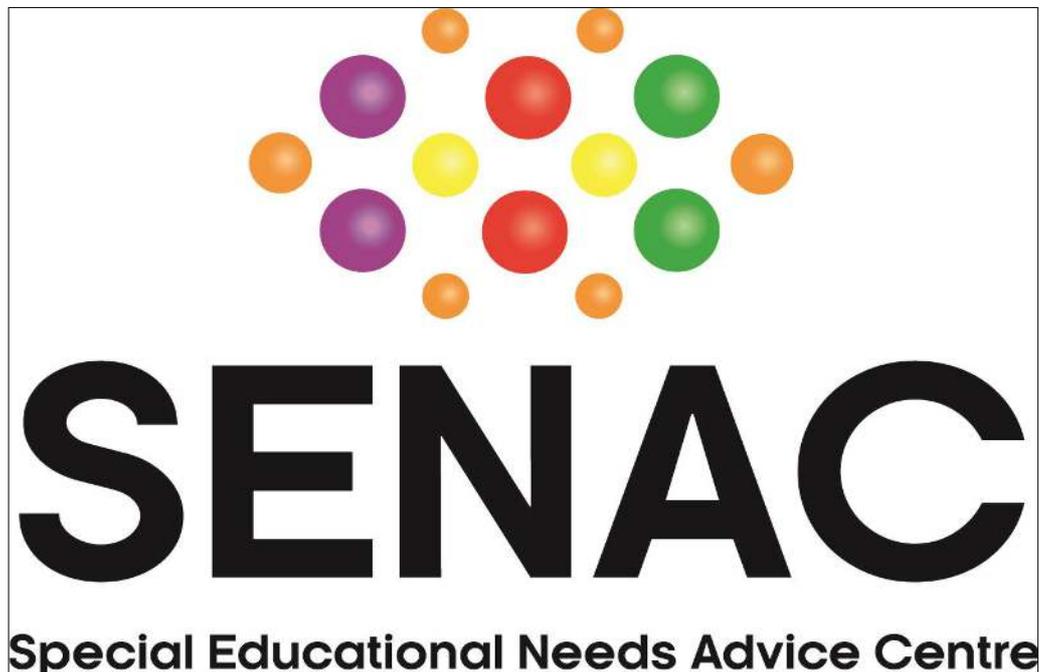


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## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ADVICE CENTRE



# Invitation to tender

**Independent evaluation of the SEN Community Support & Information Service**

**Project funded by The National Lottery Community Fund's People and Communities Programme**

August 2021

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## Special Educational Needs Advice Centre (SENAC)

SENAC is an independent charity set up in 2003 to help meet the educational needs of children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities throughout Northern Ireland (aged 0 – 19 years).

In October 2019 SENAC was successful in securing five years of funding from The National Lottery Community Fund's People and Communities Programme to deliver its SEN Community Support & Information Service.

### Project Outline

The Project delivers workshops throughout Northern Ireland to equip parents of children with special educational needs with the necessary information, knowledge and confidence to enable them to play a more meaningful role in the statutory decision-making processes used to assess and provide for their child's needs. Over 600 participants attended 31 workshops last year.

The Project is staffed by four part time employees:

Community Support & Information Officer (15 hours pw)

Education & Policy Officer (12hours pw)

Advocate (90 hours per year)

Data & Impact Officer (8 hours pw)

Through The National Lottery Community Fund, parents become more effective advocates for their children. They are also connected to SENAC's advice and advocacy services and signposted to other specialist services as appropriate. Parental experiences are used to influence policy and effect positive change on the SEN system. The funding has also provided for development of SENAC's website as a further tool for parents to access information about how the SEN system works [www.senac.co.uk](http://www.senac.co.uk)

### Independent Evaluation: Terms of Reference

The Special Educational Needs Advice Centre is seeking an independent evaluation of its **SEN Community Support and Information Service** with the following Terms of Reference:

1. To reflect the evolution and implementation of the Project, including reference to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. To locate the Project within its context of relevant current policy and research.
3. To assess the extent to which the Project has met its stated aims and objectives.

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4. To examine the impact of the Project on participants.
  5. To assess the contribution the Project has made to the aims and objectives of:
    - The National Lottery Community Fund
    - The People & Communities Programme
  6. To assess the efficiency and effectiveness with which the grant from The National Lottery Community Fund is being used for its intended purpose and the continuing need for, and relevance of this funding in the context of the overall aims and objectives of the organisation.
  7. To provide recommendations which focus on:
    - The adaptation/improvement/enhancement of the Project.
    - The future sustainability of the Project.

**The successful tender must demonstrate**

- A proven track record in carrying out evaluations in the community/voluntary sector
- Experience in evaluating projects delivered by charities
- Experience in evaluating projects which provide information or advice/advocacy/links to policy

Maximum Budget for this evaluation is £12,000 over the remaining three years of the Project

**Submission details**

Proposals should be submitted by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September July 2021** to

[heather.larkin@senac.co.uk](mailto:heather.larkin@senac.co.uk)

SENAC, Graham House, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road,

Belfast, BT8 8BH

Charity NO. NIC 101355

