

Special Educational Needs Parent Update

November 2022

Welcome to our first briefing

Welcome to our first briefing for families of children with special educational needs. We know it has been a challenging time for families who have been undergoing an assessment or with an education and health and care plan to contact the local team. In this first briefing, we have included professional contact details of the helplines that have now been established for families.

We also have the first of our locality parent drop-ins in December, where the local team are looking forward to meeting with families in Wellingborough to find out how we can provide guidance and help in supporting your child's special need within the home context and to find out what is really important to you and your child and how we can work more closely together.

Nichola Jones
Head of Special Educational Needs
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Improving our performance

We know we have a long way to go to improve the services for assessment and reviewing children with an Education Health and Care Plan.

Here is some of the progress we are making:

We are making progress with the timeliness of our assessments with an average of **56% completed on time for January to September compared with an average of 20% between August and December of last year.**

We have reduced the number of out of time statutory assessments currently awaiting completion from over **100 to 19.**

Locality early help and meet the team events for parents

As part of the SEND early help offer for schools, we are inviting schools to apply for funding to support children and young people who have a SEND support plan, without the need for an Education Health and Care Plan. In addition, each school now has an allocated SEND Support officer who provides advice and support for children with SEND needs.

We have also been working closely with Maplefields Special School and will be launching the Social, Emotional and Mental Health team in November, where schools can access support and advice from the specialist outreach team.

To meet your local team and to find out how you can get advice and support, you can join in with local parent network events that will be starting in December. We would like to find out how the team can work more closely to support families in the local area. For example, dropping in to chat to an educational psychologist or advisory SEND specialist about your child, or you may want to hear from our specialist team about a range of topics.

The first one of these events is being held in Wellingborough on the 6th December at:

The Wellingborough Museum

Dulley's Baths, 12 Castle Way, Wellingborough NN8 1XB

on 6th December 2022 @ 4:30pm - 5:30pm

To register for the event, or for more information, please contact: pamela.hobart@northnorthants.gov.uk

Please give your name and phone number with your child's name, date of birth and their school

Unfortunately, we cannot offer creche facilities. There is parking available nearby.

Locality Contact Helpline/Mailbox

East Northants Helpline

Giovanni De Granda: 07493 864658
Email: ehcnorth.en@northnorthants.gov.uk

Kettering Helpline

Shipla Vaghela: 07493 864671
Email: ehcnorth.kett@northnorthants.gov.uk

Corby Helpline

Rachael Burt: 07493 864668
Email: ehcnorth.corby@northnorthants.gov.uk

Wellingborough Helpline

La Sian Richardson-Phillips: tbc
Email: ehcnorth.well@northnorthants.gov.uk

Quality Assurance (QA) of EHCPs

- We have been carrying out multi agency QA audits of EHCPs on a monthly basis since March 2022
- The quality of EHCPs is not where we want it to be, and we have used the QA process to identify learning for all partners and to identify next steps
- We are putting together an action plan to address the issues
- Advice writers are accessing Council for Disabled Children training and we are planning a multi-agency workshop with the DfE Regional SEND Group for the second half of this term

Co-developing our Local Area SEND Vision and Strategy

In July we initiated the first set of engagement workshops to enable us to listen to parents / carers and services across education, health and social care to get their views on:

- what is not working and why
- what is working and why
- what they want to see in the future that will improve SEND practice and provision

Participants fed back that they valued the opportunity to take part in these events.

Feedback from this is informing our next steps, including identifying further ways of engaging with families to inform our joint work.

Our Challenges

- We still have challenges in placing those children identified as requiring a specialist placement and so we are working with our special schools to put in place extra places using existing school sites where there is capacity
- We are also working with our mainstream schools to put in place local SEND unit provision to support children with special educational needs in their local mainstream school – we will keep you updated on these developments

