

Education Bulletin

For all professionals involved
in education and SEND
in the local area



NHS
Sutton
Clinical Commissioning Group

Cognus
No Limits on Learning

Sutton

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 prepare them effectively for adulthood.

Notice: Please make sure you view all of the email, as some email servers may cut off the bottom and not show all stories.

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Message from Mike Procter, Interim Director of Commissioning, Sutton CCG

I'm delighted to have this opportunity to provide the introduction to this edition of the Bulletin. Since joining Sutton CCG in October I have been really struck by the constructive and

enthusiastic approach to joint working amongst the partners in the borough to do our best for our children and young people. There are lots of exciting initiatives taking place but there are two that I'd like to focus on. I've chosen these two because in addition to being very worthwhile in their own right, they are also good examples of placing health service support directly into the school setting.



Firstly, there is the success that Sutton and two other South West London boroughs have had in becoming part of the national "Mental Health in Schools Trailblazer" pilot. This scheme was described in the previous edition of the Bulletin. The Education team and the CCG worked together to identify the schools for this pilot but we hope to roll this approach out to all other schools in due course.

The second initiative concerns the Children and Young People Wellbeing pilot. This programme was launched in April 2018 and provides guided self-help to children and young people with a variety of issues related to mood and anxiety. There are four practitioners based in schools and they work with parents as well as the young people. The service has been funded in this pilot year by Health Education England. However, I'm pleased to be able to confirm that the positive feedback received about the service has provided the evidence required for the CCG to continue funding the service. A more comprehensive description of mental health services for young people in the borough was presented to the LBS Scrutiny Committee in early February and is summarised later in this Bulletin. The education system in Sutton has a high and well-deserved reputation. However, we continue to strive to improve our provision.

The examples above and the contents of the rest of this bulletin show the commitment of all partner organisations to do just that.

Best Wishes

Mike

1. A few congratulations – some belated!

These are tough times to work in education and at times we can get distracted by all the things that aren't working so well and forget all the good things that are happening, so through the bulletin we want to start celebrating the successes in the Local Area as well as where we need to improve.

Sutton's schools continue to provide a very high quality of education in the Borough with all schools (that have an Ofsted inspection) being found to be good or outstanding. Particular congratulations to Tweedale Primary School for their recent 'Good' Ofsted, and perhaps more belatedly to Victor Seymour, Nonsuch Primary School, STARS, (Sutton Tuition and Reintegration Service) and Sherwood Park all of whom have had positive inspections this year/towards the end of last year.

Equally notable last year were the achievements of Cheam Common Junior who have rapidly improved and were listed as 173 on the Times list of the top primary schools in the country with Wilson's achieving the outstanding result of being the Secondary School of the Year for 2019 - congratulation to all involved.

We have the Deputy Mayor of London coming to visit Hackbridge Primary School this week to celebrate the excellent work that they do to on the Healthy Schools agenda (having achieved Gold status) - as well as the good work that a number of other schools across the Borough do to increase the Health and Well-being of Sutton's young people.

We know that there is a lot going on at the moment and it can be difficult to find the time but we are keen to capture more good news stories not just in schools but from all organisations across the local area. If you have some good news to share please get in touch! educationbulletin@sutton.gov.uk.

2. New SEND templates for EHC Needs Assessments

As part of our efforts to improve our SEND processes in the Borough we have co-produced new templates for requesting EHC Needs Assessments as well as requesting advice from professionals for the assessments. These templates have been developed with partners from across the local area. Following your feedback on the draft versions, we have amended the templates which can be [found here](#) and include:



- Young Person's EHC Needs Assessment Request Form
- Parental EHC Needs Assessment Form
- Professional's EHC Needs Assessment Form
- 3 x EHCNA Professional Advice Forms for Education, Social Care and Health

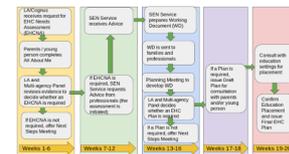
These will help us as a local area to have the right information to make decisions on the needs of children and young people with SEND and to improve their outcomes. We are always keen to hear feedback and will review the templates again in 12 months to make further improvements where necessary.

If you require further information on any of the above please contact amalia.banon@cognus.org.uk

3. Joint Working Protocol, Next Steps Meetings and Additional Support Contracts

Some Headteachers have raised with LBS officers that they are unclear on the purpose and organisation of 'Next Steps' meetings in the EHCP needs assessment process, the role of Additional Support Contracts as well as wanting more general information on the assessment process.

To help clarify the assessment process we have co-produced a [Joint Working Protocol which sets out the principles and values that will underpin the joint working arrangements](#), as well as the objectives for identifying, assessing and meeting needs for children/young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.



This protocol clarifies the role of additional support contracts on page 14 of the document above and the Next Steps meetings on page 19.

If you have any questions about the protocol or any questions about the role of next steps meetings please contact amalia.banon@cognus.org.uk

4. Exciting news for children with additional needs & disability in Sutton!

It is with great delight & pride that Sutton Portage Service is introducing brand new services for our children, families and pre-schools/ schools in the borough which will be delivered through our new Not-for-profit company 'PlayWise Learning CIC: For Unique Children'.

Portage will continue to be funded and delivered to the same high standards and will remain free at the point of access, for children 0-3 years who meet the Portage criteria. In addition to the Portage Service, PlayWise will offer a wide range of additional reasonably priced services to families with children who have additional needs and disability aged 0-8 years in an effort to improve outcomes and support for families and

provide a range of new chargeable services to PVI settings and schools who are working with children with such needs.

PlayWise for Children:

Our extended Portage home interventions: PIP (Portage Intervention Plus) means that children can access and learn through our home based teaching up to the age of 8 years. We support your child's learning & development within the EYFS framework for 0-5 year olds and provide problem solving, solution focused intervention and advice for children up to the age of 8 years



PlayWise for Parents:

Our offer is to deliver additional support services to families of children aged 0-8, provide a variety of bespoke SEND groups across the borough, offer membership services for families including, a community hub, bite-size courses and well-being activities for parents, form filling services as well as advice, guidance and support.

PlayWise for Education providers/ professionals:

We will offer pre-schools, nurseries and schools a variety of hands-on, flexible & bespoke staff training services, practical and direct work with children in the nursery and offer strategies that will support settings to support children with SEND to access the Early Years curriculum/ peer group/ environment etc.

Please visit our website: www.playwise.org.uk to find out more or contact us on info@playwise.org.uk or call 07736 338707

5. Sutton Health Watch – Survey of 5000 young people in Sutton shows that...

On 11 February 2019, Healthwatch Sutton published analysis of a survey completed by over 5000 young people aged 11-18 in Sutton, which looks at their mental health needs. The following key issues were identified:

- LGBT young people are four times more likely to have suicidal thoughts compared to those who identified as heterosexual.
- On average, 26% of students stated that they had experienced issues relating to body image or their appearance.
- 6% of young people had experienced self-harm.
- A decline in wellbeing was also shown the more hours that they spent looking at a screen.
- 40% of students said that they had sleep problems, and analysis showed that there was a direct correlation between improved wellbeing and the more sleep young people were able to get.

Commenting on its publication, Healthwatch Sutton Chair David Williams said: "This report should be used as the main driver for developing further support services to young people. This fantastic sources of intelligence gives us the ability to be able to ensure that the £1.8m received for the government's Trailblazer funding is directed to those that most need it".

A copy of the report, including executive summary and letters to Sutton CCG and LBS can be [found here](#).

For further information about Healthwatch Sutton, please contact Ishmael Evans, Communication and Engagement Officer on ishmael@communityactionsutton.org.uk

6. Mental Health Services in Sutton – an overview

As the previous article makes clear, there is a growing demand for mental health services amongst our young people so its critical schools and local area partners know what support is available and how it can be accessed. LBS Scrutiny Committee recently received [a report](#) on the services that are available in Sutton and summarised below

CAMHS services are delivered through a range of tiers and at each tier a range of different services and interventions are offered. All services at tier 2 and above are accessed through the borough's Single Point of Access.

An overview of the CAMHS service offer can be [found here](#).

Single point of assessment (SPA) – service through which most referrals and assessments are made, ensuring that a child is referred to the most appropriate service to meet their needs. Referrals are triaged within 24 hours and assessments undertaken where identified within 14 days.

Tier 1 – Universal services – GPs, schools pastoral support, school nurses, school counsellors, voluntary sector, social workers and youth workers.

Tier 2 – Jointly commissioned Targeted Services delivered by Sutton Alliance, led by South West London and St Georges NHS Trust (SWLstG) and delivered in partnership with voluntary sector providers. A summary of Sutton Alliance services can be found here

Tier 3 – Specialist community multidisciplinary CAMHS teams that support children and young people with complex mental health needs requiring specialist intervention. Neurodevelopmental assessments (including ADHD, ASD) are also delivered as part of the tier 3 service offer.

Tier 4 – Highly specialist services such as inpatient services and specialised outpatient services commissioned by NHS England



7. Meeting the needs of children with Dysphagia/Swallowing Difficulties in School

Specialist Speech and Language Therapists work with children who are at risk of aspiration – this is when food or drink enters the airway while eating and drinking. These children often require modifications to their food or their drinks to be thickened to protect their lungs. These children have an eating and drinking passport that outlines the thickener to be used and the method of thickening the fluid appropriately.

SAFETY ALERT: If you have a child in your school who has an identified swallowing difficulty requiring their drinks to be thickened it is essential that the thickener is stored safely out of reach of all children as there is a risk of asphyxiation if eaten without mixing with fluid.

If you have any questions or need training with regards to children with swallowing difficulties and use of thickener, please contact:

Kerensa.Lalmi@rmh.nhs.uk

Children's Dysphagia Speech and Language Therapists
Sutton Community Services
0208 915 6424

8. Major staff changes at the London Borough of Sutton

Helen Bailey was recommended to Full Council on 25 February, as Sutton's permanent Chief Executive. Helen will be joining Sutton from a long career in public service during which time she has held a range of senior roles.



Helen emerged as Sutton's preferred candidate following a robust selection process, led by the Senior Officer Appointment Committee – made up of councillors from both main parties.

As Sutton Council's new Chief Executive, Helen will lead the Corporate Management Team. She will take over from the interim Chief Executive, Mary Morrissey, who will return to her role as our Strategic Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration.

Gerald Almeroth leaves LBS as Strategic Director for Resources and following a meeting of the Senior Officer Appointment Committee, LBS are pleased to say that Richard Simpson, who currently performs a very similar role in Croydon, will be joining the Council on a 12-month fixed-term contract. Richard will become the S151 officer for the Council.

9. Introducing LBS' Councillor Marian James and Councillor Jenny Batt

Councillors Marian James and Jenny Batt (shown right) have been out and about in the new year visiting a number of schools including Carew Manor, Wilson's School, Hackbridge Primary School, as well as attending the Sutton Primary Heads Group with the Secondary Heads Group to come.



Marian is the Chair of the People Committee at the London Borough of Sutton with overall portfolio responsibility for Adults and Children's Services. Jenny is one of two Vice Chairs and takes the lead on education in the Borough.

They are keen to visit schools and partner agencies from across the Local Area to understand how we can improve the services we provide to children and young people. If you would like to invite Marian and Jenny to your school/organisation please contact jenny.batt@sutton.gov.uk

10. The BIG Bang

The Big Bang Fairs is a national programme run by Engineering UK with funding from government and industry. In addition to a national event held in March, there are 11 regional programmes which each year inspire over 150,000 students, engaging them with the potential of a career in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The events will take place as follows:

- **3 July** at Westminster Kingsway College – Kings Cross, 211 Grays Inn Road, WC1X 8RA
- **4 July** at Newham College – East Ham, High St South, London E6 6ER
- **12 July** at Sutton Grammar School – Manor Lane, Sutton SM1 4AS



For more information about the Big Band London please [click here for an information sheet](#) or contact nicola@seventhcorner.co.uk for more information.

Briefings

11. School Nursing Service - who they are and what they do

School nurses are registered nurses who have professional experience and training in supporting the health needs of all school age children. They continue the work of the health visitor in, promoting good health and prevention of illness in the school age population. This is in line with the Department of Health 'Healthy Child Programme'.



The school nursing service is commissioned by Public Health in the London Borough of Sutton and from April 2019 will also come under the umbrella of the Sutton Health and Care Alliance.

The school nursing team works with parents, carers, children and young people of school age providing advice and support on the following:

- Parenting
- Children with special needs and complex health needs
- Sleep
- Behaviour
- Allergies and asthma
- Development
- Eating problems
- Alcohol, drugs and smoking
- Emotional and mental health issues
- Sexual health and relationships

The school nurses also deliver the national child measurement programme in school for reception and Year 6 children, and they support those identified as under or overweight to achieve a more healthy weight. They run enuresis clinics and can also carry out home visits. They support children in school with complex health needs and may work with education staff to draw up a health plan to support children and young people in school.

School nurses offer weekly drop-in clinics in every high school in the borough so young people can access confidential health advice. The school nurses can provide ongoing support for young people through the drop-in and can refer to other services as appropriate. Much of the school nurse work in the drop-in is focused on supporting young people's emotional well-being and mental health.

Parents and Carers can expect contact from the school nurse when a child starts in reception, when parents will be asked to complete a health questionnaire about their child's health. If a parent identifies some health needs the school nurse will contact the parents to discuss further and may make arrangements to meet with the parent and the child.

A member of the school nursing team may also meet with parents at the school parent / teacher afternoons and evenings. Referrals can be made to the school nursing team from the parent / carer, the school staff, the GP, the health visitor and other health professionals.

School nurses may also be involved in delivering PSHE sessions in school often around sexual health and relationships.

Parents, teaching staff, GPs and other health professionals can contact the school nursing team at any time to discuss concerns they may have about a child.

Contract details:

T: 020 8661 3904

E: rmh-tr.SNteamleaders@nhs.net

W: www.suttonchildhealth.co.uk

12. Changes to the School Nursing Service

The Sutton School Nursing service is coming 'in-house' to the London Borough of Sutton on 1 April 2019. Most of you will be aware that our school nursing service has been provided by the Royal Marsden NHS Trust for the last few years. Last March, the Royal Marsden served notice on LBS and Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group for all its community health service contracts. The school nursing service is part of the Healthy Child Programme contract which also comprises the health visiting service. This contract is commissioned by LBS's Public Health Team.

Instead of re-procuring the contract, the Council decided to take the services in-house. This means that all the current Marsden staff will transfer over to the employment of LBS and become Council employees in the Public Health Team, headed up by the Director of Public Health, Dr Imran Choudhury.

What will this mean for our schools in Sutton? In the short to medium term....very little. Business continuity is our key priority. We hope that as many of the existing staff as possible will transfer over to LBS while recognising that some may choose not to. The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) will continue, as will secondary school drop ins, PSHE support, input to healthcare plans for pupils with complex health needs, child protection work, etc. But in the longer term, having direct control over the service will give us the opportunity to shape it to meet the needs of our local primary and secondary school children. We want to work in partnership with our local schools and other stakeholders to identify key priorities and make best use of all available resources locally to address the needs of our children and young people.

Contact details:

Oliver Paul

LBS Public Health Team

oliver.paul@sutton.gov.uk

020 8770 5212

Information and Consultations

13. 2019/20 School Budgets

Schools Forum met on 12 February to agree the 2019/20 Dedicated Schools Grant budget in Sutton. In 2019/20 all schools will be funded on the National Funding Formula with budgets announced shortly after half term for maintained schools. Academies receive their budgets directly from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

For anyone that wants a quick summary of what the Dedicated Schools Grant is and how it is structured [you can find a](#)



[summary here](#). If anyone would like any further information on School Budgets or on the National Funding Formula please contact sue.holmes@sutton.gov.uk or kieran.holliday@sutton.gov.uk

14. 2019 Ofsted Education Inspection Framework Consultation

Following the recent consultation led by an HMI held at Wilson's School, we would like to encourage as many of those working in education as possible to respond to the online questionnaire which will feed into the final version of the September 2019 framework – to view, please [click here](#).

15. National Audit Office Study on SEND

The National Audit Office is currently undertaking a study on 'Support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities' focussing on whether the Department for Education supports pupils with special educational needs and disabilities effectively. The study will cover all school-aged children needing support for special educational needs and disabilities, both those with an education, health and care plan and those without. The study will examine: whether the Department for Education has assurance that funding is distributed according to need; whether pupils with special educational needs and disabilities are receiving high-quality support, leading to good outcomes; and whether the arrangements for overseeing the cost and quality of services, and for intervening if services are under-performing, are effective.

If you would like to provide evidence for our study please email the study team on enquiries@nao.org.uk, putting the study title in the subject line. The team will consider the evidence you provide; however, please note that due to the volume of information we receive we may not respond to you directly. If you need to raise a concern please use our contact form.

16. Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy

For anyone that missed it.....the Department for Education published the [Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#) and the [Early Career Framework](#).

The Strategy's 4 key priorities:

- Helping school leaders to establish more supportive school cultures and crack down on workload
- Transforming support for early career teachers
- Making sure teaching remains an attractive career as lifestyles and aspirations change
- Make it easier for great people to become a teacher

Find out more

- Download our handy [one-page guide](#)
- Watch our [explainer video](#)
- Listen to what the [Secretary of State](#) has to say
- Read the full strategy [here](#)

Tell the DfE what you think

DfE are holding regional roadshows across the country to seek further views on their plans. The first event is on Monday 4th March from 14:00-17:00 at the South Bank

University in Southwark. The second event will take place on Thursday 7th March from 14:00-17:00 at George Abbot School, Guildford. For details of how to book please go onto [Eventbrite](#).

17. How can LBS best involve residents and young people in decisions affecting their Local Area?

LBS are currently undertaking a consultation to seek residents views on how we can best involve them in decisions affecting their local area; to best meet the needs of the community and engage with a wider audience. We would also really like to hear from children and young people and would appreciate if you could disseminate this information more widely.

The consultation is live and will run for 4 weeks until 10 March. More information via the link below:

Please see link below:

<https://sutton.citizenspace.com/environment/local-committee-review>

Reminders / Notifications

18. Sutton Parent Carer Forum Information Day - 13th March 2019

Don't forget the Sutton Parent Carer Forum Information Day 2019!

Where? - Phoenix Centre, Mollison Drive, Wallington, SM6 9NZ

When? - Wednesday, March 13 th 2019 from 9.30 am until 3.30 pm

Why? - To provide information, help and advice to families with children and young people of all ages with additional needs and/or disabilities

Cost? Free to all as funded by Parent Carer Participation Grant. Refreshments available all day, buffet lunch provided between 12 and 2pm

19. Hindu and Buddhist New Year Celebration on April 14 2019

Schools may already have received an invite to Sutton's Hindu and Buddhist New Year celebrations being organised by Councillor Param Nandha but if not please find details below:

What: on this historic occasion, the event will be inaugurated by His Worshipful Mayor of Sutton Cllr Steve Cook and we would be delighted if you or a representative of your school/organisation could attend this ceremony. Guest arrival is between 17.00 and 17.30 with a cultural programme, speeches and prizes from 17.30 to 19.30.

Where: Stanley Park High School, Carshalton Sutton, SM5 4NS.

When: Sunday 14 April 2019

Please RSVP to param.nandha@sutton.gov.uk by Friday 15 March 2019.

20. London Teacher of the Year – Join our search for a Star!

In the last bulletin we encouraged schools, governors and other professionals to nominate teachers in the Borough for the London Teacher of the Year Awards 2019. We have pushed this

out to parents via our social media channels and it would be great if schools could do the same - nominations can come from anyone including parents.

It's great to hear that a number of nominations have come in for teachers in Sutton, so if you haven't nominated yet please do so now! Nominations are accepted from January 1 to March 7 each year. Visit www.londonteacheroftheyear.co.uk to submit your entry. Follow Teacher of the Year on Twitter @InspireSchools1 and #LToTY



21. Cognus Customer Exhibition 2019 - Please book a slot

Cognus are delighted to invite schools and any other interested parties to their next customer exhibition, which will be held at the Chaucer Centre, Canterbury Road, Morden, SM4 6PX on Wednesday 27th March 2019. [A copy of the invite can be found here.](#)



So Cognus can ensure there is time for proper conversations they are running three slots through the day. It is essential that you book a slot, as there will be a short presentation at the start of each session, so if you have a preference then please book early to confirm your place by emailing enquiries@cognus.org.uk

The three slots are as follows:

- 09.30 to 11.30
- 12.30 to 14.30
- 14.45 to 16.45

Did you miss the previous Bulletins?

You can download previous Education Bulletins here:

[January 2019 Edition](#)

[December 2018 Edition](#)

If you have any queries or would like to submit an article for the next edition, then please contact educationbulletin@sutton.gov.uk

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