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## Welcome to Spring Add-On News

Since our last issue there have been updates to [The Local Offer](#) with new guidance notes on many health conditions and useful help pathways. When you visit The Local Offer you will also find lots of new services and activities listed... Find out about how [Amelias Rainbow](#) support local children with life limiting illnesses, [EDAS Workshops](#) for parents covering topics such as autism, self esteem, assertiveness, understanding anger and communicating with teenagers. For things to do over February half term, [Poole Short Breaks](#) have an exciting programmes of activities such as Animation Workshop, Burger 'n' Bowling, Gym 'n' Trampling and more! Visit the [FID](#) for a complete list of holiday activities, all activity searches can be filtered according to facilities and additional needs.

In this edition of Add-On we are delighted to share with you our latest parent story an inspiring account which focuses on Ida's hearing journey. We also bring you news from Poole Parent Carer Forum and Poole SENDIASS as well as an update on using your Max card and a MAX card day out review.

Our next issue will be out in May. Please get in touch if you would like to share your story, write a MAX card review or let others know about services or fundraising activities.



## Your story – Ida's journey

This time of year reminds me of when my daughter Ida was to have her [Bilateral Cochlear Implant operation](#) on 20 January 2012. The year running up to this point had been full to the brim (overflowing in fact) with 'firsts' for us as new parents and as a family.

Ida, our first baby... her first car ride, her first bath, the first nappy change (novice turn pro within days), referring to each other as Mummy and Daddy, talking 'through' your baby (does this ever end?) and watching your babies facial expressions and who saw them first! It was truly a mind blowing, emotional and special time.

Our dream state was soon overshadowed by a thick black fog from the moment we were told that Ida was profoundly deaf in both ears. Another first, but this time, for our entire family. As hearing adults, deafness was a new pathway as parenthood was to us.

Ida's first two weeks of life brought us immeasurable happiness followed by equal devastation (following early detection by [Newborn Hearing Screening](#)). The heartache slowly rippled through our family and friends when telling them that our perfect new baby was unable to hear. We'd been living in Newcastle for eight months prior to Ida's arrival, being southerners and living away, we communicated mostly by phone. In hindsight, I'm sure that the days between phone calls and meeting Ida, allowed them time to get their heads round it, us too probably.

Ida was fitted with her first hearing aids at 3 weeks old. I remember people first meeting Ida, prompting fearful questions from some, denial or wishful thinking (she'll get better) from others and a new found strength within us.

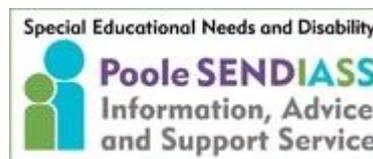


My husband and I agreed to take one day at a time and stick by our view that Ida was to be treated as 'Ida who is deaf' not 'deaf Ida'. During the early weeks and months, having to repeat the words 'Ida is deaf' or 'my baby is deaf', which felt so alien at first, started to feel natural and okay...

[Keep reading about Ida's journey](#)

## How Poole SENDIASS Can Help Families like Ida's

Poole [SENDIASS](#) (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information and Support Service) supports families going through challenging times, just like Ida's, by providing free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support for children and young people age 0-25 with SEND who live in Poole and their parents or carers.



As each child or young person's journey is unique, SENDIASS are here to offer support, no matter what the circumstance, by providing the information and support you need, helping you make informed decisions.

SENDIASS can help you:

- if you are worried about your child's development or have received a formal diagnosis, SENDIASS can offer advice/information on support organisations (locally and nationally).
- understand local processes and legislation relating to children and young people with SEND, including school admissions and local services.
- access information on the [Local Offer](#), in Poole and signpost to the Add-On register.
- search for a pre school or school that meets your child's needs. We offer impartial advice, a school 'check list', and can 'walk alongside' you and (if required) attend school meetings while you gather information and make your decision.
- during your child's transition into school by assessing, planning, doing and reviewing the SEN support your child needs. SENDIASS can help you prepare for school meetings, including discussion points and questions.
- through the whole [Education Health and Care Plan](#) process from beginning to end.

Telephone – 01202 261933 Email – [sendiass@poole.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@poole.gov.uk)

Find us at: SENDIASS Office, No 18, 18 Hill Street, Poole BH15 1NR

## Poole Parent Carer Forum News

Hello, my name is Sharon Moore, I am the administrator for Poole Parent Carer Forum. I am a Mum to two children, Matthew 11, who has Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), Global Developmental Delay (GDD), and Charlotte who is 9. We have two dogs, Tiny and Jessie, that we enjoy taking out on walks together. It's one of the few things Matthew enjoys doing as a family. I enjoy going to concerts, festivals and shows with my husband and children. My way to relax though is a large glass of red wine, a good film and my cross stitching!

I have now completed my first half term as administrator and it has been really busy but great fun! Our launch event for parents and professionals on 17 October was a great success and it was lovely to hear the real life stories from some of our parents highlighting the positives and negatives to caring for a SEND child.

Another highlight was our Participation Training Day which explained the benefits of participation and the role of the parent carer forum. We also learnt how to be more effective in communicating with local, regional and national decision makers in order to improve outcomes for local families with children/young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The event was well attended and we had some really positive feedback;

"It was inspiring to think that many parents around the country can form a collective voice towards change. Thank you for organising it all." Rebecca - parent.

"Thank you so much. It was brilliant. Really enjoyable and indeed feel empowered to want to help make change." Dee - parent.

"Very informative meeting. Interesting to meet other parent/carers, share views and experiences. A great opportunity to get involved with shaping the services on offer within the local authority for all parent/carers of children with SEND." Louise - parent.



### Get Involved!

We are keen to welcome old and new members who are parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, to join our forum. This will help ensure that views form part of vital decision-making. In this way, we influence services to improve and to meet the needs of our children and our families. We know how busy you are, but if you can spare just a small amount of your time we would be delighted to hear from you!

### Dates for your diary

We are now holding regular coffee mornings and workshops every Tuesday during term time in the Community room at Tesco Tower Park. For details of these and other events, please visit our [Events Diary](#) on our website.

Contact Sharon Moore: 07952 422089 [sharonmoore@roseroad.org.uk](mailto:sharonmoore@roseroad.org.uk) [www.poolepcf.org.uk](http://www.poolepcf.org.uk)

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## My Max Card Day Out - The Handmade Burger Company

"On Saturday I went to The Handmade Burger Company restaurant in Bournemouth with my mum and dad. I ordered the Dirty Burger with Cheese with tomato instead of red onion. It was a good quality burger and was really yummy – I ate it all and was too full for pudding.

I liked the handcut chips but I would have preferred skinny fries which wasn't on the menu. I think the restaurant is a good place to go especially if you are going to the cinema which is in the same building." - Sophie age 10.

"The Handmade Burger company is located in the BH2 complex where the new Odeon cinema is. The restaurant is big and airy with a trendy industrial style interior, it was busy with young people and a few families. The burgers are all freshly made, but don't include chips -those have to be ordered as an extra. The kids menu offers good value for money (main, side, dessert and drink for £4.95). With the Max card we got 20% off our bill, which was much appreciated. We would go again!" - Parent



Can you write a review on a MAX Card Day out for our next issue? We would love to hear from both children and their parents.

Check out all the [MAX Card Days Out](#) ! Email your reviews to [Emma Holland](mailto:Emma.Holland).

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## Get the most out of your Max Card

Max Card is a national discount card enabling children with additional needs to benefit from reduced, or free entry to over 1,500 UK attractions and day's out.

Visit the [FID](#) to find out [how you can use your MAX card](#), [search for MAX card venues](#) and find out what to do if you have any [issues with your card](#).

Why not become a MAX card champion and suggest new venues to join the scheme. All you need to do is email: [hello@mymaxcard.co.uk](mailto:hello@mymaxcard.co.uk) with your suggestion or enquire directly at the venue, tell them about the scheme and ask them to contact Max Card at [www.mymaxcard.co.uk](http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk).



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## Moebius Syndrome Awareness

Moebius syndrome is a rare neurological condition that primarily affects the muscles that control facial expression and eye movement. The signs and symptoms of this condition are present from birth.

[Moebius Syndrome Awareness Day](#) took place on 24 January 2017 with the campaign slogan 'Look Beyond Face Value'. Find out more about [Moebius Syndrome Awareness Day](#).



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## More News...

[Positive about Dyslexia](#)

[Managing Diabetes in School](#)

[Spending time outdoors is good for children's eyes!](#)

Don't miss out on our monthly newsletter for Families in Poole. [Sign Up for Families Email Me!](#)

**Look out for the Summer issue of Add-On News!**

If you are a parent and no longer wish to receive Add-On News or be included on Add-On Register you can [unsubscribe from your account](#).



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