DiAS and Parent Carer Forum Devon working together with Ambassador Volunteers for families across Devon.

[**https://devonias.org.uk/about-us/the-ambassador-volunteer-project/**](https://devonias.org.uk/about-us/the-ambassador-volunteer-project/)

Coming out of Lockdown. We can welcome eight new parent carer Ambassador Volunteers helping to widen connection for families in Devon, taking the total to 28 linked into the network. [Here is a link to a few of the new ambassadors.](https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/sites/DIASteam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FDIASteam%2FShared%20Documents%2F10%2E%20Ambassador%20Volunteer%20project%2FAmbassador%20Volunteer%20project%2FPublicity%2FTHIS%20IS%20ME%21%2FNEW%20AVS%20SEND%20NEWSLETTER%20060721&p=true&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9kZXZvbmNjLnNoYXJlcG9pbnQuY29tLzpmOi9zL0RJQVN0ZWFtL0VyVE1FbENIRl9wQXA0enVQQVhRQVFrQmp1TkJCUnhiOGtjVHg5bXJ2RngxYnc%5FcnRpbWU9bW4yV3c4ZEMyVWc)

We also welcome 11 new Action for Children Link Volunteers who support families in their SEND Step by Step groups.

All the volunteers are working together to connect parent carers to their local community peer support, to DIAS and Parent Carer Forum Devon (PCFD), helping to shape local and county wide SEND services.

Ambassador Volunteers also signpost and share information and guidance throughout their networks to other parent carers. We have recently had guest speakers from Sign post plus, Early Help, Devon Carers and Young Carers. This helps keep the Volunteers aware of what services are out there for families.

Listening to the views of other parents and working together to positively impact on change for SEND policy in Devon, some Ambassador Volunteers have volunteered their time at strategic meetings working alongside/ supporting the PCFD to share the views of parent carers in their networks.

Through our Ambassador Volunteers, we can celebrate new partnerships with three schools in North Devon and some face to face support work has started with established parent carer support groups led by Ambassador Volunteers in Okehampton, Barnstaple and Honiton.

One Exeter SENDCO is working with an AV to start up a SEND parent carer support group in September.

In Holsworthy our AV tells us a local councillor is wanting to support their work.

Ambassador Volunteers wear many hats: most are parent carers of children with SEND, some cascade information to social media groups, some work in specialist or main stream schools, some run Community Interest Companies or Charities, others are happy to chat to other parents of children with SEND at their school. All are working very hard within their community sometimes in partnership with others and often whilst supporting their own families. They are all unique and here are some of their celebrations:

Natalie and Tracey in the North have been successful at bid writing for their group.

Sarah Lou in Honiton has won the Prince’s Award Devon 2021 - [Celebration for Sarah Lou](https://eastdevonnews.co.uk/2021/06/16/honiton-parental-minds-devon-winner-of-prince-of-wales-award-2021/#:~:text=A%20mental%20health%20champion%20from%20Honiton%20has%20been,award%20by%20Steve%20Craddock%2C%20from%20Honiton%20Health%20Matters.)