

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Help available for families with special education needs or disabilities

Wakefield's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), known as WESAIL, will be managed by the national charity Family Action from April.

The charity will also be taking on the Local Offer service, which aims to provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available to families in Wakefield.

The WESAIL service aims to improve outcomes for children and young people up to the age of 25, who have, or may have a special educational need or disability, and their families. It provides access to free, impartial, accurate and confidential advice and support throughout the Wakefield district.

Sue Guest, Operational Manager at Family Action, said: "Family Action has been delivering Special Educational Needs support services and advice in the community since 2014 and we are delighted to be taking on the provision of this programme in Wakefield.

"We are looking forward to building on the excellent support Barnardo's and their staff have given children and families in the Wakefield area for the past four years."

The WESAIL service in the Wakefield district is funded by Wakefield Council and NHS Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group. The local offer website offers a one-stop shop for information and advice on what is available for families across education, health and social care.

Vicky Schofield, Acting Corporate Director for Children and Young People at Wakefield Council, said: "It is important all children and young people in our district have opportunities to thrive and to develop their skills and talents.

"Together with NHS Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group we look forward to the next chapter in the development of the WESAIL and the Local Offer service with Family Action. I would like to thank Barnardo's for their commitment over the past four years and the support provided to Wakefield children, young people and families during that time."

Family Action supports 60,000 families every year through its 200 community-based projects, and thousands more via national programmes like FamilyLine and the National School Breakfast Programme. To find out more about its work visit www.family-action.org.uk

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Family Action is a national charity committed to building stronger families and brighter lives. Since the charity was founded in 1869, we have continued to help children and families overcome the challenges they face through a wide range of practical, emotional and financial support. Today we work with more than 60,000 families in over 200 community-based services, as well as supporting thousands more through our national helpline, FamilyLine, which offers free and immediate support to adult family members and national schemes like the National School Breakfast Programme.



We help families and individuals to manage their mental health and wellbeing, working with families to reduce the impact of social isolation, poverty, addiction and other significant sources of stress and pressure. We also support families affected by adoption, special guardianship, separation, special educational needs, disability, domestic violence and sexual abuse. In addition, we provide thousands of welfare and educational grants every year to people in financial crisis.

For further information, please visit our website at www.family-action.org.uk

Registered charity number: 264 713

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