

# Local Area Newsletter



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

**3rd**

**Edition**

**June 2019**

## In this newsletter

- ★ Find out about the Inclusion Summit 2019
- ★ The launch of the new local offer website
- ★ How you can sign up to the disability register
- ★ And much more



# Inclusion Summit



We are delighted to invite you to attend the second Inclusion Summit which has been co-produced by local education, social care, health and parents and carers.

Be part of the journey about how we are coming together to make the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead a positive beacon of inclusion for children and young people (0 to 25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities.

With a national perspective and local context, this event will inform, engage and inspire.

If you are a parent or carer with a child or young person with additional needs, a service provider, educator, community leader or someone who works with children and young people your voice will add to the event.

During the summit, there will be presentations on:

- local health, education and social care
- the Inclusion Charter – the journey so far
- the Inclusion Quality Mark
- an update on the regeneration for RBWM
- what our next steps are for inclusion within the borough

## Tuesday 24 September 2019

Registration at 9.00am, summit 9.45am to 1.00pm

**RBWM Town Hall, Maidenhead SL6 2RA**

### Guest speaker:

David Bartram OBE Director, Prescient Education

For more information, please visit [www.prescienteducation.co.uk](http://www.prescienteducation.co.uk)

Space is limited, so register now. Please contact:

[inclusionsummit@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:inclusionsummit@achievingforchildren.org.uk)



# SEND Local Offer: Rethink, Refresh, Reboot

The **brand new** Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) **Local Offer website** has launched successfully. The site is where everyone can find out about services for children and young people and their families across the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The new web address is:

[www.rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/local\\_offer](http://www.rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer). There are a whole host of new things, from **Google Maps** function when searching in the directory. To a '**what's on calendar**' listing all the events from around the Borough. Users will need to update their favourite bookmarks as the old site will no longer be available.

We will be rolling out further sections over the coming months such as the expanded **Young People's website**. The final section will be the **Community Information area**. This will provide information for the wider community of parents, carers and community partners including childcare providers



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.

## Why not sign up?

We have now added the new feature whereby organisations can register as '**Provider Administrators**.' This allows you to add events to our calendar, amend your listings and upload files/costs/timings. [rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/website\\_users/sign\\_up](http://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/website_users/sign_up)

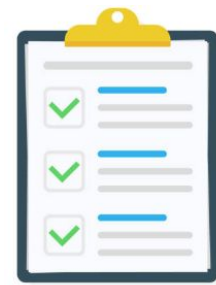
## CONTACT US

E: [local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

T: 01628 685878

W: [rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/local\\_offer](http://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer)

# Disability Register: Sign up



The Disability Register is a list of children and young people aged 0 to 25 who live within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) who have a disability and who receive, or may one day need to use the services from health, social services, education or voluntary organisations. This allows us to work more closely together to identify and plan for children and young people with disabilities and their parents/ carers.

## The register enables services to:

- Identify gaps in provision for children and young people with disabilities and their parents or carers
- Plan services to meet the needs of children and young people with disabilities and their parents or carers
- Plan work around the Year 9 Transition Review (for children who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP))
- Plan services for when children and young people with disabilities leave school

The register also forms the basis of a mailing list to inform and consult with children and their parents or carers about new and existing services, gaps in services, changes to benefits, holiday schemes and other activities.

Registration is on a voluntary basis and no child or young person will be registered without parental consent. Registration is not required in order to receive any services. However, the more that is known about children and young people with disabilities in RBWM, the more effectively services can be planned. Please note that registration does not mean that a child or young person is eligible for services.

To be included on the register, a child or young person should be:

- under 25
- Resident in RBWM or the responsibility of RBWM
- Able to be registered under one of the primary disability categories

## Primary disability categories:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (for example ADHD, ODD)
- Developmental delay
- Hearing impairment
- Learning difficulty/disability
- Medical
- Multiple sensory impairment (such as hearing and sight loss)
- Physical disability
- Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)
- Speech, language and communication difficulties
- Severe learning difficulties
- Visual impairment

If you would like more information about the Disability Register or would like to register your child or young person, please send enquiries to: Suki Hayes-Lapham

Email:

[suki.hayes-lapham@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:suki.hayes-lapham@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

Telephone: 01628 685878



# The Max Card: What is it?

The Max Card can be provided to children, young people and young adults (0-25 years), living in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, with additional needs, whether it is a physical, sensory, or a learning disability. The Max Card is a 'credit card size' card which can be shown to certain organisations as proof of your child or young person's disability. Families will also benefit from **discounts** at **over 800 attractions** nationwide. A full list of supporting attractions can be seen at [My Max Card](#).



This is a **new service** offered by Achieving for Children, through the Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS) and there will be **no personal cost** to families for this card.

When you register for a Max Card the information you provide will:

- Help us maintain the **Disability Register**
- **Support our planning** for future services and identify any gaps in current service provision for children and young people with additional needs.
- Ensure that families with a child or young person with additional needs are **kept fully informed** of issues that may affect them, and to advise them of relevant new services and opportunities.

If your child or young person (0-18 years) does not have an EHCP, you will need to provide evidence of your child or young person's additional need/ disability e.g. GP or CAMHS letter or proof of DLA. Adults aged 18 – 25 years who do not have an EHCP, will need to contact Adult Social Care, Optalis.

If you would like further information about the Max Card or would like to register for one, please send enquiries to:

**Suki Hayes- Lapham**

**Email: [maxcard@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:maxcard@achievingforchildren.org.uk)**

**Telephone: 01628 685878**

# Inclusion Mark: A way forward

In **September 2018** we began the task of creating an **Inclusion Mark** which would enable schools to demonstrate their **commitment to the Inclusion Charter** through having their inclusive practice recognised and celebrated. This would **support families** (and children and young people) when deciding which school to choose for their child's education. This is such an important decision and one which all parents take seriously, but particularly important if your child has a special educational need.



Since then, a group of **Headteachers and SENCo's** have met to create an **audit tool** which supports this process. The focus has been on the **leadership** of inclusion: the leadership shown by Governors. Headteachers, SENCos, teaching and support staff, families and carers and of course, **children and young people**. The school completes the audit which would then be used as evidence of their inclusive practice through an accreditation process.

It was decided that the **accrediting panel** created to support this, would be made up of a **Local Authority (LA) representative**, and importantly, a **Headteacher** and **SENCo** from a **local school**. As well as supporting the accreditation process, this would provide great Continuing Professional Development for these staff. The opportunity to share **outstanding inclusive practice** across schools in the Borough was seen to be an important element of the accreditation process. The Headteacher and SENCo could vary from one Panel to the next, but the LA representative involved would be the same person, ensuring a **level of consistency and moderation**.

We trialled what we had created in a couple of schools this term before it is **"going live"** during the 2019/20 academic year.

We visited a **secondary school** last month and are going into a **primary school** later in June.

The schools are asked to **complete the audit tool** and we also ask that a range of activities take place on the day that we visit. These **include talking to young people** about their school and gauging the views of the **parents / carers** about their experience of the school; crucial to the whole process. In addition, we ask to **meet the SEND governor**, headteacher and a range of other staff. We observe lessons, particularly those in which there are children with **Education Health and Care Plans** to ensure that "reasonable adjustments" are being made and that all pupils are able to access the lesson and make progress.

The trial has already provided **an invaluable insight** to ensure that the process is as robust as we want it to be. By the end of the term we will be in a position to launch the accreditation process and we already have a secondary school who wants us to visit next term to allow them to achieve the Mark.

## Why we didn't buy into an existing franchise?

1. It is expensive, school budgets are under real pressure
2. There would be no opportunity for the professional development. Professionals will visit the schools but not RBWM staff which we have already seen the benefit of.

We are looking forward to the launch and getting the process started.

**Helen Huntley | SEND Consultant**

# Updates: Preparing for Adulthood & Early Years

**The Preparing for Adulthood team** have a summer transition scheme they are running for young people who are going to college but have high anxiety. This is in conjunction with other Achieving for Children teams within the borough, such as the Well-being Service, Educational Psychology Service and Youth Services.

The Transition event for young people and their parents/carers is planned to be held on October 10th at the Town Hall. There will be a number of colleges, support agencies and other professionals attending to provide information about education/employment, health, community inclusion and independent living. More information will come out in the near future.

If you would like more information you can contact the Preparing for Adulthood team via email: [CYPDS@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:CYPDS@achievingforchildren.org.uk) or Call: 01628 686878



**The Early Years SEND team** is available to support settings who educate 2 – 4 year olds with all SEND related matters. This year we have supported over 80 children providing practitioners with individualised strategies to help them to access the Early Years curriculum successfully and at a developmentally appropriate level. 45 children have also been allocated Early Years inclusion funding to help meet their individual needs. This funding has been used, for example, to fund the purchase of sensory resources, individual training sessions, speech and language therapy sessions and staff time to carry out interventions such as the Attention Autism programme and Lego therapy.

The team also organised a highly successful conference on Wednesday 5th June for 50 Early Years practitioners from Private, Voluntary and Independent settings and maintained Nursery classes across Ascot, Windsor and Maidenhead. There was a range of diverse workshops on offer including working with parents, smooth transitions for children with ASC and meditation. Other agencies such as SHINE and Parenting Special Children contributed to these.

Feedback was wholly positive with evaluations commenting on how planning first for children with SEND will benefit the provision for all children alongside managing challenging behaviours.

Contact the Early Years team: Call 01628 682961 or Email: [rbwm.earlyyears-childcare@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:rbwm.earlyyears-childcare@achievingforchildren.org.uk)



# Meet the staff



**Children and Young People's  
Disability Service (CYPDS)**

## Paola Connolly | 0-16 EHCP Manager

### **What does your job involve?**

My role as an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Manager entails having a sound knowledge of Special Educational Needs legislation, it requires me to develop and maintain mutually productive relationships with colleagues across the Children and Young People Disability Service teams, partner agencies such as schools, colleges and other education settings, health professionals but most importantly children, young people and their families. I have the responsibility for managing the Assessment Coordinators in the SEND team.

### **What do you enjoy about your role?**

I enjoy making a positive difference by working with professionals to ensure children and young people with SEND achieve their potential through their intended outcomes.

### **Can you tell us how you got into this role?**

I got into this role because of my knowledge of SEND legislation, experience and passion regarding Education Health and Care assessments, plans and related casework.

## Christina Hall | EHCP Assessment Coordinator

### **What does your job involve?**

My job is to coordinate and devise Education, Health and Care plans by liaising with multiple families and professionals to gather information about a child or young person's special educational needs in order to provide a detailed and comprehensive plan. My role requires me to have transparency with other professionals to ensure children and young people are supported in their current educational setting.

### **What do you enjoy about your role?**

I enjoy going out into the community meeting children and young people and families helping build those close working relationships. It's great working with schools that are allocated to me, as i am able to attend events and meet new faces.

### **Tell us a fun fact about yourself?**

I am massive Disney fan. My favourite movie being the Lion King, I've seen the movie over a thousand times and the theatre production in the West End over nine times.



# Health: SEND Participation Event

## SEND Participation Event

Tuesday 22nd October 2019 10am - 2pm @  
SportsAble, Braywick Road, Maidenhead SL6 1BN

An event co produced by SEND young people for SEND young people

NHS East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bracknell Forest Council, Achieving for Children (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Slough Borough Council and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust are working with KIDS and the Council for Disabled Children to hold an event to gather views from SEND young people about how to best involve SEND young people to impact and shape services and policy decision

This is part of a national programme funded by the Department for Education. As part of this work, we are holding an event to engage with SEND young people, to gather their ideas on what currently works and the best way to involve them to shape services and policy decisions that directly affects and impacts on them. The event is for SEND young people with an Education, Health and Care plan and between the ages of 11 – 17 years. The information gathered from the day will be used to create an action plan for change and will be shared with key decision makers from across Health and Local Authorities (LAs). The involvement of educational settings is key to this events success and in order to reach SEND young people all education setting have been invited to submit an expression of interest to bring young people to this event.

**If you have any questions about the event please contact: [sharon.ballantyne@nhs.net](mailto:sharon.ballantyne@nhs.net)**



# Summer activities around RBWM

About	Date	Time
<b>Inclusive Thai Chai Martial Arts Taster</b> - SportsAble. Call: 01628 627690	28th June	11am - 12pm
<b>Pokemon Club at BCA College</b> - The Autism Group Call: 07454 375071	6th July & 3rd August	2pm - 4.30pm
<b>Woodland Wildlife Maize Maze</b> - Buckleberry Park Call:0118 971 4002	20th July	10am - 10pm
<b>Camp Mohawk</b> we will be open to families on most days between 20th July and 1st September. Families need to register with us to use our service, and most visits need to be booked in advance. Families need to contact us before planning a visit: Tel 0118 940 4045. email kate.kent@campmohawk.org.uk	20th July - 1st September	-
<b>Storytelling</b> - Norden Farm. Call: 01628 788997	25th July - 24th August	11am - 1.30pm
<b>Arts and Crafts Session</b> - Norden Farm. Call: 01628 788997	25-26 July	45 minute sessions
<b>Summer Holiday Groups</b> - Drop in at Larchfield Children's Centre. Call: 01628 685642	27th July - 19th August	11am - 3pm
<b>Fun Day</b> - Thames Valley Adventure Playground. Call: 01628 628599	3rd August 2019	11am - 3pm
<b>Sam And Mark On The Road Show</b> - Norden Farm. Call: 01628 788997	12th August	2pm
<b>Family Fun Day</b> - Riverside Children's Centre. Call: 01628 685642	20th August	11am - 3pm
<b>Family Fun Day</b> - Manor Children's Centre. Call: 01753 582564	21st August	11am - 3pm
<b>TapFest Music Day</b> - Thames Valley Adventure Playground. Call: 01628 628599	24th August	10am - 3.30pm

RBWM AfC Youth Service, will be releasing their summer activity schedule in July. You will be able to find it on their brand new young people website [rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/young\\_people](http://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/young_people).



# 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](mailto:local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk)**