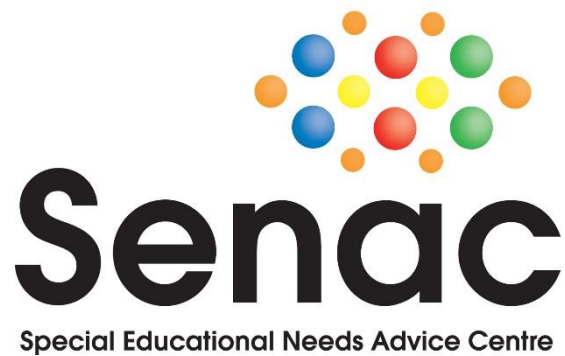


ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2019

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ADVICE CENTRE



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.

We are committed to providing the children, young people and their parents with the advice, information and assistance they require to get the best educational provision available within school for their individual needs.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION



Adele Davidson Chair Person

Our charity, the Special Educational Needs Advice Centre (SENAC) plays a vital role in providing practical information and advice on getting the right help and support in school for children with learning difficulties and special educational needs. From our inception in 2003, we have evolved and grown to deliver an independent service, ensuring children's rights and entitlements under the Special Educational Needs system are upheld and progressed and that decisions are based on the best interests of the child. The SENAC Board is pleased to present our Annual Report for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Demand for our services has grown exponentially, with an ever-increasing need for support in schools for children with learning difficulties and special educational needs. The impact of budget cuts to the education sector has had considerable adverse impact on the level and type of support and assistance available to meet the needs of these children.

The increasing demand from families and carers for our help and involvement; the support provided to social services professionals and delivery of our projects and information services all led to a very busy year for our very dedicated team. We are proud to have supported a total of 1084 families in Northern Ireland during the reporting period.

During the year the team organised what proved to be a very successful conference on 'The Impact of Trauma on Care Experienced Children'. Feedback from attendees was very receptive and positive and we extend our thanks to our keynote speaker Louise Bomber, Trauma Specialist, who travelled over from England to contribute to the event.

SENAC does not receive any statutory funding and we rely on funding from grants applications, where successful; and from voluntary donations from the public. Our appreciation and thanks is extended to all who have supported SENAC financially throughout the year. We acknowledge that demand on funders has notably increased in recent years and that SENAC has to compete with other groups in the charitable sector seeking much-needed support.

We would like to include in our thanks Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service for facilitating car washes at Cadogan and Knock Fire Stations, raising over £1,350. Also, thanks to Ulster Rugby who accommodated two bucket collections outside the Kingspan Stadium during matches which raised £1,200. We would also like to give a special mention to all who supported us through the Belfast City Marathon which raised over £3,000.

Going forward, SENAC will only be able to continue its' services if we can maintain a secure financial position and it is a priority of the Board to continue striving for suitable funding streams. Our service delivery is only as good as the team behind it. The Board is incredibly proud of the SENAC team and the dedication and expertise of all involved. Each team member goes over and above to ensure as much as can be done as possible to support children in gaining access and the right support in education. The Board is also grateful everyone who has contributed during the year in a volunteer capacity.

Adele Davidson, SENAC Chair

SENAC'S SERVICES

SEN ADVICE LINE

A confidential telephone advice service providing independent, immediate advice and information on the special educational needs system.

Funded and Supported by the Henry Smith Charity

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY SERVICE

Engaging with families, schools and the Education Authority to advocate for a child's special educational needs.

Funded and Supported by BBC Children in Need

EVERY CHANCE TO LEARN PROJECT

Support and advocacy for children and young people with special educational needs living within the care system.

Funded and Supported by the Big Lottery Fund (now National Lottery Community Fund)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INFO SERVICE

Front line information and resources to community groups and other organizations.

Funded and supported by Ulster Garden Villages, Baily Thomas Foundation, Victoria Homes Trust and Enkalon Foundation

TRIBUNAL SUPPORT AND REPRESENTATION SERVICE

Advice and representation for families appealing to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Funded and supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

SERVICE STATISTICS

APRIL 2018 – MARCH 2019

1084 ↑ **15%** **CHILDREN**

Children supported by Advice, Advocacy and Representation services



NEW CALLERS **757** ↑ **11%**



Calls to the Advice Line from parents carers and professionals

119 ↑ **4%**

Referrals from other organisations, charities and professionals

REFERRALS



WORKSHOPS+EVENTS **45** ↑ **29%**



Community Information sessions and networking events

EVERY CHANCE TO LEARN PROJECT

CHILDREN SUPPORTED

113 ↑ **13%**

APPEALS SERVICE

**"The Tribunal itself was a very intimidating complex and overwhelming experience albeit informal. There is no way I could have navigated this system without Senac."
(Parent)**

ADVOCACY SERVICE

**"Thank you very much for de-complexing our lives and helping take the pressure off us.. the tone of the meeting (Annual Review) was so much easier for me and we were able to tackle the big issues."
(Parent)**

ADVICE LINE

"It is great to know there is someone out there like SENAC that will help you with the next step of the process when you have been shutdown by everyone." (Parent)

INFORMATION SERVICE

"This has been the most informative session I have been to.. impartial, practical advice about a very difficult process. Up to now I have felt completely alone trying to navigate a system I know nothing about." (parent)

ECL PROJECT

**'You (Advocate) connected with my son's difficulties right away and understood everything which gave me peace of mind. You always listened to me when no one else did."
(Foster Carer)**

NEWS AND EVENTS

Fundraising

Belfast Marathon

In May SENAC received fantastic support once again from staff, volunteers and friends of SENAC who gave their time and energy to run and walk to raise funds for our services.

A huge thanks to the runners Relay team Gavin Devlin, Niall Adams, Claire McMahon, Niall McMahon, and Paul McCurry..... and walkers, the 'Blister Sisters' Patricia McCorry, Rosie Oakes, Fiona O'Donnell and Dee Kelly. With the generous sponsorship they received, an amazing £3000 was raised.



'Blister Sisters' L-R Fiona O'Donnell, Patricia McCorry,
Rosie Oakes and Dee Kelly



Rosie and Dee's triumphant finish

Fundraising Continued....

NIFRS Car Washes

Thanks to everyone at the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Newtownards Road Station and the Lisburn Road Station for the opportunity to hold two charity car washes. These were a great success thanks to the efforts from the fire crews, our volunteers and the terrific response from the public.

Thanks to everyone an amazing £1351 was raised.



Volunteers Betty Donnelly and Rory Oakes

Charity Collections

In October and December SENAC volunteers braved the cold and held a charity bucket collection outside the Kingspan Stadium. Thanks to Ulster Rugby for this opportunity and their support. The generosity of the Ulster Rugby fans raised a fantastic total of £1194.

Fundraising Continued....

Coffee Morning

The Ashton Family Centre in North Belfast was the venue for our charity coffee morning. We are very grateful to the Ashton Community Trust for their support with this event and were delighted to be part of their community festival. A huge thank you to SENAC's Betty Donnelly for organising the coffee morning and to all SENAC's volunteers and everyone who supported the event including the very talented bakers who provided the tasty sweet treats. We were delighted to receive £383 from the proceeds of this fun morning.



Coffee Morning at Ashton Family Centre

Thanks to everyone who fundraised throughout the year including volunteer Dee Kelly who raised £65 from a Car Boot sale.

The collective effort of everyone means we can continue to help children and young people access their education.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Donation

We were delighted to receive a very generous donation of £750 from Cardiac Services in support of our charitable activities. Fiona O'Donnell, SENAC's Community Support and Information Officer accepted the cheque for SENAC from Cardiac Service's Elaine Devlin. We are very grateful to everyone at Cardiac Services for nominating SENAC for this donation.



Fiona O'Donnell accepting the Donation from Elaine Devlin from Cardiac Services

NEWS AND EVENTS

SENAC CONFERENCE

The Impact of Trauma on Care Experienced Children and Young People and an Exploration of Strategies for Learning

In September, SENAC were delighted to welcome over 70 delegates from the Education and Health sectors to a conference on the 'Impact of Trauma on Care Experienced Children and Young People' at the Ivanhoe Hotel in Belfast.

Increasingly, we are learning of the impact of early trauma and adverse childhood experience and how such experience shapes and influences a child's life and learning. Awareness grows within health, education and government that greater consideration and understanding of the impact of childhood trauma must be applied in our interactions with children and the services and support we provide. This was particularly evident within our 'Every Chance to Learn' (ECL) project which supports the educational needs of care experienced children. To inform and raise awareness of the impact of trauma and provide information on initiatives and strategies to support learning was the motivation for our conference.

Led by Tracy Adams, SENAC's ECL Education Advocate the conference was an informative and educational day. We were delighted to welcome Louise Bombèr, Strategic Attachment Lead Teacher & Therapist and eminent *author* on Attachment who travelled from England to deliver the keynote presentation '*The Human Bridge Towards Recovery-Settling to Learn*'. We were equally delighted to be joined by EJ Havlin, NI Director of Adoption UK and Sheila Lavery, Co-ordinator of TESSA (*Therapeutic Education and Support Services in Adoption*) who completed our line up of speakers.

Conference continued.....



L-R Speakers Louise Bomber, Sheila Lavery, Tracy Adams and EJ Havliin

The conference ended with a Q and A session with our panel of speakers. Feedback from our delegates was overwhelmingly positive. We were grateful for their support and pleased the conference had been of value to a wide range of professionals who could apply the learning of the day to benefit the children and young people they work with.

THANK YOU

SENAC's charitable work is enabled and sustained by the commitment, effort and dedication of everyone who has donated, raised funds and supported the Charity. The generosity of time and funds from all who have supported SENAC is respected and appreciated.

Our Funders

A sincere thank you is expressed to all the grant making Trusts and Foundations who have provided funding to support SENAC's services and projects. As Funders of charitable activities, they are committed to investing in the lives and futures of children and young people and understand the importance of equality in education and helping children overcome the challenges they face.

Thank you to:	
BBC Children in Need	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The Big Lottery Fund (now known as the National Lottery Community Fund)	Baily Thomas Foundation
The Henry Smith Charity	Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland
Victoria Homes Trust	Ulster Garden Villages
St. Anne's Sit-Out Appeal	Enkalon Foundation

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2019		2018	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Intangible assets	7		1,084		1,444
Tangible assets	8		<u>2,817</u>		<u>3,520</u>
			3,901		4,964
Current Assets					
Cash in bank and at hand		<u>83,580</u>		<u>76,502</u>	
		83,580		76,502	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(4,973)</u>		<u>(2125)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>78,607</u>		<u>74,377</u>
Net assets			82,508		79,341
Capital and reserves					
Unrestricted funds	10		9,472		8,238
Restricted funds	10		73,036		71,103
General Funds			82,508		79,341

The financial statement was approved by the Board on 4th October 2019

2019 Additional Financial Information

		2019	2019	2019
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Year
		Funds	Funds	Total
Incoming Resources	Notes	£	£	£
From generated funds:		10,232		
Voluntary income:				
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4		151,688	
Total Incoming Resources				161,920
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds:	5	(4669)	(154,084)	
Costs of charitable activities				(158,753)
Total Resources expended				