

Hello!

Happy New year!

We hope you had a good break over Christmas and New Year.

Please make a note of the date of 14th March to attend our coffee morning to say thank you to Christine Doyle, who is retiring at the end of March, She will be greatly missed by our service, and the SEND community. Chris has worked within SEND, in many different roles over the years and we'd love for some friendly faces to come and join us to wish her well in her retirement. Details below.

*With very best wishes,  
Jean, Chris, Donna and Millie*

## Parents' Share Programme



We hold monthly meetings that we call The Parents' Share where parents and carers can come and share their experiences, knowledge and successes. Sometimes we have speakers and we are always open to new ideas and topics so do drop us a line to let us know.

You can book your free place for the following sessions via the links below.

**NEW!**

### [Wellbeing Session and Mental Health with Kooth & RBWM Mental Health team 18th January 2024](#)

What Mental health support is there for you, your child /young person within the borough. What resources are there and how does it work.

**[Book here](#)**

### [Preparing for Adulthood session 22nd February](#)

What does the pathway for Preparing for Adulthood look like, what does transition look like, what help is there - come along and find out with the PfA team.

**[Book here](#)**

### [Reflections on Emotionally Related School Avoidance \(ERSA\) with a Q&A with the Education Psychologists - 29th February](#)

An informal session with Educational Psychologists to reflect on issues regarding ERSA, and an opportunity to share your experiences and ask questions.

**[Book here](#)**

### [Meet the CAMHS Learning Disability Team - 18th April](#)

An informal session with the CAMHS Learning Disability Team - find out more about what services they offer.

**[Book here](#)**

# Retirement



**Christine Doyle is retiring**  
**Come and say farewell at our**  
**IAS coffee morning**

**Thursday 14th March**

**9.30-11.30am**

**Friends House, 14 West Street SL6 1RL**

## News, Webinars, Events & Information



### **Neurodiversity Network Question Time**

Date: Tuesday 23rd January 2024.

Time: 12:30pm - 2pm

Register: [Click here](#)

This Question Time session is a free event for members of the East Berkshire Neurodiversity Network. The session is an opportunity for you to put your questions about neurodiversity and young people in East Berkshire to a panel of key local decision makers.

We expect approximately 8-10 questions to be asked and answered, depending on time constraints. (For any questions that cannot be answered on the day, we will request a written response and share this via the network newsletter.)

The panel will have access to the questions in advance so they can prepare answers.

Any member of the network can submit as many questions as they like for consideration.

We will accept questions that are related to neurodiversity and young people and focused

on strategic function. Questions about operational management (e.g. issues relating to specific young people) will not be passed on to the panel.

Questions may not:

- Require a disclosure of confidential information
- Be defamatory, frivolous or offensive
- Be about a specific young person or a personal situation

The panel will consist of several representatives from across health, education, social care and the voluntary sector.

Details of the panel will be released in coming weeks.

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### **Autistic Girls Network - booklet**



The Autistic Girls Network have created a booklet detailing possible reasonable adjustments that can be established in schools to make neurodivergent pupil's school careers more equitable with their peers. To view the document, please [click here](#).

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### **Preparing for adulthood questionnaire**



Within RBWM we recognise that the transition into adulthood can be one of the biggest transitions and is the final point of the school career. We are contacting you as you, or a young person in your family, has left education (up to college level) in the last 2 years, or who is yr 9 and above.

We are asking for young people's experiences when moving out of education and into adult services, some questions we might ask are:

- Were you offered any support?
- How easy was it to access the support?
- Where did the majority of the support come from?
- Did it feel relevant and helpful?
- What went well?
- What can we do better?

You can share your views by completing the attached questionnaire or if you would rather please respond to this email and we can arrange a phone call/meeting, all responses will remain anonymous. For households where this may apply to multiple people, each person may complete the questionnaire with their own personal views/ experiences.

**[PfA Transition to adult services Feedback quest...](#)**

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# Inclusion Summit

www.rbwm.gov.uk



We are extremely pleased to announce our fifth Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Inclusion Summit. This event has been co-produced between SEND Voices RBWM, Achieving for Children, the Independent Advice and Support Service, Children and Young People's Integrated Therapy Service and schools.

It will be a great opportunity for all parents and carers, as well as other key stakeholders, to share information and celebrate developments in SEND across the borough.

This event will inform, engage and inspire how we are all working together as a positive beacon of inclusion for children and young people (0 to 25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities.

There will be a selection of workshops to attend and a bustling marketplace.

**This face-to-face event will be held on:**

## Wednesday 7 February, 2024

### Royal Windsor Racecourse

**9.15am** Registration and browse the marketplace

**10am** Introduction

**10.15am** Presentations

**11.15am** Break and browse the marketplace

**11.45am** Workshops

**1.10pm** Summary of the day and performance from Manor Green School

To register your interest click on this [link](#).

If you are interested in having a stall, please email:

[inclusionsummit@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:inclusionsummit@achievingforchildren.org.uk)



## RBWM Inclusion Summit 2024 - BOOK NOW

Wednesday, 7 February 2024

9:15am - 1:45pm

Royal Windsor Racecourse

Maidenhead Road, Windsor, England, SL4 5EZ

This event has been co-produced between SEND Voices RBWM, Achieving for Children (RBWM), the Independent Advice and Support Service, Children and Young People's Integrated Therapy Service and schools.

It will be a great opportunity for all parents and carers, as well as other key stakeholders, to share information and celebrate developments in SEND across the Borough.

**Outline agenda information**

09:15 Registration and browse the marketplace

10:00 Introduction

10:15 Presentations



11:15 Break and browse the marketplace

11:45 Workshops

13:10 Summary of the day and performance from Manor Green School

[Click here to book your place](#)

## Parent and Carer Autism Online support session - How to communicate with your Autistic child.

Friday 2nd February 10am - 11.15am

Join our online session to: learn and discuss, how to have meaningful communication with your child how to support your child with communicating with other people.

To reserve your space please email us on [gems.4health@nhs.net](mailto:gems.4health@nhs.net) and provide your full name, email address, phone number, child's pathway (suspected/waiting assessment/diagnosed) and local authority.



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How to communicate with your **Autistic** child

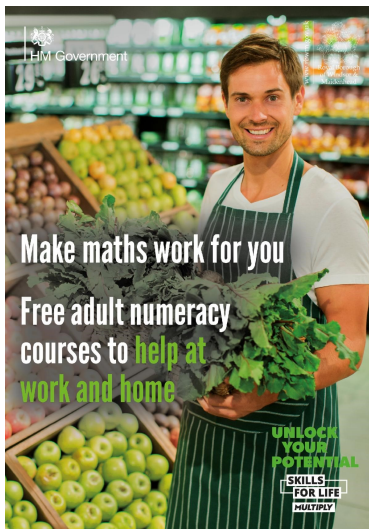


**Sign Up Today!**

Available for families residing in, or have a registered GP in East Berkshire

**To book your place contact GEMS:**  
[Gems.4Health@nhs.net](mailto:Gems.4Health@nhs.net)  
0800 999 1342

Please provide your full name, email address, phone number, child's pathway (suspected/waiting assessment/diagnosed) and local authority



## Free numeracy programme to improve lives - upcoming courses

If you find numbers a challenge, you can improve your numeracy skills and gain confidence to tackle everyday budgeting or get a new job, with our free maths programmes.

We and partner training providers have created the sessions for people aged 19 years and over who do not have GCSE maths at grade C or the equivalent.

Designed to help with everyday activities like shopping and cost of living issues, these sessions are designed to improve specific skills, like budgeting, helping children with homework or improving maths skills for work.

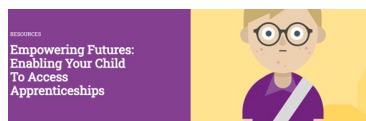
Upcoming courses include:

- Cooking on a budget, main meals - Berkshire College of Agriculture on **Monday 29 January**
- Cooking on a budget, desserts and treats - Berkshire College of Agriculture on **Monday 5 February**.

The government-funded Multiply programme is to help adults improve their numeracy skills. This adds to the council's work supporting skills and employability. To view and register for courses, visit the [website](#)



**Wednesday 31 January**  
**SEN: Phonics & Writing**  
 Audience: parents, carers & professionals  
 Sign up and more info:  
<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/resources/sen-phonics-and-writing/>



**Monday 5 February**  
**Empowering Futures: Enabling Your Child To Access Apprenticeships**  
 Audience: parents, carers  
 Sign up and more  
[info:https://pages.witherslackgroup.co.uk/empowering-futures-apprenticeships](https://pages.witherslackgroup.co.uk/empowering-futures-apprenticeships)



**Podcast which discusses strategies to help and support neurodiverse children and young people suffering from Anxiety.**  
 Access here:  
<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/resources/sensational-podcast-supporting-your-anxious-child/>



## Have your say on proposed extra support for disabled people to have home adaptations

There's still time to have your say on a draft policy which, if approved, would mean extra financial support for disabled people to

have household adaptations, helping them to live safe and independent lives at home.

Let us know your views on our draft Disabled Facilities Grant and Housing Assistance Policy, which would be used to decide applications for funding assistance for eligible works, including ramps, stair lifts, level access showers and door-widening.

Several additional packages of discretionary assistance are proposed, above and beyond the statutory support already offered to disabled people. This includes a new means-tested top-up on the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants for those in financial hardship, doubling the maximum available for eligible works to £60,000.

The consultation runs until **Friday 2 February 2024**. Take part on [the RBWM website](#) and read more in our [press release](#).

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If we have worked with you this academic year, or in the summer term this year we really need your feedback - it takes no more than a few minutes but really helps us improve our service. The survey is anonymous but helps us get a better understanding of how our service is impacting families. You can find the form here: <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/ias-evaluation>