

Bucks SEND News

Keeping you updated on matters relating to special educational needs and disability services

Headline News

SEND Graduated Approach

We have been working with a number of professionals and parents/carers setting out a document that has been written for educational settings to help them consider what provision is needed to support a child/young person with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is called the SEND Graduated Approach.



It is intended to help all educational settings have the same approach wherever they are in Buckinghamshire. We hope that this document will assure parents/carers that their child will be given as much support as another child within a similar educational setting elsewhere in the county.

If a setting has concerns that a child or young person is finding certain aspects of learning hard or that they are not making the same progress as other children, they can use the checklists in this document to help them to bring together all of the information needed to get a more detailed picture of the child's needs,

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SEND Graduated Approach . . . continued

the related outcomes and the provision needed to meet them. Parents/carers can also use the same checklists. The final version will be placed on the Local Offer at the beginning of June.

SEND Conversions

The SEN Team have been working hard to convert the pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs to an Education Health Care (EHC) Plan. We are pleased to report that all pupils with a statement recorded as of September 2015 that are starting school for the first time, going to a junior school or secondary school for September 2016 had their statement converted into an EHC plan. There are a few remaining who moved in to the LA during this year that as yet have not had the conversion completed however a school placement has been secured. These will be completed before they start school for September 2016.



We continue to work hard to ensure that the pupils leaving school in July 2016, have had an EHC Needs Assessment and a further education placement is identified and secured if an EHC Plan is agreed.

Local Offer—providers want your feedback!

Since September 2014 the Buckinghamshire Local Offer has published a page called [‘You said, we did’](#) which publishes comments that have been received about the Local Offer and shows what has happened as a result. Now service providers can do the same within their Local Offer information on their website record. We want to encourage all service users to give their feedback directly to the service providers so that they can use the information to make changes or improvements.

If you share your feedback with a service you use, why not encourage them to publish their response on the Local Offer?

We are always keen to hear your comments on the information provided through the Local Offer. Contact the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service on **01296 383065/0845 688 4944**, or email familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk.

Short Breaks 2016/17

Buckinghamshire County Council agreed to reduce funding to short breaks for disabled children and young people over the next 2 years at their final Council Meeting of 2015/16. This decision was not taken lightly, as it is recognised how valued and needed such services are to families of disabled children and young people, but is a reflection of the budget allocation settlement received from Central Government. This was even lower than expected, so the Council has had to make some very difficult decisions in a number of service areas across the Council.

The impact of this is that some break contracts and other support contracts are receiving less funding this coming year and the following year. The Council is working with its providers, social care and with FACT Bucks Parent Forum to ensure these budget reductions are best managed to minimise impact on direct service delivery to families, and to ensure we communicate effectively with families affected.

Short Breaks continued . . .

We do not think that we need to change eligibility to short breaks for this coming year, though this will be kept under review (current eligibility can be viewed at: https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/buckinghamshire/fsd/docs/buckinghamshire_short_breaks_services_statement_v2_2015_16.pdf)

However, we will be working with providers to ensure the available 'open access' short break resources are being used to full capacity. Also that children are accessing the short break service/s that promote the best individual outcomes and that young people are accessing the short break service/s that promote the best outcomes to support reaching adulthood.

We are also planning to review the activity fee for children attending non-assessed short breaks to maximise the income that will help support these budget reductions.

If your child is receiving an assessed short break they will be being reviewed regularly by your social worker and as part of this process the services provided kept under review.

Short breaks is a jointly commissioned service with Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern CCG. This health funding contribution is also being proportionately reduced alongside the council's reduction AND is being reinvested elsewhere to support this group of children, namely a service for all our short break providers to access child specific training. This will enable them to safely and effectively support children in their setting where the child has a particular health need that requires trained staff to help them.

Unfortunately the budget reductions will also impact on the Council's contract with FACT Bucks the Parent Forum but we will continue to work as effectively as we can to ensure parent participation and co-production is maintained.



Young people's news

Young people have their voices heard on bullying

As part of the Youth Service Participation Team's Youth Voice event earlier this year, children and young people (CYP) from across Buckinghamshire were asked two questions:

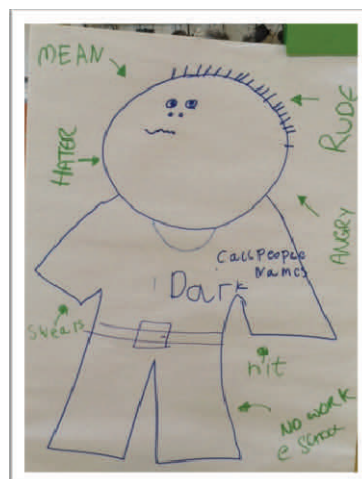
- Have you been affected by bullying, either as a victim or as a bully?
- What do you think could be changed to stop this from happening and make a real difference?

To ensure CYP with SEND had their voices heard, two separate projects took place to gather information which involved young people from different schools and of different ages and abilities. In total 14 CYP were engaged in having their voices heard, aged from 13 to 24.

Due to their diverse range of disabilities, the young people were not directly asked the questions, but took part in arts and crafts activities and took steps to create a video. This was led by a member of the Specialist Participation Team who created the activities which engaged the group.

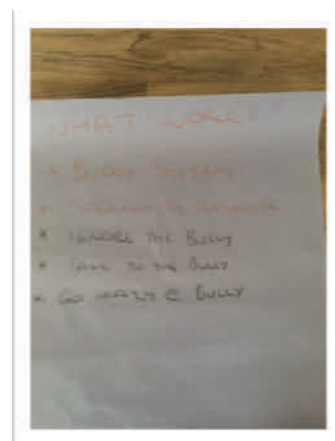
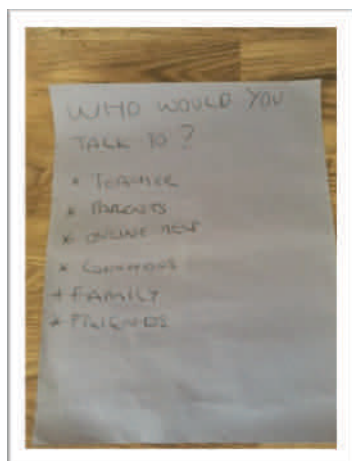
During the first session the children and young people were asked to draw a bully and to think about how they made them feel and what they would do about it. They had the opportunity to use the computers to look at top tips for SEND CYP to help fight bullies. There were 6 young people at the session which was held during February half term.

Here are some images of the work completed.



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Young people on bullying continued



All of this work was directly fed into the Youth Voice event meaning the voice of SEND CYP was represented at the event. This work has also paved the way for the first meeting of the SEND Youth Forum that met on 30 March where the CYP were consulted on engaging other CYP with SEND in feeding back about their experiences with therapies (SALT, Occupation and Physio).

Help and Support

Buckinghamshire SEND IAS Service update

What we do

Bucks SEND IAS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support) Service (formerly the Parent Partnership) is available for children and young people up to the age of 25 with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents/carers. We work alongside Independent Support provided by Adviza. Together we can help you through a whole range of issues relating to special educational needs and disabilities. Our roles in brief:

- Independent Support provides support to parents and/or young people obtaining Education, Health and Care Plans, whether you are applying for one for the first time or transferring from a statement or Learning Difficulty Assessment.

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Bucks SEND IAS update continued

- Bucks SEND IAS Service aims to equip you to tackle problems for example if you are concerned about the level of SEND support or about your relationship with schools and other providers. You may be worried that your child is not making expected progress, your child may have been excluded from school, may be experiencing bullying, or you may be considering making an appeal to the national SEND Tribunal. We are here to help you to understand the relevant law and to discuss options with you.

Both these services can be contacted via our shared helpline 01296 383754 and mailbox: sendias@buckscc.gov.uk

Improvements

Bucks SEND IAS Service is always looking to improve the service we provide. As part of this we have recently published our annual report, available on our webpages: <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/education/bucks-send-ias/> The report shows how we are meeting our national Quality Standards, agreed with the Department for Education. The report includes data on our reach and demonstrates a high increase in demand for our service. It also highlights the tremendous help we receive from our highly-valued, specially-trained volunteers.

We are also currently conducting a telephone and online survey for service users who have contacted us since January. This is a pilot survey led by National SEND IASS Network. It is to assess how successful our service is in supporting you. All results will be anonymous. The National SEND IASS Network may use the data to illustrate the impact of SEND Information, Advice and Support services nationally - data will be aggregated, so there will not be any way of linking it with specific SEND IAS Services or individuals. We will be continuing with this survey in summer and autumn 2016. Thank you in advance for participating in this survey. We will report back the results in time for our steering group meetings in July and December.

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Bucks SEND IAS update continued

If you are interested in helping to shape our service in the future, please consider joining our steering group: for more details, please contact us on 01296 383754 or email sendias@buckscc.gov.uk

We provide an informative email update of relevant national and local developments in the field of SEND. Please email sendias@buckscc.gov.uk if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Training opportunities

We are setting new dates for our very popular training on Education, Health and Care needs assessments and outcomes, provided in partnership with FACT Bucks. This training is being developed by Olga Hamer, an expert trainer, ASD specialist and member of FACT Bucks. This term we will be holding 1 day training sessions on two Saturdays, dates to be confirmed. We may also provide a weekday session if demand is sufficient. A sandwich lunch and refreshments will be provided. If you are interested in signing up please call us on 01296 383754 or email sendias@buckscc.gov.uk as soon as possible, as places are limited.

Many parents contact us worried about their child's transition to adulthood, and what to expect in terms of legal rights, processes and provision. In February, Sharon Forgan, on behalf of Bucks SEND IAS Service, delivered a very well-received training session for parents aimed at reducing these concerns. Sharon is from our co-located Independent Support team. She is a highly experienced trainer, a former health professional and the mother of a teenaged student with a disability. Our next "Preparing for Transitions" training for parents is scheduled for **Monday 13 June 2016**, 9.30am to 12.00 noon. If you would like to reserve a place please call us on 01296 383754 or email sendias@buckscc.gov.uk

Have your say

Short breaks annual survey 2015/16

We would like your help to make sure that the short breaks offered are the best possible. Working with the Parent Advisory Group and FACT Bucks, we would like your thoughts on the service as you have experienced it and its benefits to your child/young person and family.

This questionnaire will help us to learn about your experience of short breaks and other aspects of the programme and what impact they have made on your family over the last year.

All surveys will need to be returned to us before 6 June 2016.

To complete the survey please follow the following link:

<https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/site.page?id=p2MrzS4A30g>

Or the survey can be printed off/returned to:

Rona Hopwood

Commissioning Manager Early Help - CYP

Strategic Commissioning Social Care & Learning

Buckinghamshire County Council

Floor 4, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

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