

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.

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Introduction from The Sutton Parent Carers Forum

Welcome to the fifth edition of the **Education Bulletin** and welcome back from what was hopefully a restful half term break! We are delighted to have the opportunity to introduce the bulletin and to tell you a little bit more about who we are, what the Sutton Parent Carers Forum is and why it is so important!

Sutton Parent Carer Forum is led by a steering group of eight parent/carers all of whom have a child with an additional need or disability. Our role is to listen to and represent the views of parents and carers in the local area to ensure we know what is important to them; we then aim to work collaboratively with the Local Authority, CCG, education settings and other providers to highlight where local services are working well, or challenge when changes and improvements need to be made.



We run many participation events during the year to both support and gather parent and carer feedback and hope that colleagues from across the local area will help promote these to make sure services in Sutton meet the needs of our families. The information for these as well as training sessions and information events are on [our website](#). We would particularly like to bring to your attention the following upcoming events:

- [Carers Week BBQ](#) - Join the Sutton Mencap Team and Parent Carer Forum Steering Group for a break and relax for a couple of hours and feel appreciated. **10 June, 12-2pm** - click above to find out more!
- [Sailing through the SEND Summer Holidays!](#) - a workshop with Yvonne Newbold aimed at parents looking to plan their summer holidays for children with additional needs - **11 July, 2019 - 10-12.30** - click above find out more!

We are really pleased that Amalia Banon, Head of SEN, is running a series of workshops for us to make sure that parent/carers understand how the system works and the improvements and changes that are being made. This month's session, which was the same as the training recently delivered to schools, covered reviews / annual reviews and the feedback from the parents and carers who attended was that the session was very helpful. Thank you to Amalia and the other officers who attended, for staying after the session to run surgeries to meet with families to discuss individual concerns. The surgeries after each event are really useful and these are now a

standard and very important part of our process.

Co-production is a fundamental principle of parent carer participation and means that the forum plays an integral and equal part in decision making processes and in shaping, developing, implementing and evaluating services. We are extremely pleased that, as part of the Written Statement of Action, the Local Authority and CCG has reinforced their commitment to working in this way and in April 2019 signed up to a Memorandum of Understanding to enshrine this in working practice. We understand that this can be time consuming but by working together we can make the necessary improvements which will result in better outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families in Sutton.



Jane Knowles
Chair and on behalf of Sutton Parents Forum

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Articles

1. Key updates from Cognus SEND service

Year 6 Transitions – The SEN service would like to thank all primary and secondary schools for their support in ensuring all current year 6 pupils had a confirmed destination into the secondary stage of their education by 15 February (i.e. the statutory deadline) – it's great that most of those destinations were within the local area. This enabled schools to start transitional arrangements in February to ensure their success. For anyone interested, the service has provided statistics [here](#) on destinations. A really positive statistic for our young people is that 50% of children placed in the independent sector in

primary are transferring to state funded settings in our community – thanks to all our schools that have helped to make that happen.

Updated SEND Guidance Information – it has come to the attention of the SEN Service and LBS that some schools/SENCOs may still be referencing an outdated and redundant Cognus document entitled "Education Health and Care Plans – A Graduated Response to Special Educational Needs" dated November 2017.

As has previously been stated in communications to education partners, please **DO NOT** use this guidance, and please dispose of any copies that you may have. If you wish to request an EHCNA, please consult the [SEND Code of Practice](#) and use the [Professionals' EHCNA Request Form](#) which can be found on the [Local Offer](#) website.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Amalia Banon, Head of SEN Service on amalia.banon@cognus.org.uk or Bob Harrison Director of Services on bob.harrison@cognus.org.uk or book a slot for the SENCO surgeries advertised below.

SENCO Surgeries – Following the success of the first surgery on the 9 May, Sutton SEN Service at Cognus will continue to offer SENCO surgeries. These are available for staff working at all educational settings in the London Borough of Sutton (early years, primary school, secondary school, college) to provide information and support regarding SEND processes when working with children and young people with additional educational needs.

The remaining SENCO Surgeries will take place on the following dates, between the times listed below and divided into 30 minute slots ie 1.00-1:30 then 1.30 - 2.00 etc.

- **Thursday 13 June** – sessions between 1.00pm to 4.00pm
- **Thursday 11 July** – sessions between 9.00am to 12.00pm

Please note this is available only on a first come first served booking basis and there are approximately 12 slots each day. To book an appointment on one of these days, please email us at sen.team@cognus.org.uk specifying the date and time you would like, and we will advise what's available.

Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) over the holiday period – the SEN Service would like to remind the local area that there are no exceptions for professionals providing advice for an EHCNA over the summer holidays. A request for an EHCNA received in July or August will still have to be considered by panel within six weeks and, if agreed, the assessment will have to take place during the summer holidays, most likely in the child or young person's home. A more child centred time to submit requests for EHCNA is up to mid-June and from September.

2. New Framework for Looked After Children (LAC) Reviews

Sutton children's services have introduced a new framework for looked after children reviews, now known as 'All About Me Reviews'. The pilot phase for this has been underway since 1 April and it will be launched for all children's reviews on 1 July. It takes a more child-centred, creative and strengths-based approach through the following:

- Children are fully involved in decisions about where the review will take place and who will attend
- Children choosing how they want to share their views with their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) before the review and how they want the review to run. This can include creative ideas such as a video blog, writing a letter, doing some direct work with their IRO, chairing their own review



- Carers being well prepared for the review by thinking about the child's achievements to be celebrated, and how the challenges can be constructively addressed
- Reports being written to children in simple, plain language; carers and IROs writing a letter to children.

There is a practice guide available providing full details of the All About Me Reviews. Please contact Jo Mitchell (Lead IRO) on joanne.mitchell@sutton.gov.uk or **020 8770 4567** to request a copy, and if you have any questions about the new review.

3. National Recognition for Robin Hood Junior School

We would like to congratulate **Robin Hood Junior School** on becoming the first primary school in Sutton to be awarded the 'Supporting Young Carers in Schools Award'. The award, granted by the Carers Trust and The Children's Society, is in recognition of the support the school has put in place to both identify and support Young Carers in their school.



Robin Hood run Young Carer peer support sessions and a homework club every week to ensure that these children reach their full potential. Sutton Young Carers' specialist schools worker, Julia Kerr, funded by BBC Children in Need, initially delivered school assemblies and staff training to support the school's hard work towards best practice, which ultimately led to the achievement of the award. A particular well done to Mrs Rose, Mrs Rix and Miss Brown for all your hard work on this!

The steps schools take to identify and support Young Carers can have a huge positive impact on their overall learning, well being and life chances. It's great to hear about the steps Robin Hood Junior School has taken to ensure that none of their pupils miss out on an education because of their caring role. We would encourage all schools in the Borough follow their example!

If you would like to know more about how you can support young carers please contact melanie@suttoncarerscentre.org

4. Showcasing enterprising Sutton students

Young Enterprise is a national charity and their flagship Company Programme empowers young people to set up and run a student company under the guidance of a business volunteer. Students make all the decisions about their business, from deciding on the company name, managing the company finances and selling to the public, gaining practical business experience and employability skills.



Sutton students participated in the 2019 Company Programme with a number of pupils scooping awards! Overall Runners-Up and winner of the Best Teamwork award Rosadé, from Carshalton High School for Girls, went on to represent the borough at the South

London Finals showcasing their success in raising awareness about domestic violence. Astrobear from Greenshaw, with their retro tie-dye t-shirts won Best Presentation; Bamboo straws from St. Philomena's STEPS won the Team Journey award and Nonsuch's Krypton collected the award for Customer Service for their Wave shower speaker. Congratulations to all those involved!

The Sutton Volunteer Board of Young Enterprise will be hosting an informal drop-in event at the Sutton Holiday Inn on **Tuesday 25 June** from **3pm-7:30pm**. If you would like to find out more about getting your school to take part or how to get involved as a business volunteer, please RSVP Erwan Toulemonde, erwan.toulemonde@y-e.org.uk YE Manager for South London. More information can also be [found here](#).

Paul Colvin & Sue Overy
Volunteer Board Members, Sutton Young Enterprise

5. Cllr James and Cllr Batt visit Sherwood Park School and the Sutton Sports Partnership

Visit to Sherwood Park – (Cllr Marian James, pictured right) It was great to visit the school. Our visit enabled us to meet pupils, all of whom had complex needs, some with very profound and multiple needs, and to see first-hand how the teachers and assistants used a variety of communication methods, resources and individual learning approaches to engage the young people. The music and sensory equipment allowed pupils to experience a range of sounds and visual effects and each young person was enabled to achieve to the best of their ability.

On our tour we were also able to see the swimming pool, jacuzzi, soft playrooms and the outside learning areas; all of which help to provide a rich and varied curriculum for the pupils.

We were particularly interested to learn about the different ways in which Sherwood Park School helps prepare pupils for adulthood - a critical theme for the local area. One of the ways in which they do this is through work experience and social enterprise. The Rocky Road cafe enables post 16 students to take orders and payment for lunch from the staff and to help prepare this. We learnt that the jacket potatoes on Fridays were also very popular!



Visit to the Sutton Schools Sport Partnership – (Cllr Jenny Batt, pictured right) Passionate, dynamic and innovative – certainly words we would attribute to Katie, Catherine, Suzy and Tracey from the Schools Sport Partnership when we visited at the end of April. Who knew that such a small team could achieve so much!

It was really interesting to hear the history of the partnership from Katie and how the partnership has grown. It was good to see that the partnership works with 28 of Sutton's 40 Primary, Junior and Infant schools, putting bespoke support packages together, along with organising an annual PE conference, facilitating the healthy schools programme, supporting schools to achieve awards, overseeing the Daily mile, organising a celebration evening to reward schools and individuals for their commitment to physical education, physical activity, health and well-being, promoting mindfulness and meditation with children and young people, staff and parents/carers and offering blocks of fencing tasters to schools.



Katie has recently qualified as a mental health first aid instructor and has already carried out two training sessions with staff across Sutton and Merton schools. Two exciting events coming for the Partnership in the near future are: a Health and Well-Being Conference on October 16 at The Chaucer Centre – (Do go!) and a move to Cheam Common in September. If you are a school that does not know/engage with the

partnership, then we would encourage you to get in touch – they have much to offer. Thanks Katie, Catherine, Suzy and Tracey – don't forget our invite and Good Luck with the move!

Contacts: marian.james@sutton.gov.uk and jenny.batt@sutton.gov.uk

6. Early Years Advisory Team in Cognus Invited to team up with University of Oxford

The University of Oxford have invited the Early Years Advisory Team at Cognus to team up with them on their latest research project "Texts for Talk". The research study is designed to support parents in having effective conversations with their preschool children at home.

Interested parents in your nursery class would receive a free two-month evidence-based support programme developed by researchers at University of Oxford. Texts for Talk is universal but designed to engage parents who may be reluctant, or have limited time, to get involved in activities and support offered at school. We hope to begin the study with the first schools and families in autumn 2019, and would need at least six families per school to participate. If you think you would be interested please contact [Alex Hodgkiss](mailto:Alex.Hodgkiss@education.ox.ac.uk) (University of Oxford, Department of Education).



Alex Hodgkiss and Sandra Mathers will come along and talk in more detail at the next Foundation Stage Co-ordinators meeting which is on Tuesday 25 June at 4.00pm at Denmark Road (Cognus training suite). If your school is interested and you would like to bring other colleagues along with you to the meeting please get in touch with Nick Banham or Jan Capon nick.banham@cognus.org.uk or jan.capon@cognus.org.uk

7. YOT Update re Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime - May 2019

There has been a lot in the press understandably around the prevalence of Serious Youth Violence and knife related crime.

Nationally we know the proportion of children entering the system for more serious and violent offences is increasing with possession of weapons and robbery on the rise. In 2018, children committed 21% of all knife and offensive weapon offences. There has been an increase in gangs and organised crime groups who use county lines to exploit those children who are particularly vulnerable or at a crisis point in their lives. In LB Sutton, we have been able to avoid any significant rise in numbers of knife related offences and through the success of our multi agency partnership supporting the early help agenda, we can focus on prevention rather than cure. In relation to other London boroughs we have low numbers of SYV:

INDEX OFFENCE TYPE	2017-18 TOTAL	Q1 2018-19	Q2 2018-19	Q3 2018-19	Q4 2018-19	2018-19 TOTAL TO DATE
Knife/ Weapon Possession	15	7	5	3	1	16
Robbery	3	2	1	1	0	4

GBH	0	0	2	2	0	4
ABH	10	1	0	3	6	10

This does not make us complacent and the work of our crime prevention service YOUThink and the delivery of our 'I'm Doing Me' (IDM) Young Londoners funded prevention project is more vital than ever to ensure we keep the figures low. The YOT is fully engaged in the Knife action Plan and work being done around prevention. We work closely with the police and our attached YOT police officer to manage offending behaviour in a safe and focused way so as to prevent re-offending and ensure public safety.

Within Sutton Integrated Youth Support Team we operate under the guise of '**Child first; Offender second**'..... Which is key to acknowledging some of the trauma and significant adverse childhood experiences many of the young people who end up in court have experienced.

If you have any questions around knife crime or Serious Youth violence in LB Sutton and how we manage this then please get in touch.

Laura.noulton@sutton.gov.uk

8. Timpson Review of Exclusions

As many colleagues will be aware, the Timpson Review of Exclusions was published earlier this month. There are 30 key recommendations impacting on LAs, schools and the Government, all of which the Government has endorsed in principle. A summary of these recommendations [can be found here](#).

The Government also announced that it will launch a consultation later this year regarding Performance tables (Recommendation 14). This will include how to make schools accountable in the most effective and fair way, so they can fulfill their responsibilities for permanently excluded children. This may include through reform to commissioning and funding arrangements for alternative provision (AP). Some of the key data from the Review is here:

- 78% of pupils who are permanently excluded either have SEN, are classified as in need or are eligible for free school meals. 11% of permanently excluded children have all three characteristics.
- After controlling for other factors, boys with social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH) and no EHCP were around 3.8 times more likely to be permanently excluded than a non-SEND child, while girls were around 3.0 times more likely
- Disadvantage is strongly associated with exclusion, after controlling for other pupil characteristics. Children in receipt of Free School Meals were around 45% more likely to be excluded than other pupils.
- After accounting for other factors, Black Caribbean were around 1.7 times more likely, and Mixed White and Black Caribbean children were around 1.6 times more likely to be permanently excluded compared to White British children. Indian and Bangladeshi pupils are around half as likely to be permanently excluded.
- Controlling for other factors, children on a Child in Need Plan are around 4 times more likely to be permanently excluded compared to those with no social care classification.
- Children who have a Child Protection Plan are around 3.5 times more likely to be permanently excluded, and children who are looked after are around 2.3 times as likely to be permanently excluded than children who have never been supported by social care.

Information and Consultations

9. Call For Review on SEND Funding, from the SEND Delivery Support Team at Mott McDonald, on behalf of the DfE

In December 2018 the Secretary of State announced his intention to hold a call for evidence on the current funding arrangements for those with special educational needs, those with disabilities, and those who require alternative provision.

Given the pressures on LAs and schools in this area this is extremely welcome so we would encourage all schools to respond to this either individually or collectively.

The call for evidence can be accessed at <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/funding-for-send-and-those-who-need-ap-call-for-ev/> and will be open from now until **31 July 2019**.

10. DfE Home education consultation / children not in school

The DfE are also consulting on establishing a system of local authority registration of children not in school and is a follow-up to the consultation and call for evidence on elective home education held by the Department for Education in 2018.

Please see link below. **The consultation closes 24 June 2019**

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/children-not-in-school/>

Reminders and Notifications

11. National SEND Conference 2019 – 27 June 2019

The National SEND Conference takes place on the 27 June where a host of SENCOs, headteachers and LA staff will come together at London's Victoria Park Plaza to assess how all providers can effectively work in collaboration to ensure compliance with the SEND inspections framework and meet the requirements of the SEND reforms to deliver outstanding SEND provision.

LBS and Cognus have purchased multiple tickets to the event and secured a discount in the process. As a result we can offer **four free tickets** to representatives from schools for those that would have an interest in attending. We would be interested in hearing from colleagues with a responsibility for SEND in schools (SENCOs, SLT, HT) and ideally we would like cross phase representation. If you are interested in joining colleagues from Cognus / LBS please contact Fiona.Phelps@sutton.gov.uk by **14 June**.

12. WSOA Stocktake Day – hold the date! 17 September 2019

We recently advised colleagues from across the Local Area to hold the date: 9am - 12.30pm, 17 September, but just in case you missed it, we are reminding colleague again here. The half day session will focus on the progress we have made with the Written Statement of Action as well as the areas we still need to progress/improve. Venue and agenda are to be confirmed - more information to follow.

13. Free Finance Course for Schools

Nebula Learning offers a free online finance course aimed at UK secondary schools. Given the inclusion of financial education in the KS4 citizenship curriculum, the course is a great way to do this without putting additional pressure on staff.

The course consists of bite-sized videos, quizzes, and group activities with content provided by the Financial Times. It can be delivered flexibly in classrooms via a projector or in computer rooms, whether during PSHE classes or morning form groups.

Last year, over 100 schools across the UK signed up to the course and the results were impressive. 95% of teachers surveyed said that the course was easy to deliver, while 85% of pupils said that their understanding of topics improved.

With 25% of 18-30 year-olds in chronic debt and household debt at an all-time high, it's not hard to see why this initiative is so important for young people's futures.

Nebula is now accepting schools for the 2019/20 school year. You can sign up your school for free here: <https://bit.ly/2LcaJ4W>

For further information please contact Bethany Staff, beth@nebulallearning.co.uk

14. Join in with 'The Daily Mile Day' in London on Friday 5 July

Regular physical activity can give a real boost to children's mental health and wellbeing. Be part of the first ever Daily Mile Day in London! Primary schools in every part of London are invited to take part in The Daily Mile at 14:00 on Friday 5 July.



- Every child takes part in a run or jog for 15 minutes, at their own pace, during the school day
- It takes 15 minutes from classroom door to classroom door – there's no kit needed, no resources, no track needed and no changing
- The Daily Mile is social and fun. It's not a race and everyone can take part – they don't have to run for a mile, just for 15 minutes. Teachers and school staff can join in too

[Find out more here about how your school can get involved!](#)

15. Call for Volunteers - Enterprise Advisers - London Enterprise Adviser Network (LEAN)

The London Enterprise Adviser Network (LEAN) is building a bank of Sutton Business Leaders to work with local schools to support local regeneration and ensure that Sutton's young people have opportunities to learn about the world of work through a comprehensive and quality careers provision.

This builds upon the work we did around the School Career Networking Events.

If you are interested in becoming an Enterprise Adviser, or you are a school and would like to be involved with the programme, please contact the LEAN via the email below for more information or apply via the website <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/volunteering/reducing-barriers-social-mobility/enterprise-adviser-network>.

For an informal discussion, please contact Karen.Persaud@reed.co.uk, who is the contact for Sutton.

16. Young Carers Education Volunteers Wanted!

The Sutton Young Carers Service is looking for volunteers to help out at 'Chill and Learn', our Young Carers Education Support Club, which runs every Monday from 4-5.30pm, term time only. Volunteers would be required to help Young Carers with any challenges they are having in regard to their education. This can include helping with homework, coursework or revision but also providing emotional support if they are struggling with their caring role, having issues at school such as being bullied etc. During 'Chill and Learn' we also run occasional 'Specials' where we focus on particular issues relating to Young People's wellbeing. For example, we may run a mindfulness session for stress and anxiety or a session on strategies for revision. Chill and Learn is led by our Senior Schools Worker who has over 20 years' experience in education. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more please contact melanie@suttoncarerscentre.org or call 020 8296 5611

17. Staffing Update at Cognus

Cognus recently circulated [a new structure which can be found here](#) and went live earlier in May.

- **Helen Gasparelli** has been appointed to the permanent role of Head of Inclusion with the appointment of an Inclusion Manager underway - if you have an interest in this role and/or know of someone who would be suitable, please contact Helen directly.
- **Jane Morgan** (part-time Head of School Improvement) has agreed to join Cognus as Head of SEN Support. The role of Head of School Improvement and Head of SEN Support will be running alongside each other for the foreseeable future and will be reviewed in August this year. No resources will be lost or are being allocated from School Improvement to deliver the head of SEN Support role. Graham Read, who was covering some of the SEN Support activity, left Cognus on Friday 26 April.



Cognus are also currently recruiting to several roles including the below which can be viewed on their website:

- Inclusion Manager
- Educational Psychologists
- SAISS Project Worker
- Inclusion Coordinator
- Early years SEN specialist adviser (to follow shortly)

Cognus would be very interested in hearing from anyone who wishes to work in the organisation as we gain new business and need additional capacity all of the time.

Please contact humanresources@cognus.org.uk if you would like to arrange a (confidential) conversation.

18. Finally a farewell...

...to Victor Roman, who leaves us this week (6th June). Victor has been working with us over the last 12 months as SEND transformation lead, helping us to implement the changes set out in our Written Statement of Action. Victor is setting up his next adventure in Manchester where he is moving and we wish him all the best on the big move! For anyone looking to reroute correspondence please contact Fiona.phelps@sutton.gov.uk in the first instance and we will communicate future arrangements in due course.

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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