

Early Years SENCo Newsletter

Issue 1 – September 2020

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*Produced by BANES Early Years Area SENCo Team:*

*Promoting and supporting early identification and inclusive practice in Early Years settings to enable better outcomes for all children with SEND*

**Welcome**

**Melanie Da Costa**

**Area SENCo Advisory Teacher**

**Jane De Ste Croix**

**Early Years Specialist Educational Psychologist**

**Hugo Stearn**

**Early Years Specialist Educational Psychologist**

**Welcome to the new Early Years SENCo Newsletter**

**from the Area SENCO Team!**

**These newsletters are specifically aimed at early years SENCos and will be sent to you at the start of every new school term. They will contain information about CPD and training opportunities, updates and information from the Area SENCo team, other professional agencies, SENDIP and the Rainbow Resource website.**

**We will also be celebrating successes and highlighting settings who have made a real difference in identifying and supporting children with SEND.**

**We hope that you will find the newsletter useful and we look forward to hearing your feedback.**

***The Area SENCO Team***

**Area SENCo Team news:**

**Covid-19 Offer of Support and Updates**

**Setting visits**

Due to Covid-19 and following government guidelines, the Area SENCo team regrets that they will not, at present, be able to attend any Early Years settings in person. We will keep you all updated of any future changes to this situation.

**Request for Area SENCo Involvement**

Unfortunately, due to present circumstances, SENCo’s cannot follow the usual route for requesting support from an Area SENCo, as we would normally ask you to speak to an Area SENCo on the Advice Line (see below) before submitting a request. However, you can still request support!

You can email [area\_sencos@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:area_sencos@bathnes.gov.uk) and we will contact you to arrange a date and time to have a telephonic or Zoom/MS Teams consultation. As always, we would expect you to have completed observations, a progress tracker and One Page Profile before requesting support.

**Advice Line:**

We are hoping to have the advice line up and running again by October. At present, we are trying to get to grips with the new technology that will enable us to access the advice line login remotely. We will of course let you now as soon as it is back in service.

**SEN register Overview Meetings:**

We are offering SEN overview meetings (again via Zoom/MS teams) for all settings who may have a number of children on their SEN register and want to talk through each child individually. If you think that you would benefit from having a conversation with an Area SENCo then please contact us via the email address above and we will arrange a time to speak to you, either by phone or via Zoom/MS Teams.

**Rainbow Resource: BANES Early Years SENCo Toolkit:**

Exciting news! You can now access the brand new BANES Early Years SENCo Toolkit on the professional’s page of the Rainbow Resource:

<https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/professional-section/early-years-area-senco>.

The toolkit is ever evolving and is being added to all the time. It is currently divided into the 4 main areas of need and a section for useful links, but we will be adding sections for training resources (what we would normally send out to you after training), so all information will be easily accessible to all. We are hoping that it will develop to become BANES Early Years SENCos first point of call when looking for useful documents and resources.

***N.B. Setting overviews and telephonic consultations will be acting as the equivalent of a setting visit so we would ask that the same protocols are followed i.e. that the SENCo is available at the pre-arranged time and date. If you are unable to attend, please contact the Area SENCo involved, as early as possible*.**



**New/Refresher SENCo training Part 1:**

We continue to run our regular New/Refresher SENCo training sessions however these will now be accessed via Zoom/MS Teams. As a result, we have decided to split the normal 4 hour session into 2 parts.

**Weds 23rd September 2.00pm – 4.00pm**:

New/refresher SENCo training – Part 1 – Session 1

**Weds 30th September 2.00pm – 4.00pm**:

New/Refresher SENCo training: Part 1 – Session 2

**Session 1: The Role of the SENCo**

**Session 2: Early identification and Intervention**

*You should book onto this training via the Hub as normal. Zoom or Teams Meeting ID’s and password will be sent out to you before the training date.*

**New/Refresher SENCo training Part 2:**

This is the follow up training session and will focus on successful, supported transition for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities. You must attend both Parts 1 and 2 of the New/Refresher SENCo training. It will take place next year (2021). Dates and times to be confirmed

**Early Years SENCo Core Training:** **Tricky Conversations with parents**

**Wed, 14 Oct 2020 09:30 – 13:00**

This core training will enable SENCOs to support practitioners to have increased confidence to plan for tricky conversations with parents.  
Parental engagement is paramount when identifying children’s needs and agreeing the provision to meet those needs.

The aim of the training is for SENCos to develop their skills to support practitioners to feel confident in initialising conversations and understand the need to record, reflect and respond appropriately.  
SENCo’s will also gain confidence in their lead role in supporting setting practitioners to include all children and remove barriers to their learning and development in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

We have decided to keep this as one session but have planned for plenty of breaks!

*You should book onto this training via the Hub as normal. Zoom or Teams Meeting ID’s and password will be sent out to you before the training date.*

**Early Years SENCo workshops: My Plan at SEN Support**

These **free** workshops will be focusing on effective completion of the My Plan at SEN Support document. We will be going through 2 parts at each workshop showing examples, discussing content and practising skills. It will also be a good opportunity for you to give feedback on the new refreshed layout!

**Thurs 8th October 2.00pm – 3.30pm:**

SENCo Network Support: My Plan Part 1: One Page Profile and Progress Tracker

**Thurs 15th October 2.00pm – 3.30pm:**

SENCO network Support: My Plan Part 2: Strengths and Needs

**Thurs 22nd October 2.00pm – 3.30pm**:

SENCo Network Support: My Plan Part 3: Targets and Outcomes

*Please book on these workshops via the Hub*

**Early Years SENCo - Network Support Meetings:**

The EY SENCo network support meetings are a great way of meeting with your fellow SENCos across BATHNES. They are very informal and give an opportunity for you to have open discussions and share interventions, ideas and strategies with the group. The focus of these meetings ideally will come from discussions within the group, however we also often have a ‘guest speaker’ attend from a partner agency to explain their role, give any service updates and take any questions you may have for them.

**Thurs 10 September 2.00pm – 3.30pm:**

SENCo Network Support: Focus: Welcome back: Updates from the Area SENCo team

**Thurs 17 September 2.00pm – 3.30pm:**

SENCO network Support: Focus: SENDIP updates:

Guest Attendee: Nick Fortt, Inclusion and Partnership Manager

**Thurs 24th September 2.00pm – 3.30pm**:

SENCo Network Support: Focus: Communication and Language needs:

Guest Attendee: Vicky Millgate, Speech and Language Therapist

**Thurs 1st October 2.00pm – 3.30m pm**

SENCO Network Support: Focus: Understanding Cognition and Learning Needs

Guest attendee: Richard Barker, Educational Psychologist

*There is no need to book for the Network support meeting but at present we do have a room limit of 20. An email containing the Meeting ID and password will be sent out the Friday before each meeting.*

**Multi agency updates**

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| **SENDIP Panel Dates**  [Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion Panel (SENDIP) Dates 2020/21 September 2020 – virtual panel October 2020 – virtual panel 10th November 2020 8th December 2020 12th January 2021 9th February 2021 9th March 2021 20th April 2021 18th May 2021 15th June 2021 13th July 2021 No August 2021 panel September 2021 onwards to be confirmed  Please ensure you submit SENDIP requests at least two weeks before panel date.  See link to the SENDIP webpage for further information and template documents.  Our apologies to those of you who had booked to observe panel, obviously this was cancelled due to the pandemic.  Observing panel is on hold at the moment, we will keep you informed when this is likely to recommence.  For queries relating to SENDIP, please contact; Nick Fortt, Early Years Inclusion and Partnership Manager (SENDIP Chair) 01225 39 5412 Hayley Clark, Early Years Inclusion Co-Ordinator 01225 39 5608 (Mon-Thurs)](https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/schools-colleges-and-learning/support-parentscarers-educational/early-years-special)  **Speech and Language Therapy: Preschool Complex Needs Team**  Vicky Millgate (SALT) will be attending the EY SENCo Peer Network Support meeting on the 24th September 2020 (see CPD and training) and will be giving updated information about the preschool Speech and Language Service.  If you require any advice or support from the Preschool Complex Needs team regarding children at your setting, please email them on the following addresses:  [Vicky.millgate@virgincare.co.uk](mailto:Vicky.millgate@virgincare.co.uk) , [Jessie.Meredith@virginacre.co.uk](mailto:Jessie.Meredith@virginacre.co.uk), [Beth.Iyavoo@virgincare.co.uk](mailto:Beth.Iyavoo@virgincare.co.uk), [Eleanor.jones@virgincare.co.uk](mailto:Eleanor.jones@virgincare.co.uk)  There is also a generic Advice Line email for enquiries [BATHNES.SLTadviceline@virgincare.co.uk](mailto:BATHNES.SLTadviceline@virgincare.co.uk) |
| **Celebrations**  In future newsletters we will be celebrating Early Years SENCos who have demonstrated their passion and dedication to ensuring inclusive practice for all children but particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities. This could be from our own involvement and observations or could be in response to feedback given to us from other external professional agencies. There could even be nominations from fellow SENCos!  For this first issue though we would like to congratulate you all for all your dedication and hard work through very testing times. You have and continue to be, amazing!  Keep up the great work! We are watching and noticing!  ***The Area SENCo Team***  **Contact Details:**  Bobbie Rogers: Area SENCo Advisory Teacher:  Mobile: 07530 263041 email [bobbie\_rogers@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:bobbie_rogers@bathnes.gov.uk)  Verrity Simons: Area SENCO Advisory Practitioner:  Mobile: 07875 488027 email: [verrity\_simons@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:verrity_simons@bathnes.gov.uk)  **Contact details for confidential documents: Area SENCo team and SENDIP**  We will send all confidential correspondence to you by uploading to secure portals (Globalscape or NEXT Cloud), as currently we do not have access to our office mailroom |