

Bury SENDIASS: Digital solutions to support and enhance the IASS offer

The context

Bury is a borough located within Greater Manchester and is well known as a busy market town. The indices of multiple deprivation names Bury as the 8th most deprived borough across the 10 boroughs within Greater Manchester. Like many areas though there are areas of deprivation and also more affluent areas within the borough. Bury has a large well established Jewish community that borders Manchester with many children attending faith schools in Manchester.

The IAS service currently supports children, young people and their parent/carers from pre-school into Further Education offering impartial information advice and support on the full range of enquiries received relating to special education need (SEN). It has established links and relationships with the Parent Forum Bury2gether, Education, Health, Social Care and other organisations who support children with SEN and their families.

The issue

Before Covid 19 the Bury SENDiass team delivered regular face to face training for parents/carers and young people at local venues. It was important to the team to continue sharing these packages to empower and educate families to be able to address some of the issues they face independently, however, the means of doing this had to be adapted.

The support provided by IASS

The SENDiass team worked on updating and developing training packages that could be delivered on an online platform such as zoom or teams. The packages reflect the information that would have been available in the workshops had they been delivered face to face. The service liaised with Bury2gether to share the workshops online and also shared the Eventbrite links via the service social media platforms.

The difference made

Parents/carers have had the opportunity to access online training. Families have been able to access information packs with voice recordings that explain the information in further detail. Young people have been able to access information on annual reviews and contact workers through a variety of different platforms in order to be able to share their voice.

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