

Newsletter

Issue 4  
May 2026



## Welcome to the latest newsletter from SENAC!

We continue to look at the implementation of the SEND transformation programme and give our thanks to a generous local company.

### SEND Reform and SEN Transformation Programme Update

The SEND Reform Agenda and Delivery Plan announced by the Education Minister last year continues at pace to address the issues and challenges within education which still present barriers to SEN provision.

The full implementation of reform and the new statutory SEN framework requires amendment to the 2005 SEN Regulations and a new Code of Practice which will replace the currently operative 1998 Code which are the statutory guidelines. The amended 2026 SEN Regulations are currently under the scrutiny and consideration of the NI Assembly Education Committee.

### Public Consultation on classroom support model

The Education Authority has launched a public consultation on the Enhanced Support Model, part of the SEND Transformation Programme, which is set to be introduced in schools in September 2026. The Model aims to give schools a school-led, multidisciplinary approach, giving schools more flexibility on decision-making in relation to SEN interventions and provision. Key to the success of this model is building staff capacity and ensuring schools have a SEN team with the specialist skills and ability to provide the necessary SEN support. This model will be reliant on recruitment, training and staff development. To accommodate this growth and development within a school's workforce there will be a phased roll-out of the new Support Model.

There are concerns around the readiness of schools to deliver the Model as well as the lack of clarity on the Education Authority's role on SEN provision and legal responsibilities. This is an important consultation to seek clarity and assurance that children will receive the level and type of support required for their individual needs.

The consultation is open until 22nd May 2026.

[For further information on the Enhanced Support Model and to take part in the consultation click here](#)

### Meeting with Claire Hanna MP

A delegation from SENAC met Claire Hanna MP at the end of April to discuss how the crisis in special education support in Northern Ireland impacts families and children, and to raise concerns about aspects of the SEND Transformation process. Claire reaffirmed her ongoing support for improvements in SEN provision and noted the lack of statutory funding for family support and advocacy. SENAC has been meeting with representatives of all the Northern Ireland political parties and will continue to do so.

### Thanks to Jenkinson's Logistics

SENAC was delighted to receive a donation of £1,000 from Jenkinson Logistics. Jenkinson Logistics is an independent Irish company specialising in freight forwarding. They make a charity donation every year and ask their staff to nominate a charity to receive support. Staff member Terry Woods nominated SENAC saying 'We have got some advice from SENAC in the past and we have recommended you to family friends that you are currently helping.'

**SENAC are incredibly grateful for the support we receive. If you work for an organisation that champions local charities, we warmly encourage you to consider supporting us as well. Your contribution will make a meaningful difference to lives of children with special educational needs and disabilities.**

### Do you shop at Tesco?

#### Please help Special Educational Needs Advice Centre win a £1,000 donation!

By signing up to easyfundraising you can raise a cashback donation for us every time you shop online - at no extra cost!

As an extra bonus if you shop online at Tesco or F&F Clothing during May every shop equals some extra funding for us AND an entry into the £1,000 donation draw!

Thank you so much!

[Click here to shop through Easyfundraising all year round. If you choose to shop online with Tesco during May, SENAC will be in with a chance to win £1000!](#)

### Supporting the SEN Community: Stronger Together

For over 20 years, our charity has supported families of children with special educational needs and disabilities. We strive to build meaningful relationships and partnerships with other organisations, community groups and family support networks.

Building a strong, informed SEN community is fundamental to our charitable mission. Through our advice and information services, and our collaboration with others, we help parents access clear, reliable information, build their confidence to take action, and feel connected, so that no-one has to navigate the SEN system alone. By working together we broaden our reach, connecting with more families throughout Northern Ireland and increasing the impact of our work. Sharing our specialist SEN knowledge we also support other organisations to strengthen their services, empowering their staff to further help the families they work with.

How we do this:

- Our Community Support and Information Service develops and maintains links with community and family support groups throughout Northern Ireland, delivering SEN workshops and sharing information and advice to parents and carers.
- Signposting to other trusted local services and supports. You will find a comprehensive list on SENAC's website under useful links.
- We work closely with other organisations on policy matters strengthening our voice and impact to represent the experiences of the families using our services.
- SENAC is represented on Family Support Hubs, Policy Forums, the NI Assembly All-Party Group on Disability, Children in Northern Ireland, and other collaborative groups.
- Our advocacy and appeal services work closely with social workers, family support workers and professionals within health and education.

**SENAC is a small charity working on behalf of any child with special educational needs in Northern Ireland. We welcome support from anyone who wants to make a donation or hold a fundraiser for us. Simply click this box to donate, or support our work**

**Advice Line - 028 9079 5779 Monday -Friday 10am -1pm**



**Our mailing address is:**

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[www.senac.co.uk](http://www.senac.co.uk)

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