triage Officer** receives **legal training, provided by IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Education Advice)** relating to education for children and young people with special educational needs and disability. *IPSEA legal training is equivalent to over 30 hours of continuing professional development for solicitors specialising in SEND.*

Training covers the following:

- Duties of the Local Authority, schools and other educational providers, in line with the Children and Families Act 2014 (CAFA), the SEND regulations 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2015
- The Equality Act 2010 and Disability Discrimination
- Department of Education (DfE) documents and guidance, covering issues such as bullying, exclusions, supporting young people with mental health or medical needs within educational settings, to name but a few.

What support looks like ...

- Help with **navigating** and **understanding the SEND system**; e.g. if parent/carer/young person is not sure what to expect from the Local Authority, early years' provision, school or college in terms of support and education for a child or young person
- Assisting with **checking** that the educational provision is as it should be in terms of **legality**
- Help to **explore** the **different possible courses of action** for a child/young person to resolve issues and ensure the best support is in place for the needs of the child/young person
- Assist with **strengthening** or **rebuilding relationships** with professionals so knowledge and concerns are shared so the best solution is found
- **Guide** parents/carers/young people through the **EHCP application process**
- **Support** to be able **to confidently self-advocate** or **appeal** after receiving information/advice, especially, for example, if there is a disagreement with the LA, pre-school, school or college about an EHCP assessment or provision

What support looks like ...

- Enable the young person, if desired, to have an **independent voice**, separate to the parent/carer
- **Signpost** to other **support services**
- Support is usually provided over the **telephone** and via **emails**
- **Attendance** at some meetings when issues are unable to be easily resolved e.g. **complex annual reviews** and **tribunals** (*this aspect is very much dependent on staffing capacity and number of complex cases open*).
- We are currently designing a **new website**, which we hope to launch **early May 2022** with further information, advice and resources

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- *Confidentiality is maintained within the service, unless there is a safeguarding concern, or the person receiving the advice has given consent to share the information.*
- *Only anonymised data is shared e.g. with commissioners and other stakeholders.*

Without a diagnosis, can SENDIASS still provide support?

- Yes! There does not need to be a formal 'diagnosis' to receive support.
- An 'additional need' is simply when someone needs something *additional to or different from* their peers.
- For example, someone who doesn't have a formal diagnosis of ASD may still benefit from visual clues in the educational setting under a Support Plan.
- The SENDIASS team will be able to advise and signpost the relevant support for the 'additional need'.



Other factors the SENDCo and SEND teams in schools should think about when liaising with parents...

- Are parents/carers entitled to/claiming benefits such as:
 - **DLA** (Disability Living Allowance) or **PIP** (Personal Independent Payments)?
 - **Carer's Allowance**?
 - Support at home – e.g. **respite/short breaks**?
 - **30 hours' free childcare**
- Is the child/young person entitled to the **Pupil Premium or Early Years Pupil Premium**?

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