



# Norfolk SEN Network

Registered charity no. 1044353

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Dear Councillors

Norfolk SEN Network is the only independent charity in Norfolk that supports parents of children with special educational needs from 0-25 years through some of the most difficult times of their children's lives.

Our organisation assists in situations where –

- The Local Authority refuses to assess their child's needs.
- The Local Authority refuse to issue and Educational Health & Care Plan identifying their child's needs and making additional provision for them.
- Assists parents when the Local Authority refuse the placement or provision, they want to meet their child's needs by lodging their case for a tribunal hearing.
- We also assist parents whose child has been excluded from school to present their case to the Governing Body or Independent Review Panel
- Assist with Disability Discrimination appeals and complaints.

We are currently a small organisation with four part time Development Workers, all of which have full case-loads. We have many new families requesting our help which currently we are unable to provide due to a lack of available funds, we desperately need to raise funds so we can continue to support our current families and hopefully expand our organisation, offer training and other ways to support our families and help new families.

We try to keep our costs to a minimum for the families, however it costs the charity approximately £500 to take a case to tribunal, we only ask parents to contribute a maximum of £100 towards this, the charity then has to fund the remaining cost ourselves. There is a lot of time and work involved in preparing for the tribunal, we lodge appeals, collect evidence and represent parents on the day, by this time parents are usually struggling to understand the workings of the system to get the best outcome for their child, we are there every step of the way to support the family.

We have been helping families in your parish and would like to ask if the Parish Council would be kind enough to make a donation to our organisation so we can continue to give local families the support they so greatly need to navigate the system at such a difficult time for them.

Yours sincerely

Julie Playford  
Trustee Member

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