

Education Bulletin

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



NHS
Sutton
Clinical Commissioning Group

Cognus
The Centre for 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.

Introduction from Helen Bailey, Chief Executive, London Borough of Sutton

Having recently joined Sutton as Chief Executive of the Council, I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce myself to partners from across the Local Area via the Education Bulletin.

One of the things that attracted me to come to Sutton was the premium that the Council and its partners place upon collaboration, and the importance that both councillors and colleagues accord to the relationship between the council and partners in the public, voluntary and private sectors. I see it as an important part of my role to support and strengthen those relationships. In particular, I along with councillors and senior colleagues value the relationships that we have with schools and recognise that we share an ambition to do our best for the young people of the borough, even when times are challenging.



Personally, I bring to the Council a huge enthusiasm for local government as a deliverer of services and a leader of place; together with experience of many aspects of public service.

Those experiences include a stint as Chief Executive of Islington Council, Director of Public Services at HM Treasury and some time heading up the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime as well as experience as a consultant. These experiences have all reinforced for me that no organisation can achieve as much on its own as it can by working with partners and colleagues, especially when demand is high and resources constrained.

Clearly, much work has been done from partners across the Local Area to respond to the SEND Written Statement of Action and this is rightly an area of focus for us at the moment. I also realise that there remains a great deal of work still to do in this regard but I am greatly looking forward to meeting more colleagues from across the Local Area in the coming weeks and months and to understand more about our shared challenges and ambitions for our young people in the Borough now and in the future.

Best wishes

Helen

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Articles

1. Update on SEND Written Statement of Action

Through the work of the SEN implementation group and CFA Board (both of which have representation from schools), we continue to push forward the improvements we need to make as part of our Written Statement of Action. As a local area we recently met with representatives from the DfE and NHS England to review our progress. [Attached is a presentation which sets out some of the improvements we have made](#) together with the challenges that we haven't yet resolved and next steps. We also recently reported to [People Committee on our progress](#). Please feel free to share with your staff or other networks. If you have any questions about the Written Statement of Action please contact fiona.phelps@sutton.gov.uk



2. SEND Local Area Survey – April 2019

We need to understand the impact of the work taking place through the Written Statement of Action on our Local Area. We circulated this Survey in December 2018 to colleagues from across the local area. Key themes coming out of the last survey:

- There is good awareness of our vision for young people with SEND (73%) and on the work we are doing on the WSOA (77%) but we need to do more.



- There remain some gaps in knowledge of the SEND code of practice across the Local Area
- There is good awareness of SEND support services that are available amongst Local area leaders, but there is a need to improve the quality of support to schools / mainstream settings
- Sutton still has work to do to improve the way we identify young people with SEND as well as improve outcomes for those young people
- 38% of respondents thought communication in the Local area has improved but 58% said there has been little or no change

Many thanks to those that responded to the first survey, but with only a 18% response rate we are keen to hear from more people and to try and understand what impact our work is having.

If you are a professional involved in Education and SEND, we would be very grateful if you could complete this brief survey (4-5 mins) accessed through the link below. **Please complete the survey by Friday 3 May 2019!** This survey sits alongside other surveys seeking to gauge the experience of children and parents so that we can build a better picture of where we are now, the progress we are making and what we still have to do. Your response will help shape our next steps so thank you for all your help.

[Complete the survey today!](#)

3. Draft EHC plan and Annual Review templates

As part of our work to improve the quality of EHC Plans in Sutton, we have been reviewing our EHC Plan and Annual Review template and guidance. We held a multi-agency workshop on the Review process, and we discussed with Sutton Parents Carers Forum Steering Group and with the SEN Team improvements on the EHC Plan Template.

[Draft Annual Review Template 2019](#)
[Draft Annual Review Process Guidance](#)
[Draft Education, Health and Care Plan Template](#)

We would be very grateful if anyone with an interest in Annual Reviews or EHC plans could review the attached draft documentation and offer us any feedback. Please share your thoughts with victor.roman@sutton.gov.uk by the 30 April.

4. Sutton Joint Commissioning Strategy

London Borough of Sutton and Sutton CCG have worked together to develop a Joint Commissioning Strategy for the Local Area. This Strategy provides a commissioning approach to meet the guiding principles as agreed by Sutton CCG and Sutton Council to achieve the vision Sutton has for its children and young people with special education needs and disabilities. The Strategy was approved at People Committee on the 14 March 2019.



[To see the strategy, please click here.](#)

5. Early Years Inclusion Champions

The number of children with SEND in Sutton looking for childcare has increased in recent years and this alongside the changes to the free childcare entitlements means that childcare providers are constantly having to adapt their provision to meet children's needs and create flexible childcare.

To help early years practitioners and settings respond to the needs of children with SEND, we have recently launched an Inclusion Network. The purpose of the network is to provide support to the early year's workforce to create a fully inclusive early years sector.

Seven early years practitioners with experience of supporting children with complex SEND in the PVI sector were identified to become our 'Inclusion Champions' in the Autumn. The Inclusion Champions have received training from the Autism and Portage services to increase their confidence, knowledge and skills on a variety of strategies to support children in different of early years settings, that can be shared with the wider sector.

The Inclusion Champions are available to all early years providers in Sutton to:

- provide universal practical support and role modelling to peers on implementing tried and tested strategies,
- encourage inclusive practice, and;
- enable children with SEND to access childcare in Sutton.

The inclusion champions will be at the [next SENCo network meeting on 5 June 2019](#) to share their experience and answer questions. Colleagues should also be aware of the funding available for providers caring for children with SEND in the Early Years:

- Disability Access Funding (DAF) - This fund is a one-off annual lump sum of £615 for children aged 3 or 4 years old (not available for children in a reception class) who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance(DLA) This fund should be used to support children with SEND to access their free childcare entitlements.
- Early Years SEND Inclusion fund (SENDIF) - funding is allocated termly to support providers Inclusive practice. To be eligible for this fund, providers should contact either Jane Gates or Lisa Sheridan.

To find out more about the Network or to get in touch with an Inclusion Champion local to you, please contact jane.gates@cognus.org.uk, lisa.sheridan@cognus.org.uk or laura.byrnnes@sutton.gov.uk

6. Sutton School Improvement Update

Cognus are pleased to announce that Jane Morgan miranda-jane.morgan@cognus.org.uk has joined as a School Improvement Advisor. Jane is an experienced Primary School Headteacher who has worked in a number of school and Local Authority settings and has a fantastic track record of leading positive change.

Jane will initially focus on identifying and working with schools who qualify for immediate school improvement support to be funded through the School Improvement and Brokering Grant (maintained schools only). She will also be working on the wider school improvement and CPD offer for all schools and this should be available to schools from the end of April.



The process of school improvement support is summarised in the [attached diagram](#). Moving forwards this process will begin in July this year, leading into the start of the academic year, although this year we will also be adapting this approach to allow schools who qualify for immediate support to access this from the start of the summer term.

We have decided to retain the term ASIP (assisted school improvement programme) as a previously used term to represent the formal engagement of LA school improvement support. It is important to note that Jane's role will be to work with the Headteacher to broker support, such as NLE input, rather than working directly to carry out school

improvement work herself. This is in line with previous discussions with Sutton Primary Heads Group on our proposals to enhance capacity for School Improvement document circulated to Headteachers previously.

Thank you all for your patience whilst this School Improvement support has been reestablished.

Please contact myself or Jane if you have any further questions.

Kate Leyshon (kate.leyshon@sutton.gov.uk), Sutton School Improvement Lead

7. New local procedure to respond to serious child care incidents

Local Area leaders should be aware that a letter will be sent from the Independent LSCB Chair to all early years, schools, colleges and other education providers before the end of this term to set out the procedure for reporting and responding to serious injuries and child deaths. As now, the reporting should be to MASH or the Emergency Duty Team as the single point of contact to coordinate responses.

The new procedure will set out the details of the process to manage responses under the recently revised Child death review: statutory and operational guidance and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The LSCB now must convene a Rapid Review within 15 days and submit the minutes to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel for a decision on whether the incident meets the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (Serious Case Review in WT 2015).



As part of the new local procedure, it will be the responsibility of the LSCB to collect emergency contact details for Headteachers to effectively coordinate responses to serious child care incidents. The information will be managed on a strict 'need to know' information sharing principle and the procedure will set out who can access the details to fulfill the duties under the above statutory guidance.

If you require any advice already now or have any queries, please contact Camilla Webster, LSCB Business Manager on tel: **020 8770 4879** or suttonlscb@sutton.gov.uk

8. Raising the profile of young carers in Sutton schools

In 2017, Sutton Young Carers Service was awarded funding by BBC Children in Need to work in partnership with Sutton schools and colleges to equip them to identify and support

Young Carers within their school. As part of this work, we have delivered staff training, assemblies and supported a small number of schools to achieve the Carers Trust 'Supporting Young Carers in Schools Award'. The award demonstrates that schools have

successfully implemented policies and procedures to meet the needs of Young Carers within their school.

Overton Grange became the first secondary school in Sutton to achieve the award.

Robin

Hood Junior School recently submitted their evidence for the award and are closely followed by **Harris Junior Academy**. **Stanley Park High** are in the early stages but have been outstanding at identifying Young Carers. All four schools are running Peer Support Groups. Whilst this is not a requirement of the award, schools have seen the value in running such a group and we congratulate all these schools for their achievements in supporting young carers.

In more exciting news, Cognus recently included Young Carers in the Schools Transitions Grid. This means that information about a child's caring role will transition with them from primary to secondary school. The inclusion in the grid will mean that Young Carers will be identified on entry to secondary school and receive appropriate, timely support. Also, we recently presented to the primary and secondary Designated Safeguarding Leads at meetings facilitated by Cognus to increase awareness of Young Carers in school.

Finally, we would like to thank **Westbourne Primary School** who fundraised for Young Carers over the festive period!

To find out more about how your school can get involved, contact us on 020 8296 5611 or

email our schools worker Julia Kerr at julia@suttoncarerscentre.org.

Melanie Walles
Young Carers Service Manager

9. Visit to Hackbridge Primary School

On a cold blustery morning, what a warm welcome we received at Hackbridge Primary School. From the minute we stepped into reception to the end of our visit, we were aware of the passion and energy generated by all. Along with Ofsted, we were impressed with the marking system – children marking their own work which gives them a better understanding of their learning and frees up the teachers time, enabling them to focus on lesson plans. Another innovative idea was the burger writing frame which the children were using to help organise and plan their writing.

It was good to see parents helping out in the classroom and Emma explained how she welcomes the support of parents within the school. Interestingly, the boys toilets are full height ie: no gaps at the top or bottom. This was at the request of the children, as some of them were not using the toilet as they were worried about someone looking over the top. As you can imagine, this was not good and resulted in some of the children ending up with water infections through “holding it in”. We were really impressed with how the pupils, through their School Council, are able to communicate the changes that they would like to see in the school. Hackbridge provide a true ‘pupil voice’ which makes the children feel listened to and valued.

We could have stayed all day at the school, it is a visual wonderland with many murals, quotes and sayings, ensuring that it is a vibrant and inspiring environment for the children to learn. Thank you Emma and appreciation to all the teachers and children who gave us the opportunity to observe their work and learning. We would love to come out and visit more schools in Sutton so please do get in touch if you would be willing to host a visit?

CIIs James & Batt – marian.james@sutton.gov.uk and jenny.batt@sutton.gov.uk



Information and Consultations

10. Sutton Parents Forum Information Day – update from Sutton Parents Forum Steering Group

On 13 March we held our third annual Information Day and included, for the first time, the Youth Zone for young people. In the Youth Zone, hosted by Sutton Mencap and Orchard Hill College, we asked young people two key questions: 'what do you want to do in Sutton' and 'how do you want to tell us'. The key themes were that there is not enough to do in Sutton so that they have to travel out of borough for activities and that young people with additional needs do not feel safe going out and about.



As well as Councillors Pascoe, James, Heffernan and Batt attending, we had more than 60 providers from education, health, care, support groups, benefits, legal advice and leisure and 130+ parent/carers attended which made the day a real success. Workshops were provided, including 'top tips for transition' with Adapt to Learn, and surgeries were available all day for families who wanted the opportunity for an individual discussion.

Everyone enjoyed excellent refreshments and there was a really good 'buzz' in the room. The feedback from both parent/carers and young people will be used to shape services moving forwards

If you want to get in touch with the Sutton Parent Carers Forum for whatever reason please email us on suttonparentsforum@outlook.com

11. SEN Futures

SEN Futures - Following the announcement on 16 December, the Department are delighted to have recently begun procurement for [SEN Futures - a flagship programme of research and analysis](#) focussing on children and young people with SEN in England. SEN Futures will aim to build the evidence base on a wide range of issues, including:

- A variety of outcomes for children and young people with SEN – including outcomes in a wide sense such as wellbeing, happiness and preparation for adulthood.
- The experiences of children and young people with SEN on their journeys through education.
- [The value for money of different types of SEN provision in England](#)

12. Consultation on mandatory learning disability and autism training

The Dept of Health and Social Care is currently consulting on mandatory learning disability and autism training. For a copy of the consultation and how you can make your views known please use the link below. Please note, the consultation closes on 12 April 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/learning-disability-and-autism-training-for-health-and-care-staff>

13. 16/17-Year-old – Voter Registration Engagement

LBS Electoral Services are encouraging registration for voting from 16/17-year-olds as many young people do not realise that this is a legal requirement.

The team would like to provide a leaflet to schools/colleges to be handed to students for example in any information packs that are handed out to school leavers/further education starters – If you would like to receive copies of our leaflet please contact jodie.measure@sutton.gov.uk or **020 8770 5573**.



Reminders and Notifications

14. People Committee Update

The people committee recently received reports on the progress being made against the Written Statement of Action. In addition there were reports on the Joint Carers Strategy, and updates on Primary and Secondary National Offer days. [Copies of the reports can be found here.](#)

15. Cognus make key SEND appointments

Cognus are delighted to introduce colleagues to some new names working with the company in an interim capacity whilst they pursue permanent arrangements. This includes appointments to the Head of Inclusion, Head of SEN Support and Local Offer lead officer - [for a copy of the communication that was shared with school click here](#)

16. Governor Training

Governor Services offer a comprehensive Training Programme covering all aspects of education and the role of the school Governor - including training on SEND. [Our full list of courses can be found at samscpdonline](#). The new programme of courses for the Academic year 2019-2020 will be available before the end of the Summer term.



For further information, please contact governor.support@merton.gov.uk

17. Active School Hero – nominate now!

Active kids are healthier, happier and more successful so we want to recognise the achievements of those people working in primary schools across greater London who are helping to get kids active.



Nominations are free of charge and it can be any school staff member in a London primary school who helps kids be active; from the lollypop lady, teaching assistant and librarian to the catering staff, active travel lead or the after school activities manager. The nominations will close on April 8th at 11:59pm. For more information visit <https://activeschoolhero.com/>

18. Ouch Awards – nominate your young people!

Operation Ouch! is a BAFTA winning, critically acclaimed educational children's TV show. One of the biggest and most popular parts of the show is the Ouch! Awards, which celebrate young people who have helped others in medical need, saved lives in an emergency, shown incredible courage living with their own medical condition, care for a relative or raised money for a charity to help others.



If you know anyone who you think should be nominated for an Ouch! Award please use the link below that will take you to the application form and more details about the awards. [For a copy of the flyer please click here](#) or visit their web address <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/operation-ouch-heroes>

19. Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education – Early Adopter School Programme

DfE are inviting PHE's assistance in recruiting schools to the above and registrations are now open. Information about the early adopter school programme and [how schools can register is attached here.](#)

20. Whistleblowing policies in schools and the correct LA contact

Some schools have told us that they are updating their whistle blowing policies and asked about the LA contact 'where the whistleblower considers the matter too serious or sensitive to raise within the internal environment of the school'. The LA contact is the Head of Internal Audit, Margaret Culleton unless its an issue regarding a Member then the contact is the council's Monitoring Officer, [Jessica Crowe](#). We ask that schools quote our main number which remains **020 8770 5000**.



21. Sutton Sexual Health Clinic is moving!

From Monday 1st April, Sutton Sexual Health Clinic will be hosted by Sutton Health and Care (an alliance between Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, the London Borough of Sutton, Sutton GPs and South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust). This includes contraception and sexual health services, caring for adults in their own homes across the borough and providing children's therapy services.

In order to improve the sexual health services the clinics at Green Wrythe Lane will be relocating. There will no longer be a walk-in clinic at the health centre at Green Wrythe Lane Clinic. All our sexual health clinics, including our walk-in clinics and pre-booked appointments will now take place at The Rosehill Clinic at St Helier Hospital and the Jubilee Health Centre, Shotfield. All clinics and staff have transferred to the new locations.

If you require further information on the above please contact leanne.bobb@sutton.gov.uk

Did you miss the previous Bulletins?

You can download previous Education Bulletins [from the LBS website here:](#)

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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