



The Sutton Education Partnership welcomes you to the second of our termly parent newsletters!

The Sutton Education Partnership (SEP) is a partnership between the [London Borough of Sutton](#), schools, early years and college settings and [Cognus](#) (our school services provider). We are all working together to improve services for our children and young people in Sutton.

In our last newsletter we talked about some of the work that we have been doing to improve the services we deliver to children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). Our 'Ambitious for SEND' programme is a long term piece of work so we want to make sure parents understand what we are working on and what is coming up.

What has happened since the last update in November 2020?

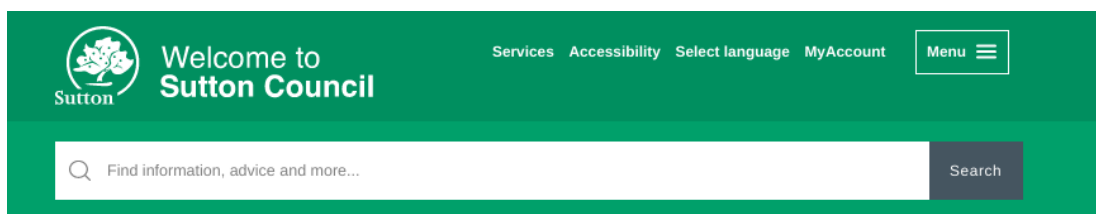
In the last newsletter (November 2020) we updated parents on some of the things we had achieved in the last period. This included the work we have been doing to support young people with SEND earlier through services such as 'Paving the Way', to improve the independent advice services we provide parents or the work we have been doing to improve our processes. If you missed the last edition you can find a copy of that here - [November newsletter](#).

Here is what we have been doing since then:

- In partnership with [Sutton Parent Carers Forum](#), we set up two meetings in January with parents of young people with SEND to provide a detailed update on our Ambitious for SEND programme, if you missed it you can find [a copy of the slides that were presented](#)

[here](#) together with an [audio file](#) from one of the meetings as well as an [FAQ document](#) that come out of the two sessions! We would recommend looking at the slides first before referring to FAQ otherwise it might not make sense.

- In January 2020, we allocated £0.4m of additional funding to help mainstream schools meet needs they know they will have in school (ie 'predictable needs'). This is in addition to the £20m that is already directly delegated into school budgets.
- After meeting and talking with parents/carers and young people last year, we have been working to strengthen Sutton's post 16 offer - we want to help prepare our young people for their best adulthood. For an update on some of the exciting things we have been working on please [click here!](#)
- We have built a new website for our SENCOs (special educational needs coordinators in schools) to explain some of the changes we have made and to make sure all of the information that they need is in one place. This will be published in the next two weeks on the [Sutton Local Offer](#) (and therefore will be available to parents as well).



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Sutton's Local Offer

Sutton's Local Offer Website: for all your SEND information needs

Our Vision: "We are collectively ambitious for our children and young people. Together we want to provide them with the best chances to achieve their best outcomes in life, whatever their starting point, and to prepare them effectively for adulthood."



Quick Links

[About Sutton's Local offer](#)

[News and Events](#)

[What is an Education Health & Care Plan?](#)

[Key SEND Documents and Templates](#)

[Positive Behaviour Support](#)

[Short breaks](#)



[Leisure and Things to do](#)



[Children who need additional support](#)



[Advice and Support](#)



- We have launched a new online platform called 'Knowledge Hub' - for Sutton SENCOs to collaborate and to share best practice, the vast majority of our SENCOs are already signed up (well done SENCOs!).

- We have also been working closely with the Sutton Parent Carers Forum on a [draft SEND Charter](#). This is a document that sets out the values and principles that we, the Local Area, schools, settings, professionals and services - agree we should all follow when working to support children and young people with SEND. Please take a look and let us know what you think by emailing your feedback to education.sendfeedback@sutton.gov.uk

What is coming up next?

- Sutton Parent Carers Forum are facilitating 2 engagement sessions for parent carers to meet virtually with Steve Buckerfield (Sutton Council) & James Holden (South West London Clinical Commissioning Group). Together, Health and Sutton Council commission therapy for approximately 2,000 children and young people. The Council and the CCG are reviewing these services and want to hear from parents/carers to help inform the review. The first meeting is on 26th February 10.30-12am via Zoom - further [details here](#).
- As discussed at the Parent meetings in January we are working on a '**draft commissioning strategy**' - a document that says what type of SEND provision we want in Sutton, how much we require and what needs it will meet. We will be sharing a draft copy of this through the Sutton Parents Carers Forum towards the end of the term.
- We are holding 4 seminars throughout the year on **Preparation for Adulthood** - the first of these covered work we are doing to promote [supported employment](#) opportunities for young people in the Borough with the other three focussing on Health, Independence and community inclusion.
- Early Years Matters: We are working in close partnership with NHS colleagues to set up and establish an 'integrated Child Development Service'. This ambitious joint venture joins the forces of health, education and social care to further support the growth and development of young children growing up in Sutton. More on that soon!
- We are starting conversations with the Sutton Parent Carers Forum about reviewing our **independent travel training service** which we are looking to refresh and put in place by September 2021.
- Funded by Sutton Council, Playwise and Homestart are launching a new project '[Moving on together](#)' to provide support to parents of children that have recently received or about to receive a diagnosis that may mean their child has difficulties with learning at school. Find out more about this exciting new project by clicking on the link above.

- **Free School Meals for families** - we have launched our February Half Term Free School meals scheme. For any parents of eligible pupils attending Sutton schools, you don't need to do anything, you will receive vouchers directly from your school. For any pre-school age pupils who are eligible - if your child doesn't attend a school, details of how you can claim your vouchers are [here](#).
- **PlayWise & Sutton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF)** are working in collaboration to provide Sutton families with children with additional needs and disability (aged 0-8 years) with advice & guidance '[drop ins](#)' on all things SEND. The SPCF are all parents of children with SEN themselves so understand the journey that parents face. They are offering a variety of dates through February and March - for details of the next event - [please click here](#).
- **Children's Mental Health** - We know that lockdown is particularly challenging for young people with SEND. Last week was [Children Mental Health Week](#) and there are lots of free resources for parents and young people available through the link. Following feedback from headteachers, school staff and parents, Cognus is continuing to provide an [Educational Psychology Community Call Back Service](#) for pupils, parents or staff in schools.



- **Emotional wellbeing: Covid-19 resource hub** - there's a large amount of information available from different groups to help support children and young people, which is great, but may also be confusing. Sutton CCG have pulled together their preferred links into an '[emotional well being resource hub](#)' to make it easy for children, parents and anyone supporting a child or young person in Sutton to access the right support.
- Surprise someone by [nominating a young person for a well being box!](#) - it's free. It's an act of kindness. We want to help each other during lockdown. All you have to do is fill out a nomination form. This is for anyone aged 11 - 18 years old and has been developed by young people for young people!

SURPRISE A YOUNG PERSON

Nominate them for a wellbeing box.

The box includes small goodies like chocolate, stationary and self care items.



It's free.
It's an act of kindness.
We want to help each other during lockdown.
All you have to do is fill out a [nomination form](#).
This is for anyone aged
11 - 18years old.

 YoungVoices@sutton.gov.uk

3 Feb - 31 March 21



- **Support for children with SEND / additional needs in the early years** - if you have a young child with additional needs or identified SEND, there is support for you from a variety of services in Sutton. The Early Years SEND Advisory Team at Cognus Limited works closely with services in education, health and social care to ensure each child can access the most appropriate educational provision for them. Advisors will always aim to meet with parents alongside their early years provider, as you are the experts on your child and your knowledge of them is paramount in our understanding of their needs. Please do get in touch with your early years provider in the first instance to find out more on how the team can help!
- Finally, as a local area, we have decided to offer **vaccinations to staff supporting young people with SEND in our Specialist provision** in the Borough (Special Schools/Colleges and Opportunity Bases). Whilst we recognise there are SEND pupils in mainstream provision and we want all education staff to get a vaccine as quickly as possible we believe that staff supporting our most complex young people with SEND in specialist settings are comparable with frontline social and health workers, we have therefore invited them to receive their vaccine as part of the first phase roll out. We are hoping the remainder of the education workforce will not be far behind but this remains a national decision.

