

Early Years SENCo Newsletter

Issue 2 – February 2021

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*Produced by BATHNES 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 second edition of the Early Years SENCo Newsletter**

**These newsletters are specifically aimed at early years SENCos and will be sent to you at the start of every new school term. They 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:**

**Offer of Support and Updates**

**Setting visits**

Due to the ongoing situation with Covid-19 and following government guidelines, the Area SENCo team regrets that we can still not attend any Early Years settings in person. We will keep you all updated of any future changes to this situation.

**Advice Line:**

The advice line is now open on a Wednesday morning, (**01225 396912 9.00am – 11.30am, term time only**). Should you be unable to get through to the advice line, you can now leave a voicemail message or send an email to [area\_sencos@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:area_sencos@bathnes.gov.uk) and we will get back to you, hopefully, by the following Monday at the latest.

**Request for Area SENCo Involvement**

When making a request for Area SENCo involvement, you **must** have first had a discussion with an Area SENCo, who will then, if necessary, send you the request form to be fully completed and signed by a parent.

This discussion can take place either via the advice line, or by emailing us at [area\_sencos@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:area_sencos@bathnes.gov.uk). If using the email, an Area SENCo will contact you to arrange either a telephonic or Zoom consultation.

***N.B. Please do NOT send any confidential information (My Plans, observations, family information etc) via email. This would be seen as a breach of GDPR and a safeguarding issue. Information regarding the sending through of confidential documents can be found at the end of this newsletter****.*

**SEN register Overview Meetings/ Virtual setting visits:**

We continue to offer SEND overview meetings 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 around the needs of the children on your SEN register and their possible next steps 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

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

More exciting news! The Rainbow Resource is now fully up and running. It has been updated and enhanced and now incorporates the Training section information as well as more specific options within the Toolkit section.

[Rainbow Resource :: Professional Section / Early Years SENCo Information / Early Years SENCo Toolkit](https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/professional-section/early-years-area-senco/early-years-toolkit)

[Rainbow Resource :: Professional Section / Early Years SENCo Information / Early Years SENCo Training](https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/professional-section/early-years-area-senco/early-years-senco-training)

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The Training section is password protected for Early Years SENCos but you will only need to input the information on the first visit.

**Username: EYSENCO**

**Password: TrainingResources**

***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*.**



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

These workshops proved very popular last year so if you were unable to attend the last sessions we are repeating them.

These 3 sessions 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:

The workshops will be delivered via Zoom and there will be a room limit of 25 places. booking details are available on the Hub and the Zoom ID and password will be sent out one week prior to the event.

SENCos should aim to attend all 3 sessions

**Dates:**

**Monday 1st March 2021: 1.30pm – 3.30pm**

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

**Monday 8th March 2021: 1.30pm – 3.30pm**

SENCO Workshop: My Plan Part 2: Strengths and Needs

**Monday 15th March 2021: 1.30pm – 3.30pm**

SENCo Workshop: My Plan Part 3: Targets and Outcomes

We have extended these sessions by half an hour to allow time for more peer support and discussion. We are also looking at the possibility to deliver these workshops as twilight sessions. Please contact us [area\_sencos@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:area_sencos@bathnes.gov.uk) if this would be of interest to you.

***You should book onto this training via the Hub as normal. ID’s and password will be sent out to you from Donna Biddlecombe before the training date.***

**EY 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 experiences, interventions, ideas and strategies with the group. The network support meetings will now take place on a **fortnightly** basis. We have planned in the first 2 sessions, both of which will be with guest speakers (see below) If these dates and times are difficult for you, then please contact us to let us know and we can hopefully plan ongoing sessions at a time to suit the majority.

**Dates:**

**Thursday 11th March 2021: 1.30pm – 3.00pm**:

Guest Speaker**: Hannah Hobbs ASD Support Service**

**Focus**

* Updates on service offer and training opportunities
* Questions from the group

**Thursday 25th March 2021: 1.30pm – 3.00pm**

Guest Speaker: Ruth Ferguson Nurture Outreach Service

Focus:

* Updates on NOS early years support and referral processes.
* Transitions to school for children with social and emotional needs
* Questions from the group

***There is no need to book for the Network support meeting, you can just turn up on the day but at present we do have a room limit of 20.***

*Zoom details are****: Room ID****:* ***880 9229 1552***

***Password: AS2021***

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| **New/Refresher SENCo training (Part 2)**  For those SENCos who attended the New/Refresher SENCo Part 1, this is the follow up training that you will need to attend.  The focus of this training is **Transitions.** We have split the training into 2 Zoom Sessions.  **Dates:**  New SENCo Part 2 (Session 1):  **Wednesday 14th April (.30am – 12.00pm**  New SENCo Part 2 (Session 2):  **Wednesday 21st April 9.30am – 12.00pm**  ***You should book onto this training via the Hub as normal. ID’s and password will be sent out to you from Donna Biddlecombe before the training date.*** |
| **Multi agency updates**  **Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion Panel (SENDIP)**  An email was sent out to all settings and SENCos on the 1st February 2021 from the Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion Panel (SENDIP) containing information and supporting documents for requests for Transition Support funding for children transitioning to school in September 2021.  This email contained attachments evidential documentation and information regarding deadlines as below:   * Information and guidance for TSF * SENDIP request form (please use this when requesting TSF). Any requests on the old form will be rejected. * Early Years My Plan at SEN Support (two cycles) on the refreshed template. Any new requests not completed on the refreshed template from March will be rejected. * Being Kept in Mind document (for children who have social, emotional and/or behavioural needs) * Frequency chart template   Please note the deadline for TSF requests will be **30th April 2021.**  Any new requests received after this date will need to be considered under exceptional circumstances and must be signed by an Area SENCo and discussed with Nicholas Fortt, Early Years Inclusion and Partnership Manager.  If you have not received this email, please contact SENDIP directly: [SENDIP@BATHNES.GOV.UK](mailto:SENDIP@BATHNES.GOV.UK)  **ASD Support Service: Training Opportunities**  **For settings:**  The ASD Support service provide free training to early years SENCos/practitioners who work within BATHNES. They are also able to support with in house training. For further information about the training on offer please follow this link to the training information pages.  <http://www.fossewayschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/ASDSS-Professional-Training-Courses-2020-2021-Updated-12.11.20.pdf>  If you require more information about training, setting support or individual support for a child with ASD at your setting, please join us for our network meeting on the 11th March 1.30pm – 3.00pm where Hannah Hobbs from the ASDSS will be our guest speaker.  **Rainbow Resource: Parental support for children with ASD**  The Rainbow Resource has a dedicated autism section that is designed to support parents who are going through the diagnostic process or whose children have a confirmed diagnosis of ASD <https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/autism-information>. This covers information including what to do if they suspect their child has autism, the diagnosis process, how to get an EHCP and there is also information for training opportunities for parents.  Please signpost to parents as it contains really useful information that will help to support them through the processes. |
| **Thank You**  Firstly, we would like to say a big Thank You to Jade Edgell who was the SENCo at Caterpillars nursery in Bath. Sadly, Jade has decided to move on from her post but we would like to publicly acknowledge the huge amount of time and dedication she put in to ensure that children’s needs were being met and for her highly inclusive approach. She also helped support at some of our training sessions which was a bit of a daunting task but she did it brilliantly! So, on behalf of the Area SENCO team we send a HUGE thank you to you Jade. We wish you well in your next role and will miss you.  [This Photo](http://mommyrackell.com/2014/01/happy-29th.html) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)  Thank You Key Workers Poster  Due to the ongoing, highly challenging circumstances we don’t feel it appropriate to pull out individual settings for recognition as you are **all** doing such a fantastic job  But we are sending out a massive Thank You for everything you have done and continue to do to support children with SEND at your settings.  ***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 |