

Local Area Newsletter



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

5th

Edition

April 2020

In this SEND newsletter

- ★ Read about the Ofsted Inspection and the SEND Revisit
- ★ Information about the Preparing for Adulthood event in January 2020
- ★ COVID 19 updates and information
- ★ Inclusion Showcase
- ★ Local Offer SEND Photo Competition Winner
- ★ And much more

Ofsted: Rate RBWM as GOOD



The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Children's Services have been rated 'GOOD' following an inspection by Ofsted in January 2020. Inspectors commented on the significant improvements that Achieving for Children (AfC), the council's children's service provider, has made since the last inspection in 2015.

The two week inspection took place between 13 and 24 January 2020 during which inspectors visited many services across the directorate.

Under the new framework, services are assessed against four key areas: AfC was judged good for their overall effectiveness, good for impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families and good for the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection. A requires improvement to be good rating was given for the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers.

Some of the highlights of Ofsted's report published on 24 February were:

- Children in the Royal Borough have a strong voice.
- The children in care council, Kickback, is proactive and well run.
- There are strong interventions available where domestic abuse is a concern.
- Social workers know their children well and talk knowledgeably about their experiences. Skilled and thoughtful direct work is conducted at the right pace for children; social workers use a variety of tools to help them understand children's experiences and views.
- Early help services in the Royal Borough are a real strength. An impressive breadth of targeted interventions and services rapidly address the difficulties, needs and challenging circumstances of children and their families.
- The large majority of children in care live in safe, secure and stable homes that meet their needs.

- Children in care are attending school more regularly and are achieving more than they were before.
- There has been an increase in the number of care leavers engaged in good employment and education opportunities. They are well supported to attend university and college if they wish.
- Leaders and managers are committed to improving outcomes for children by listening to what they, and their families have to say.

Kevin McDaniel, director of Children's Services for Achieving for Children, said:

"I'm delighted that the changes we have made to Children's Services in the Royal Borough have resulted in such a positive impact for children. The determination, hard work and ambition to improve - from our skilled and thoughtful practitioners right through to our senior leaders and partners - has led to this judgement of good. I am looking forward to continuing the rapid development of the services we offer to some of our most vulnerable residents as we work towards our ambition of achieving an outstanding rating in the future."

Cllr Stuart Carroll, lead member for Children's Services said:

"This is a wonderful achievement and really shows how the council is meeting its core objective of supporting its most vulnerable residents. We have made huge strides in improving services for children and young people in the Royal Borough and this Ofsted rating is proof that our changes are having the results we want for our children and young people. A huge thank you to everyone, who has contributed to this success, particularly our hard-working staff, without your handwork and commitment, none of this would have been possible. For the Royal Borough today's rating is just the start of the story, not the end. The hard work does not stop here. We need to continue to build on what we have achieved and continue to strive to improve what we do for our children and young people."

Ofsted: SEND Revisit



In October 2019 Ofsted came to RBWM to carry out their SEND Revisit. The report was published in December 2019. Sufficient progress in SIX out of EIGHT areas:

- tardiness and delay in establishing strategies to implement the reforms effectively.
- a lack of leadership capacity across local services, such as the time given to the role of designated clinical officer (DCO).
- poor use of management information to secure a robust overview of the local areas effectiveness.
- weaknesses in how leaders are held to account across the local area.
- wide variation in the quality of EHC Plans.
- the lack of effective co-production with parents when designing and delivering services and when planning for their individual children's needs.

Ofsted Report

'The timeliness of assessments of children and young people's SEND needs and the production of education, health and care (EHC) plans has improved dramatically.'

- 'strategically and operationally, professionals are now clear about the role of the DCO in Windsor and Maidenhead.'
- 'leaders, providers and parents are much better informed about the local profile of children and young people's SEND and how provision is made.'
- 'School leaders and SENCOs are absolutely clear about their obligations within the now well-established inclusion charter.'
- 'Initiatives are motivating enthusiastic engagement by school leaders and SENCOs. They are inspiring a shared sense of responsibility for the area's children and young people with SEND.'

- 'Recent purposeful action to recruit new staff, increase the workforce and provide focused training and clearer management procedures is intended to significantly improve the quality of service'
- 'A high proportion of the EHC plans seen by inspectors refer to parents', children's and young people's views respectfully and with care.
- 'The children and young people who inspectors met were in no doubt that their views are well considered by the leaders and staff who provide for their needs'.

Insufficient progress in TWO areas:

- the inequality of services and variability of experience for children and young people with SEND and their families.
- poor joint commissioning arrangements that limit leaders' ability to ensure that there are adequate services to meet local area needs.

They relate to some specific items:

- Waiting times for occupational therapy, attention deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD) and the autism assessment services for young adults between the ages of 19 and 25 are not sufficiently comprehensive or well developed
- Historical "missed opportunities" for some children.

Actions moving forward

- Strengthen joint commissioning Arrangements.
- Develop Occupational Therapy Services
- Develop ADHD Services
- Develop ASD Services
- 19-25 Pathways
- Historic 'missed opportunities'

Preparing for Adulthood: Events update

The Preparing for Adulthood Information events were held on Friday 24 January 2020 between 10am and 2pm at Maidenhead Town Hall, and on Saturday 25 January 2020 between 10am and 1pm at Oakbridge Day Centre in Windsor. The events were arranged in recognition of the need to ensure that young people, and their parent carers, are aware of the Preparing for Adulthood agenda and have knowledge of services and supports available to them.

Across the two days, there were 169 attendees, of which 87 were young people and parents and carers. There were 22 organisations that attended the events. Below you can find information about the organisations that attended:

[RBWM SEND Local Offer](#)

[Children and Young People's Disability Service - Preparing for Adulthood](#)

[Oakbridge Day Care Services](#)

[Boyne Grove Day Care Services](#)

[Berkshire Sensory Consortium](#)

[Windsor Forest College Group](#)

[People2Places](#)

[SENDIASS](#)

[Parallel](#)

[Family Action](#)

[Step Together Agency](#)

[Life Skills Project / Youth Service](#)

[Berkshire College of Agriculture](#)

[The Green Room](#)

[Hilton Internships](#)

[SEND Transport RBWM](#)

[Activate Learning \(Bracknell and Wokingham College\)](#)

[County Care Berkshire Agency](#)

[Ways into Work](#)

[Community Team for People with Learning Difficulties \(CTPLD\)](#)

[Green Corridor](#)

[Health](#)

If you would like more information on the Preparing for Adulthood events, please email joanna.safa@achievingforchildren.org.uk



Preparing for Adulthood: Event Feedback

'Small enough to not be overpowering for our pupils. All bases covered for our pupils' – Forest Bridge School



'Superb information from everyone we spoke with' – Parent Carer



'Good communication beforehand' – The Green Room School



'Excellent knowledge from key people. Lots of great information on transition and EHCPS' – Parent Carer



Event was a real eye opener. Lots to think about' – Parent Carer



'Very helpful experience' – Young person



COVID 19 Updates & Online Resources

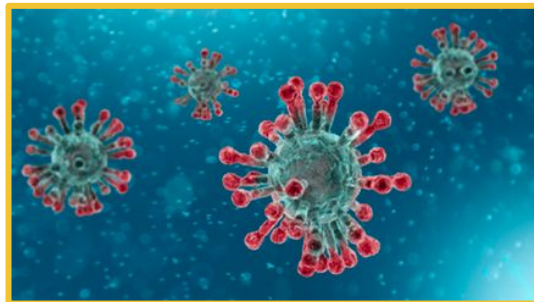
COVID 19 Section

The Local Offer has an information and guidance page for COVID 19. Please see the below link for regular updates from Achieving for Children, RBWM.

[COVID 19 latest information and guidance](#)

Children and Young People's Disability Service (CYPDS) Contact Details during COVID 19. Below you will find the link on the Local Offer with the contact details of staff within CYPDS

[CYPDS Key Contact details page](#)



Online Resources



Twinkl: This is a website with lots of worksheets, activities, challenges and ideas. Parents can create an account for free access to these resources by using the link and offer code below.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer>. Offer code: CVDTWINKLHELPS

Resource packs below for each year group:

[Early Years Home Learning Pack](#)

[Year 1 Home Learning Pack](#)

[Year 2 Home Learning Pack](#)

Phonics Play: A wide range of phonics games and activities <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

Facebook pages to follow:

[Multi-sensory World- Special Needs](#)

Short Breaks Temporary Changes

The document below outlines adjustments that will be made to the AfC Short Breaks to ensure adequate flexibility for families whilst Coronavirus restrictions are in place. These adjustments to Short Breaks will be temporary and AfC will review the need for them periodically given the changing national picture. When it is assessed that the additional flexibilities are no longer appropriate AfC will notify you.

[Temporary changes to AfC Short Breaks for RBWM.](#)



Health: Coping Campaign



NHS East Berkshire and partners, including Achieving for Children, RBWM, have just launched a #Coping campaign. As part of this they are producing three guides to help support children, young people and families during these uncertain time. [For full info click here](#)

Council for Disabled Children

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) has launched a new email inbox for answering questions, collating resources and sharing information on Covid-19 and the impact on children with SEND.

This is to be used by professionals, practitioners and parents/carers of children with SEND.

The CDC questions inbox can be contacted via

CDCquestions@ncb.org.uk



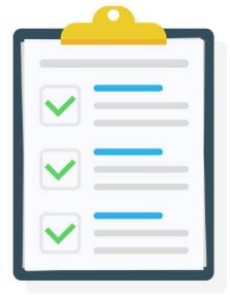
Kickback update

In an effort to keep in touch with all Children in Care and Kickback members during this time there will be a weekly Kickback Catch Up Zoom from 12pm to 1.45pm every Tuesday for the foreseeable future so that young people can log in to have a chat with us and just stay in touch. Our first Kickback Catch Up is Tuesday 14th April from 12pm to 1.45pm. All children in care are welcome, even if they have not attended Kickback before but you will need to contact Elaine Keating at elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk to get the Zoom invite and password.

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. The Disability Register will allow us to identify and plan for children and young people with disabilities and their families within the local area.

For more information on the Disability Register and how you can sign up, please go to the [Local Offer](#)



Mailing List: Stay informed



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.

Mailing List

Subscribe to the Local Offer mailing list to receive email updates about services, events and news for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in RBWM.

To subscribe, please go to the [Local Offer Mailing List](#).

CONTACT US

E: local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk

W: [Visit our Local Offer](#)

Spotlight on Charan Ghattaura | Education Welfare Officer

How did you get into this role?

My role as an Education Welfare Officer is to make sure that young people get the best possible education. I work with young people whose education is being affected by irregular attendance or absence from school. Our main aim is to make a difference to the lives of children and young people by breaking down barriers to them attending school regularly and arriving on time. Success at school isn't only about what goes on inside the classroom it's also about ensuring that children are happy, confident, settled and attending school so they can fulfil their potential.

What do you enjoy about your role?

My role is incredibly rewarding and what I most enjoy about the role is meeting a number of young people from different backgrounds and making a difference. We improve the links between the school and the home. Also helping families get all the benefits and help they are entitled to.

What's your favourite book?

My favourite movie is the Lion King. Best Disney animated film ever. The film has it all funny, emotional, drama and great songs

Spotlight on Baljeet Hodges | Specialist Lead for Social Care

How did you get into your role?

I worked for AFC for over 3 years and have only just moved roles within AFC. My new role is Specialist Lead in the Pods team structure and involves actively working a smaller case load alongside supporting and developing the practice of others. I was lucky enough to be offered this role following 18 years of practice as a frontline statutory social worker and having worked alongside newly qualified staff and students as a practice assessor.

What do you enjoy about your role?

As a practising social worker I still enjoy working directly with young people and children some of whom never cease to amaze me with their resilience and bravery. I also enjoy working with the range and diversity of families we have in the borough. Supporting the practice of others especially newly qualified staff is also rewarding especially when I see them practice more independently and tackle those more challenging aspects of the job with more confidence.

What's your favourite book and why?

I have so many favourite books but I currently am reading 'What the Body Remembers?' by Shauna Singh Baldwin. The story is written around the time of Partition in India and has been important to helping to understand my own mother's and family's journey and experiences at this time. It has given me new respect for those who went through this time as well as been a lesson in understanding my own cultural background that I can pass onto to my own children.

Inclusion Showcase:

St Luke's Primary School



Amanda Butler SENCo & Headteacher of St Lukes Primary school told us about which key elements have helped them in building an inclusive school: **"We effectively communicate information on SEND /EHC plans with staff and parents via regular insets days, pupil progress meetings and fortnightly meetings with teachers where we discuss SEND/behaviour. Furthermore we have found that our Educational Psychologist provides good training for staff. All staff play a role and lead learning and this is a crucial element of our success."** Amanda has created strong links with the parents via drop in sessions. **"It is important that we make ourselves aware of need. So in addition to work in school we organise SENCo drop in sessions, where families/parents can come in for a 10 min appointment every little term and discuss progress/home issues and more."**

Keeping parents informed and being transparent is key for St Lukes. **"Feeding back to parents via IEPs (Individual Education Plan) and regular meetings. The IEPs and progress reports are visible to all teachers and provides all staff with a good basis for assessing learning behaviour."** What new things are St Lukes doing regarding inclusion/SEND that others may not be doing? **"Life in all its fullness. This is our focus on enrichment and widening each pupil's exposure to life and their primary experiences. That's our motto. We offer experiential learning and a high level of enrichment opportunities to all of our pupils. We encourage and support children to explore and engage with new books, artists, music etc. We believe in an immersive creative curriculum."**

Amanda tells us how her school is effective with their pupils. **"A personalised approach, creating a personal journey is crucial to developing learning. Our staff are well trained which helps me a lot. Some of our staff are Pupil Premium mentors too. Getting children to believe in themselves is important. Our Nurture groups encourage the pupils to verbalise learning, we believe it is a key component in building a child's confidence. We also provide Alternative Learning Provision frequently, these sessions are a successful way to keep supporting children and their different behaviours."** St Lukes aim to foster a positive environment. **"We have high expectations and drive consistency, this will help the children to make progress. An enabling environment, where we try different things, plays a large part in developing a positive school."**

The sky's the limit when it comes to learning. **"Having a hands on approach helps remove the ceiling on learning. We utilise Kagan Cooperative Learning. In our group work everyone has a role."** Getting pupils to act things out is important. Amanda has also organised visitors in certain fields to provide their expertise. **"We brought in a criminal lawyer and a Judge. They spoke about the court and we did some roleplay to help with persuasive arguments. Making memories and exposing our children to raise expectations, is the key."**

Networking with like-minded professionals helps drive inclusion forward. **"I've been a part of SENCo group sessions, Headteacher interactions, sat in on Panels A and B, worked with the Inclusion Mark team. The SEND Local Offer is very accessible and a great resource which I will use more often. All of this has exposed me to a diverse range of ideas. I believe it is beneficial to have a SENCo who is also on the Senior Leadership Team within a school, it allows one to drive inclusion forward."**

Visit their website www.st-lukesprimary.com/website

Save The Date:

Inclusion Summit 2020

Inclusion Summit 2020
Tuesday 22nd September
9am - 1pm, Maidenhead Town Hall

Please save the date for the 2020 Inclusion Summit. We hope to hold a physical event but during these uncertain times we can not confirm that we will be able to. If we are unable to, we will take what we have learnt over the past year and run a virtual event.

If you have any further questions, please email
inclusionsummit@achievingforchildren.org.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)



Local Offer

PHOTO *Competition*



The Children and Young People's Disability Service (CYPDS) announced a Local Offer Photo competition for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities across the borough. It ran between 17th February 2020 – 11th March 2020. Reflecting the chosen theme, '**My happiest place in RBWM**'

We are pleased to announce the winner is: **Georgia Parsons**

She will be receiving a £15 Photobox Gift Card, with their image being framed and printed and publicly displayed online on the [Local Offer](#)



Maidenhead Bridge at night makes me feel calm due to the quiet surroundings.



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

local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk