

# DPV Newsletter – February 2023

## COST OF LIVING EDITION

Costs are rising. Income is not keeping up. It seems like we are being pinballed from one disaster to another. Everybody is feeling the pinch. But as always, it is the most vulnerable in society that are bearing the brunt of hardship, particularly those with disabilities and their carers.

In this newsletter, we will be highlighting and signposting the cost of living support available to SEND families from our local authority, a leading national disability charity, and of course, Doncaster Parents' Voice.



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Doncaster Council have recently created a team called *Your Life Doncaster*, whose main aim is to offer information and signpost to support services in your community, with a particular focus on cost of living support. Visit their website at [www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk](http://www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk).

On the main council website, there are also sections dedicated to financial assistance such as assessments, grants, and other local and national schemes. For example, did you know that any household with someone on a means-tested benefit may be eligible for cheaper broadband tariffs? Visit [www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/council-tax-benefits/financial-support-advice](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/council-tax-benefits/financial-support-advice).

Of course, for SEND-specific support, Doncaster Council's *Local Offer* is a fundamental starting point. The Local Offer outlines what support is available for children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities and their families. One such provision is the TIE Activity Discount Card which provides discounted or free entry for SEND children and carers at several attractions and venues across Doncaster, including:

- All DCLT leisure centres, including The Dome
- Cinemas – Vue and Savoy
- Theatres – Cast and Little Theatre
- Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- Doncaster Rovers and Doncaster Knights matches
- Play areas – Astrabound, Play Pit, Play Valley

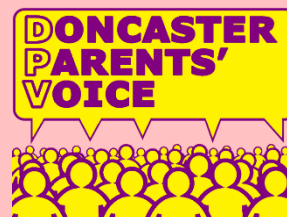
Information on the TIE card and a full list of participating attractions can be found at [www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/together-information-exchange](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/together-information-exchange). The Local Offer web page is [www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/local-offer-send](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/local-offer-send).

**DONCASTER'S LOCAL OFFER**

Special Educational Needs/Disabilities

Provides information for children and young people with SEND and their parents or carers in a single place

[www.doncaster.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/localoffer)



### About Us

**Doncaster Parents Voice**, formed in 2012, is Doncaster's participation forum for parents of children and young people (0-25 years) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Our purpose is to ensure SEND parents are adequately represented and consulted at decision-making levels, and to increase SEND parent participation in the development of services that could impact their families, ensuring that they are fit for purpose.

We are a volunteer-run group, all of whom are parents or grandparents of SEND children.

We are predominantly funded by the Department for Education but also receive occasional grants from Doncaster Council. DPV is a subsidiary of Doncaster Partnership for Carers, a local charity offering support for all carers.

### What We Do

We work closely with several teams across the spectrum of Local Authority, Education, Health, Social Care, Leisure, and other service providers to ensure that parents of SEND are consulted and actively engaged in the development of services so that SEND children and their families can aspire to the same level of opportunity as their peers.

We also:

- ❖ actively engage with parents to keep them up-to-date and reliably informed about the services and issues that matter to them.
- ❖ regularly collaborate with local professionals to deliver information workshops and training for parents on a variety of topics.
- ❖ provide platforms for SEND parents to meet and develop a network of peer support and friendship.
- ❖ provide help and support to SEND parents in any way they can, whether it be information, advice, signposting, or just a listening ear.
- ❖ provide an array of wellbeing sessions and activities.

# contact For families with disabled children

Contact are one of the UK's leading disability charities. Their website provides a wealth of information, advice, and resources for SEND families, including a new section dedicated to the current Cost of Living crisis, comprehensively covering several topics including benefits, debt, paying bills, and accessing grants. There are also downloadable guides specifically for parent carers. For more information, visit [contact.org.uk/help-for-families/information-advice-services/cost-of-living-advice](https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/information-advice-services/cost-of-living-advice).



As SEND parents ourselves, Doncaster Parents' Voice are acutely aware of the additional costs involved with caring for a disabled child. That is why we do everything we can to keep services free to the user. We even work as volunteers so that as much of our funding as possible can go into service provision rather than wages.

Counselling, massage therapies, social clubs, and school holiday activities are just some of our offerings, **all completely free**, as is the cost of membership. We also have a new in-house specialist benefits advisor offering group workshops and 1-2-1 appointments to those that need advice and assistance in this area.

DPV is also the only provider of the *Max Card* in Doncaster. It is a SEND discount card, very similar to Doncaster Council's TIE card, but it is accepted in numerous attractions and venues across the whole UK. Businesses accepting Max Card in Doncaster area include:

- Play areas – Astrabound, Play Valley, Time 2 Play
- Historical – Conisbrough Castle and Ashworth Barracks
- Action – Dext Ninja Warrior (Dearne Valley)
- Nature – Potteric Carr Nature Reserve and Boston Park Farm

Big-name attractions accepting Max Card further afield include:

- Jorvik
- Go Ape
- Legoland
- Thorpe Park
- Sea Life Aquarium

## DON'T FORGET TO CHECK!

There are many local attractions and activities that are not part of the TIE or Max Card schemes but nevertheless offer discounts to SEND users, as well as SEND-only sessions, including *Flip Out* and *Go Bounce* trampoline parks.

**Always check for offers before paying.**

Visit [mymaxcard.co.uk](https://mymaxcard.co.uk) to search their full list of venues. Max Cards cost £5 each and typically last for 2 years. To buy your Max Card or for more information, email [karen@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:karen@doncastercarers.org.uk).

## Get your **max** card today! only at Doncaster Parents' Voice

The Max Card is the UK's leading discount card for foster families and families of children with additional needs. Families can use their Max Card at venues across the UK to get free or discounted admission.

To apply for your card and start saving,  
or for more info, call **01302 637566**  
or email [karen@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:karen@doncastercarers.org.uk)

Requires DPV membership (completely free).

Find attractions that accept max card  
at [mymaxcard.co.uk](https://mymaxcard.co.uk)



**ONLY  
£5**



# We are part of Doncaster Autism Service

Launched in October 2022, Doncaster Autism Service (DAS) is a brand new service, aiming to support people of all ages with Autism, along with their families and carers. DAS is a collaboration between NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (formerly Doncaster CCG), Doncaster Council (particularly their ASCETS team), Doncaster Partnership for Carers (DPC), and Doncaster Parents' Voice (DPV).



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South Yorkshire  
Integrated Care Board



Doncaster Autism Service's flagship offer is the new post-diagnostic pathway for adults diagnosed with Autism. Upon receiving a diagnosis, adults with ASD are now automatically referred to this pathway where they will be offered a course of 1-2-1 sessions and group workshops covering a wide range of Autism-related topics in a supportive environment.

Other services currently on offer include new social groups for Autistic adults, art therapy, a games club for young people, workshops and social events for parent carers, and access to all the services provided by DPC and DPV including counselling, massage therapies, and benefits advice.

Over the next few years, DAS will continuously aim to expand its range of services and to increase its reach among people with Autism of all ages, while strengthening its links with local providers and community groups. However, such expansions and new services are being rolled out slowly to ensure a high quality of service.

## **Contact Information**

Doncaster Autism Service is based at Doncaster Carers Centre, alongside Doncaster Partnership for Carers and Doncaster Parents' Voice. The DAS website is still under construction so the best place to get up-to-date news and information is on their Facebook page.

Telephone: +44 07536 455292

Email: General enquiries – [das@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:das@doncastercarers.org.uk)  
Booking onto workshops and activities – [dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk)

Address: Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace  
South Parade  
DONCASTER  
DN1 2EE

Online: [Facebook.com/doncasterautism](https://www.facebook.com/doncasterautism)



[facebook.com/doncasterautism](https://www.facebook.com/doncasterautism)

# February 2023 @ Doncaster Carers Centre

Date	Time	Event/Service	Who for
Wed 01	10:00 – 13:00	Open House Coffee Morning	All Carers
	10:00 – 13:00	Massage Therapy appointments	All Carers
Thu 02	09:00 – 16:00	Counselling appointments	Parent Carers
	10:00 – 12:00	Workshop: Transitions in Education [SENDIAS]	Parent Carers
	13:00 – 15:00	Workshop: Accessing Support in Schools [DAS]	Parent Carers
Mon 06	10:00 – 12:00	Art Therapy	Adults with ASD
Tue 07	09:00 – 16:00	Counselling appointments	Parent Carers
	10:00 – 12:00	DPV Coffee Morning	Parent Carers
Wed 08	10:00 – 13:00	Open House Coffee Morning	All Carers
	10:00 – 13:00	Massage Therapy appointments	All Carers
Thu 09	09:00 – 16:00	Counselling appointments	Parent Carers
	10:00 – 12:00	Workshop: What is ASD? Part 2 [DAS]	Adults with ASD
Fri 10	10:00 – 12:00	Workshop: Autism in the Early Years (0-5) [DAS]	Parent Carers
Mon 13	10:00 – 14:00	Benefits Advice appointments	All Carers
Tue 14	09:00 – 16:00	Counselling appointments	Parent Carers
	20:00 – 21:00	Autism Online Video Chat	Parent Carers
Wed 15	10:00 – 13:00	Open House Coffee Morning	All Carers
	10:00 – 13:00	Massage Therapy appointments	All Carers
Thu 16	09:00 – 16:00	Counselling appointments	Parent Carers
	11:00 – 13:00	Arts & Crafts activity	SEND families
	14:00 – 16:30	Autism Games Club	Children with ASD (10+)
Mon 20	11:00 – 12:30	Autism Social Group	Adults with ASD
Tue 21	09:00 – 16:00	Counselling appointments	Parent Carers
	10:00 – 12:00	DPV Coffee Morning	Parent Carers
Wed 22	10:00 – 13:00	Open House Coffee Morning	All Carers
	10:00 – 13:00	Massage Therapy appointments	All Carers
Thu 23	09:00 – 16:00	Counselling appointments	Parent Carers
	10:00 – 12:00	Workshop: What is Autism? [DAS]	Parent Carers
Mon 27	10:00 – 14:00	Benefits Advice appointments	All Carers
Tue 28	09:00 – 16:00	Counselling appointments	Parent Carers
	20:00 – 21:00	Autism Online Video Chat	Parent Carers



# Free Therapeutic Massages

| Hand | Shoulder | Head | Back |

For any carer registered with Doncaster Partnership for Carers or  
Doncaster Parents' Voice

30min sessions, pre-booking only – no walk-ins

Every Wednesday, 10:00-13:00

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

For enquiries or appointments, call 01302 637566



## Counselling for Carers

- Free Counselling Therapy sessions
- For any carer registered with either Doncaster Partnership for Carers or Doncaster Parents' Voice
- Pre-bookable appointments only

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**09:00 – 16:00**

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE  
**01302 637566**



**We Need  
YOU!**



It is through your feedback, suggestions, and your shared experiences that we can help to shape local services to benefit your SEND family so please don't hesitate to contact us, use our services, or attend our events.

We are also in need of volunteers to join our Steering Group and help out wherever possible with events, meetings, and outreach.

There's no pressure to take on more than you can handle, and Debbie does make a brilliant cuppa!



# Transitions in Education

A workshop for SEND parent carers

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023  
10:00 – 12:00

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

Email [dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk)  
to book your place.



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## Accessing Support in Schools

A workshop for parent carers

An informative session offering an overview of:

- SEN plans
- EHCPs
- Role of SENDCOs
- SEND law and school policies

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023  
13:00 – 15:00

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

Email [dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk) to book your place.

## Making a Difference in SEND Education

Doncaster Council's SEND Strategic Lead, Martyn Owen, is currently undertaking a thorough review of SEND education in Doncaster and how SEND students and families are being supported, and he wants your input.

Martyn has collaborated with Doncaster Parents' Voice to set up consultation groups (one for parents and another for children and young people) to ensure that the voices of SEND children and their families can give their opinions and provide a meaningful contribution to the future of SEND education provision in Doncaster.

For more information, please email [dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk)



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# Art Therapy

for adults with Autism\*

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023

10:00 – 12:00

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

*\*diagnosis or pathway, aged 18+*

To book your place, email  
[dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk)

## SEND Parent Carer Coffee Morning

February 2023

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>

10:00 – 12:00

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

Open to any parent carer of children or  
young people with:

- Special Education Needs
- Disability
- Mental health issues
- Other long-term health issues

Walk-ins welcome, no booking required.



01302  
736920

**Doncaster**  
**SENDIAS**  
INFORMATION • ADVICE • SUPPORT



doncaster  
sendias  
.co.uk



# What is Autism?

A workshop for adults with ASD\*



Part 1 Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Part 2 Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

10:00 – 12:00

Doncaster Carers Centre

2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

To book your place, email

[DPVEVENTS@DONCASTERCARERS.ORG.UK](mailto:DPVEVENTS@DONCASTERCARERS.ORG.UK)



\* Age 18+ with diagnosis or on pathway. Chaperones welcome.

## Autism in the Early Years

A workshop for parent carers of children under 5 awaiting a GDA, on the pathway, or with a diagnosis

*An informative workshop aiming to give parents an insight into Autism and how it affects their child's understanding of the world.*

To book your place, email

[DPVEVENTS@DONCASTERCARERS.ORG.UK](mailto:DPVEVENTS@DONCASTERCARERS.ORG.UK)



We are unable to accommodate children at this event.

Presented by  
Doncaster Council's  
Early Years  
Inclusion Team

Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
February 2023

10:00 – 12:00

Doncaster Carers  
Centre  
2 Regent Terrace  
South Parade  
DN1 2EE



A Pan Disability Football Club providing access to football for male & female players aged 5 & over with a disability or any type or mental health condition (Deaf Friendly).

Evenings & Weekends  
Eco-Power Stadium

[www.clubdoncastertitans.com](http://www.clubdoncastertitans.com)





## Benefits Advice for Carers

1-2-1 appointments (30 mins), pre-booking required

Monday 13 February 2023; 10:00 – 14:00

Monday 27 February 2023; 10:00 – 14:00

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

To book your place, call **01302 637566**



## AUTISM CHAT

An informal online video chat session for parent carers of children or young people with Autism\*  
\*no diagnosis required

February 2023 sessions:  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**20:00 – 21:00**

Email [dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk) for your *Microsoft Teams* invite.

### School Nurse 5-19 Parents/Carers App



**NHS**  
Rotherham Doncaster  
and South Humber  
NHS Foundation Trust

**PARENT PLUS**  
*eClinic*

**FREE app for all Doncaster parents/carers** of young people aged 5-19. Get direct contact with a **School Nurse** and discuss any health related issues using instant messaging on your mobile or tablet.



Next session:

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (14:00 – 16:30)**

@ Doncaster Carers Centre, 2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE



## Autism Games Club

For Children and Young People with ASD\*

- Recommended age 10+
- Siblings welcome
- Games include D&D, Magic the Gathering, various board games, and a console.

To book your place, email [dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk)

\*diagnosis or pathway

## ASD Social Group

for Adults (18+) with Autism\*

An informal gathering where adults with Autism can come together to chat and socialise.

Next meeting:

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
**11:00 – 12:30**

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

If you wish to attend, please call **07536 455292**  
or email [dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk)



\* Open to any adult (18+) with ASD diagnosis or on the pathway. Parent or carer chaperones welcome.

## SEND SOCIAL CLUB!

- COME ALONG TO OUR NEW **SEND SOCIAL CLUB!**
- MONDAY'S, 6-8PM @ BENTLEY MY PLACE YOUTH HUB

ONLY  
20  
PLACES

To book a Child or Young Person on they need to be **aged 8-16** and  
**registered with TIE (Together Information Exchange)**

Contact Youth Hub on **01302 735704** or **01302 737993**



## DICE Enterprise

Amazing events for disAbled people

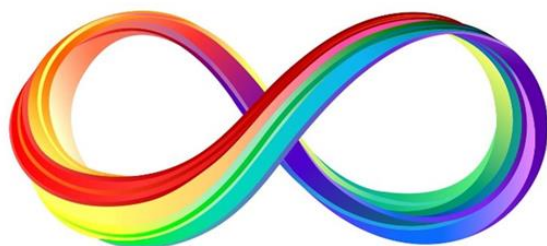
 [diceenterprise.co.uk](http://diceenterprise.co.uk)

 [facebook.com/diceenterpris](https://facebook.com/diceenterpris)



# What is Autism?

A workshop for parent carers



Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

10:00 – 12:00

Doncaster Carers Centre

2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, DN1 2EE

To book your place, email

[DPVEVENTS@DONCASTERCARERS.ORG.UK](mailto:DPVEVENTS@DONCASTERCARERS.ORG.UK)



## Contacting DPV



Call **01302 637566**



For workshops, activities, and events,  
email [\*\*dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk\*\*](mailto:dpvevents@doncastercarers.org.uk)

For support or general enquiries,  
email [\*\*dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk\*\*](mailto:dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk)



Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace, South Parade  
DONCASTER  
DN1 2EE



Search on **Facebook** for **Doncaster Parents Voice** or type  
[\*\*facebook.com/parentforumdn\*\*](https://facebook.com/parentforumdn)