

Local Area Newsletter



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

In this newsletter

- ★ Find out what life is like as a social worker
- ★ The journey of the Inclusion Charter
- ★ Improvements with the Local Offer
- ★ And much more

2nd Edition
January 2019



Welcome to the second edition

Our focus over the last six months has been to continue working collaboratively with our partners to ensure we continuously improve our services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families. Whenever we work with you, we always welcome feedback, so you can let us know how we are doing. We continue to work on improving processes and listening to what you say. To this effect we are:

- **Simplifying and improving our paperwork.** The development of the SEND Guidance Booklet which lays out what to expect during the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) cycle. Simplifying and clarifying formal letters, improving the layout of the EHCP.
- **The Local Offer has been refreshed** to make it more user friendly and informative. This includes details of the roles and responsibilities of all those involved with SEND across agencies, to help our families to better know who's who.
- **Setting up an auditing process for EHCPs with the support of our Educational Psychologists** for families within the Education, Health and Care needs assessment process.
We have set up an online survey for families to provide feedback on their experience, which helps us to shape our services.
- **Making our Children and Young People Disabilities Resource Panel more transparent** and will be inviting Headteacher representatives on a 1 year tenure to join the panel.
- **Our SEND Consultant, together with our new Area Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) for schools** will be continuing to work with schools to support Inclusion across the local authority. Implementing a wide ranging training programme for schools following consultation with SENCos.
- **Working to improve our Annual Review processes so transitions are smoother.** Our new Annual Review Coordinator will continue to improve processes, set up training for education providers and will work collaboratively with the Preparing for Adulthood team to improve the transition process for children age 14 years +.
- **Employing an additional** Assessment Coordinator specialising in 'Preparing for Adulthood'.
- **Continuing to work with our specialist settings and outreach services** to enable us to offer a clear, joined-up provision across Ascot, Windsor and Maidenhead.



“2019 is bound to see even more co-production and further improvements to our processes. The start of our new Area SENCo starting in January will certainly get the year off to a positive start. “

The Inclusion Charter: Key Moments

In **April 2018**, our first annual **Inclusion Summit** was held where the Inclusion Charter was launched. The audience participated in an interactive exercise and based on the feedback collated the Inclusion Charter was adapted to be more **user friendly**.

May and June 2018 the Inclusion Charter was presented to a **focus group** of children and young people. Based on their feedback the Inclusion Charter was amended before being finalised. This was then presented to Head Teachers and Governors.

August 2018 over **300 copies** of the Inclusion Charter were printed to be displayed in public areas. You will find the Inclusion Charter in the Town Hall, children's centres, youth centres, leisure centre's, libraries, GP surgeries and schools.

July 2018, St Mary's Datchet CoE Primary Academy and Churchmead School worked with their students to **create two short films**, explaining why inclusion is so important in their respective schools. These films are available to view on the Local Offer.

September 2018 the Inclusion Charter was **officially** launched. Our schools released the Inclusion Charter along with the short films in their school assemblies; and **Cllr Natasha Airey** delivered a speech at the full council meeting where she asked the whole council to adopt the Inclusion Charter - and they did.

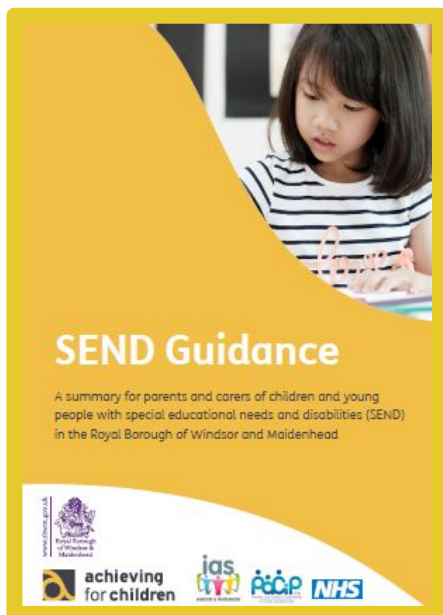
October and November 2018 we have been busy continuously promoting the Inclusion Charter throughout all local services within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead through our communication plan. Our **SEND Consultant**, Helen Huntley, is supporting schools to embed the principles of the Charter in everyday school life.

December 2018, a card of the Inclusion Charter was created for children, young people and their families. We hope that this will help to empower them, so they know at all times what to expect from our services. We will continue to distribute these cards and to promote the Inclusion Charter throughout **2019** and beyond.

The New SEND Guidance Booklet

We released the long awaited SEND Guidance Booklet detailing how we work with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The booklet has been co-produced by parents, PaCiP, Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS), Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Service, NHS.



An excellent testament of **inter-organisation work**, to produce a document that will aid and benefit numerous families in the Royal Borough. The document aims to take you through the **various pathways you might experience** if your child has special educational needs and/or disabilities. More detailed information is available from the Local Offer website. Some children with SEND may need an education, health and care plan (EHCP). They **have replaced statements** of special educational needs and support children up to the age of 25. An EHCP identifies education, health and social care needs, and sets out the **additional support needed to meet those needs**. Where educational need is the primary need, the intention is to have just one plan.

We have seen an amazing response from our community, with **over 250 downloads** seen since the release.



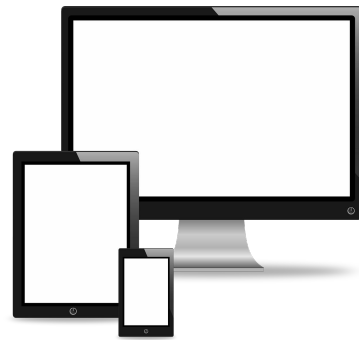
“The intention is to provide detailed, accurate and consistent information for families and professionals.”

Helen Cross | SEND Business Manager

SEND Local Offer: What's New?

We have recently made changes to our Local Offer. We have now created News/ What's On section, keeping our community updated with all the latest activities and changes. An inclusion charter video made by Churchmead School and St Mary's Datchet Academy. We have created new feedback forms to help us improve the website further. We have added new website banner images. Alongside a news carousel with all the latest events info.

The local offer website has been updated with new content for you to check out. Useful documents. Films and new activities around the area from dance classes to sensory cinema screenings. We aim to incorporate a guest blog, with help from professionals/young people/families.



The Local Offer brings together information about services for children and young people (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families, helping you to see what services are available and how to access them.

*We are continually engaging with children, young people, parents and carers through a range of consultation groups and forums so that families can actively shape and improve the Local Offer and to make sure local offer is right for you. **Our aim is to be able to work together in co production to create a collaborative resource for all to access. If you are interested please contact our team, details listed below.***

CONTACT US

E: local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk

T: 01628 685878

W: directory.rbwm.gov.uk/localoffer

Local Offer: Competition Winners

In October and November 2018 we ran a design a website banner competition for the our Local Offer website. With over 20,000 visits a month, it was a great chance for the children and young people with SEND to showcase their skills to the whole Borough.

Nosheen Zaman, age 24.

I have global learning disability and ASD. I am from Maidenhead and went to Ellington School, Newlands and after Year 9 I moved to Holyport Manor (Manor Green). I met Colin Symons at Connexions many years ago, helped me decide my college choice. I applied to the East Berkshire College in Windsor where I studied the personal options program.

Tell us more about the colours and design of your banner?

I chose red for the writing as it makes me happy. It stands out. The tree means growth and nature. The rainbow hand is a good way to show inclusion and equality. My mum helped me, we designed it on Microsoft Publisher.

What do you think of our local offer website?

It is easy to use but i would like to see more pictures and colours

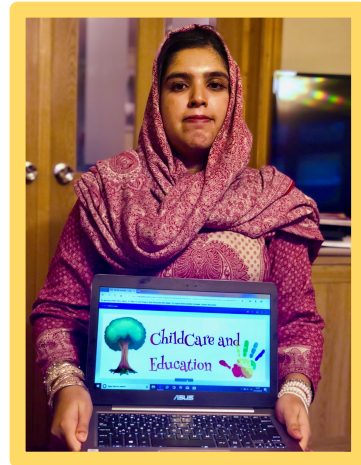
Favourite Digital device: iPad

Favourite food: Pizza

Favourite movie: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Favourite book : Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Favourite place: Boyn Grove Community Centre all the staff are very helpful and understanding. Especially Joanne Werrett, Tracey Hurley and Sally Smith.



Jamie Sutton, age 19.

I have learning difficulties and I am on the mild end of the Autism spectrum. I am from Maidenhead and went to Cox Green School for a short while. I moved to the Green Room School in Windsor four years ago and I absolutely love it here.

Tell us more about the colours and design of your banner?

The arrows represent moving forward in life. The Owls signify the wiseness of the teachers. I decided to make the writing bold so it is easy to read. I looked for royalty free images and added them in to make it accessible for youngsters. I went for a universal colour scheme, because the Local Offer is inclusive of everyone.

What do you think of our local offer website?

Variety of very useful information, I'd like to see more visual elements added. Maybe aim it more for young adults too.

Favourite Digital device: iPad

Favourite food: Chicken Tikka Masala

Favourite movie: Labyrinth

Favourite game: Planet Coaster

Useful place: 4 Marlow Road, the Youth Services have some great resources.



Preparing for Adulthood: Updates

We held two Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) events **to support local young people with SEND** in their preparation for the future. The events took place at 4 Marlow Road youth centre on the 27 September 2018 from 1-7pm and Oakbridge Community Centre in Windsor on Saturday 13 October 10-1pm.



The event was led by the PfA team within the Children and Young People Disability Service under Achieving for Children. **We held a working group** which included parents and carers in partnership, local school, college, adult services, and health and parent representation.

The aim of the event was to allow all young people and their families within the local authority who have an Education, Health and Care Plan to **make informed choices about their future**. This allowed them to work towards outcomes related to employment, independent living, community inclusion and health.

We had over **one hundred people** attend the events which garnered an emphatically positive response via a feedback form that was available on the day. We intend to make this an annual event to support young people in their preparation towards adult life.

On the day we had

- ✓ **Support from young people** to run the refreshments area.
- ✓ We created a questionnaire to ask what sort of information families would like to have at the event
- ✓ From the feedback **we contacted providers who attended on the day**. Such as ReMap, Parity for Disability and BCA

Pupil Premium: Summer Camp in July 2018

The three day Summer Active Transition Camp at Altwood School was run by RBWM, Achieving for Children and the Ascot and Maidenhead School Sport Partnership. Sponsored by The Spoore Merry and Rixman Foundation.

The three-day programme was held from Wednesday to Friday (July 25 to 27) and 90 specially selected year five and six pupils took part for free.

The aim was to help children build up their confidence, learn to deal with friendships breaking down and voice their concerns about moving on to secondary school. Improve personal development skills – i.e. self confidence, self belief, determination, personal best, and willingness to try something new.

Activities included mountain biking, street dance, a fitness circuit, a climbing wall as well as confidence and team building challenges. There was also a reward scheme based on values with a prize-giving ceremony held each day attended by parents and family members.



- ✓ Building confidence
- ✓ Making friends
- ✓ Developing skills



Cllr Natasha Airey, lead member for children's services for the Royal Borough, said:

“Over the three days the pupils benefited from high quality sporting activities promoting healthy lifestyles, which aim to improve their personal development skills, self-confidence, determination, and willingness to try something new.”

Helen Huntley: SEND Consultant



I am the newly appointed SEND Consultant who has been working for RBWM (AFC) since September. I have recently retired after 11 years of Headship at Haybrook College. I worked as the Deputy Headteacher at Manor Green School and 14 years as Cox Green SENCo so it does feel as though I am returning to my 'roots'.

We have **appointed an area SENCo**.. Kelly Nash who is currently a SENCo working in a primary multi academy trust in Buckinghamshire. Unlike the Early Years SENCo, this is not a statutory position and we are very confident that she will **be a huge support** for school based SENCos.

Three sessions have been organised for SENCos. There is a clear focus **on empowering SENCos** to work with their staff to further build capacity within their schools meeting the needs of Children and Young People with SEND. **These will all be at Sports Able. Timings are 1.30 to 4.30pm** There will be a 15 minute update on SEND, **two hours training** and 30 minutes will be a local **school sharing good practice**.. In addition to this two, sessions have been delivered to newly appointed SENCos.

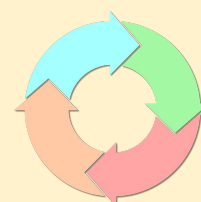
This next one will be on **January 24th at 3.30pm** with a focus on SEND funding and the process for an EHCP application.

1. **Thursday 19 November:** SEMH led by myself with the school practice being delivered by Haybrook College.
2. **Wednesday 16 January:** ASD led by Shine with the school practice being delivered by Furze Platt Infant School.
3. **Wednesday 13 March:** tbc

The **Inclusion charter** was created last Easter and it is my role to support schools in embedding this. We have had one meeting already and a second one took place on **Thursday 6 December at 2.00pm** in the Council Chambers.

The initial thoughts are that we create an **Inclusion Mark** which is focused on: **The leadership of Inclusion. Quality First Teaching**. This will then be awarded following a visit from myself, a RBWM Headteacher representative and a RBWM SEND specialist. An audit tool is currently being developed to support this process.

Schools have been given the opportunity to create an **"Invest to Save"** initiative to support the increasing numbers of young people with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) **difficulties in our secondary schools** and with an Asperger's Spectrum Disorder (ASD diagnosis in our primary schools. A business plan template has been **circulated to all Headteachers** to consider this. These plans will be considered by Headteacher and SENCos who have been involved with the Workstream 4 of the SEND Statement for Action. School Forum will endorse any recommendation made.



Health: multi agency audit news

East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in partnership with Slough Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Council, Achieving for Children on behalf of RBWM, the local Parent Forums and Berkshire Health Care Foundation Trust (BHFT) have established a rolling programme of multi agency audits.

Multi Agency audits of EHC plans are considered to be

- An effective way of providing assurance,
- To identify what is going well
- To determine any areas of improvements.

The audits provide:

Constructive feedback to the health economy, to the local authorities, children and young people and/or parents/carers and schools as appropriate. Themes arising are presented at the East Berkshire SEND group and local SEND groups to influence work streams, enable continuous improvement.

An important part of the audit is to share learning across the partnerships. During 2018, two audits have been completed.

The audit days were **successful**; there was evidence of close collaboration between the auditors multi agency working was one of the most **positive aspects** of the day. The audit allowed practitioners, professionals and parents across East Berkshire to connect with other teams

The **substantial amount** of effort organising a multi agency audit and the audit team gratefully acknowledges that there was a lot of **behind the scenes** work to gather the EHC plans for the audit, ensure consent and preparation for the day by many members of the team.

Good Practice Quotes: EHCP writer captured the child as a person rather than a diagnosis or list of problems Lots of information about individual needs of the child – described well.

Areas identified for improvement: Capturing young person's voice and aspirations, transition planning and outcomes. **As a result of the audits, "A Berkshire wide co-produced training event is in planning to be held early 2019"**. This event will be open to professionals and to parent/carer representatives and will present learning and sharing of good practice from the multiagency EHCP audits across Berkshire. The Head of SEND (achieving for children) and Designated Clinical Officer jointly updated GPs during their training afternoon 25th September about the many activities and progress of the SEND agenda The Council for Disabled Children and National Preparing for Adulthood Team have agreed to co-ordinate this training with financial input from SE19.





Charlotte Lee tells us about life as a social worker

What does your job involve?

I am a Newly Qualified Social Worker in the Children and Young People, Disability Service (CYPDS). I work with families at various different levels of intervention, including children and young people who are in care, as well as with some families who are on Child in Need plans.

I am also responsible for conducting Single Assessments, which involves assessing a family's level of need, and signposting on to appropriate services, as well as some Section 47 (Child Protection) enquiries when we have significant concerns about a child's well-being. My role involves a lot of liaising with various different agencies and professionals, including health, education, and the police.

What do you enjoy about your role?

I love working with people, and although the role can be challenging, it is enjoyable. I like being out during the day, visiting families and interacting with people, and no two days are the same. There is a lot of variety and I am learning new things everyday.

Can you tell us how you got into this role?

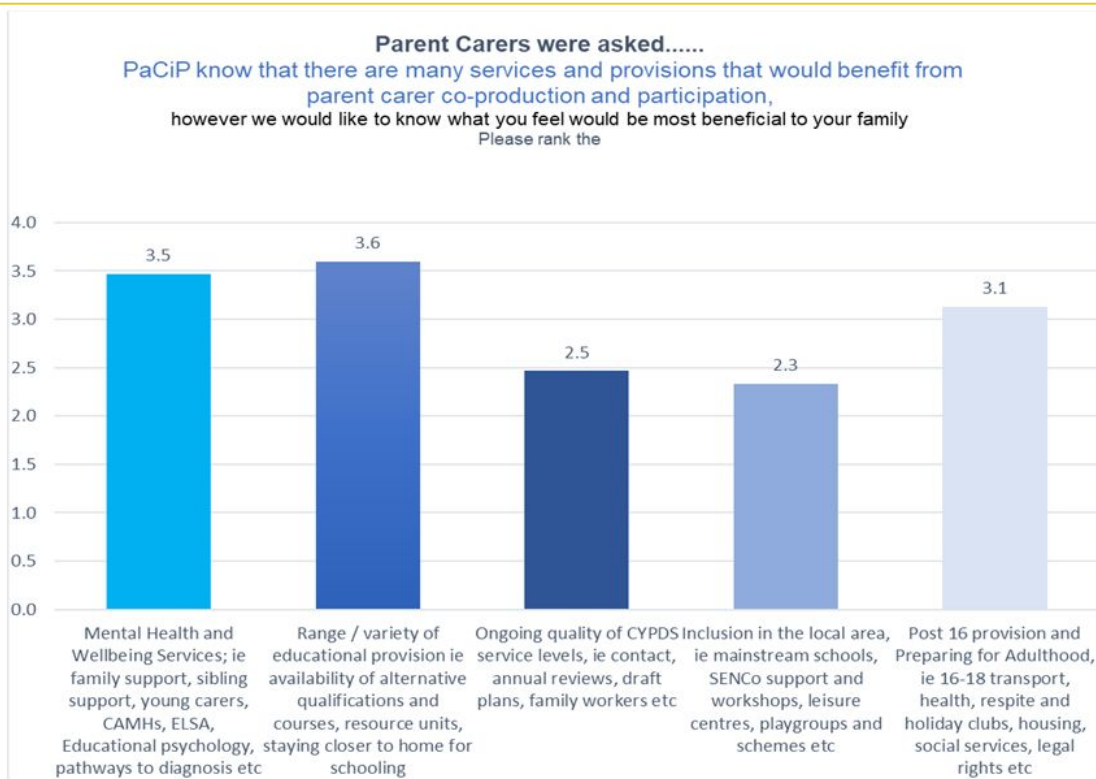
- I completed a graduate scheme in local government, where I worked as a Project Manager across various departments.
- As part of this programme, I was placed in a Children's Services team, where I led an improvement project for children in care and care leavers.
- I began thinking about social work as a career at this point, but soon after completing the scheme I got a job at The Prince's Trust, managing a research project about how the Trust could improve outcomes for the care leavers that it supports. I loved this job, and it re-ignited my passion for supporting young care leavers to reach their potential.
- However, I realised that the further I got into project management and strategy work, the further away I was getting from the front-line services and young people, which is ultimately who I wanted to support.
- I decided to apply for Frontline, which is a two-year accelerated social work training programme. It's been very intense - completing an MSc in Social Work as well as completing my assessed and supported year in employment (ASYE) portfolio as well as working full-time is demanding to say the least! But I'm so happy that I chose this route - I love the work that I do and I'm part of a brilliant team, who are really supportive of each other.

PaCiP: Updates

PaCiP is the **parent carer forum** for Windsor and Maidenhead and we provide a service for parents and carers of children and young people 0-25 years, with any special educational needs and disabilities, with or without a diagnosis, with or without an EHCP and in any, or no educational placement. **September** saw PaCiP holding it's 2nd annual family awareness day inviting parents, carers and special guests to say thank you for all the amazing participation and **co-production and participation** they have been involved in, to find out how things have changed during the past year and also to raise awareness of the volunteering role the forum plays.

We've been sitting around many tables talking to service providers about the services and provision our children and young people access and how they can be more effective, this is just a small taster. We are on the **SEND steering board** and have met with the Department for Education and NHS England to give feedback one year after the Local Area SEND inspection. We've been looking at the new Education, Health and Care Plan paperwork with Achieving for Children. We're involved in planning the **2019 Inclusion Summit**

If you would like to become a member and find out more about how you can get involved in improving the services and provision for children and young people with SEND, then please **email us at membership@pacip.org**



Information & Advice Service:

Meet Emma Cobbold



The IAS (Information, Advice and Support) Service provides free, impartial and confidential advice to parents and young people (up to the age of 25) who live in RBWM and have or may have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). IAS also works directly with children and young people to help represent their views.



My name is Emma. I work with Children and Young People who have disabilities or need extra help in School or College. My support is impartial, which means I don't take sides. I can give you information, advice and support about anything involving your special educational needs.

Where I live: Windsor

Pets: One dog, one cat, two terrapins and tropical fish

Favourite food: Pepperoni pizza

What helps me in my job?

Writing things down so I don't forget them!

Making lists so I feel organised.

What I like:

Being with friends & family

Helping other people

What I dislike:

When people are upset

Waiting in queues

How you can contact me:

T: 01628 796990 or 07966 429403

E: emma.cobbold@rbwm.gov.uk

Everyone Matters



We believe that all children and young people in Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead, including those with additional needs, have the right to be included in local services, so they can thrive and reach their potential.

Inclusion Charter for children and young people

This charter sets out what all children and young people should expect when accessing services

Services welcome and value all children, young people and their families to...	So you can....
Make sure that you feel listened to and treated with respect	Have your say and feel safe
Work together to understand and support any reasonable adjustments that you may need	Belong to a community, such as your local school, leisure centre, club, etc
Talk with you and your family to help us understand your needs and solve problems together	Feel understood and helped to achieve your best
Speak to other professionals who support you, so you only have to tell your story once	Tell someone what you want to achieve and how we can help

Understanding equality, diversity and inclusion (Equality Act 2010)



If you would like to provide feedback on this local area newsletter edition email

local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk