



## SEND update

Key information for  
SENCOs in MK schools

### Welcome from Nina Broderick - Inclusion Service Leader

It was fantastic to see such great representation of schools at our most recent SENCo Quadrant meetings this half term! Supportive, and productive conversations were held across the quadrants and it was clear that the meetings have been helpful to your networking with schools in your local areas. As we enter into the final half term of the academic year, we will be working together to focus our work on transition planning for pupils with SEND and this will be the topic of our next SENCo Quadrant meeting after the half term break.

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### Head of SEND Update

We are pleased to announce that Vic Courtis has been appointed as our permanent SEND Lead.

Vic has been in post as interim lead since December, but we are very happy to secure a permanent appointment and congratulate her on the promotion.

Vic will be leading our important work in improving outcomes for our children with SEND.



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### SENCo Quadrant Meetings Updates

Lively discussions were held across all four quadrants when auditing the SEND Support Plans. Areas to take forward as future actions points included: challenges with completing the 'Tell it Once' documents and how this is approached by schools varied with further guidance needed; setting of outcomes were not always considered robust; pupil voice was not always captured or often written in 'pupil speak' by an adult on behalf of the pupil. Schools reported that although there was value in developing SEN Support Plan's for pupils, these often took too long to complete. Schools reported finding it supportive to see other school SEN Support Plans and a range of ideas were shared for best practice such as involving teachers in the development of SEN Support Plans.

Other challenges discussed included pressures on schools to complete FACT Plus documents due to the ASC diagnosis pathway; a range of professionals increasingly requesting schools make EHC needs assessment requests and concerns were raised about their being inconsistency in letters received from GPs relating to pupils experiencing anxiety affecting their school attendance.

Actions and support towards these areas will be discussed in the next SENCo Quadrant meetings.

We shared that that new [high needs top up funding guidance](#) has been developed and is being piloted during this summer term. A link to the guidance can be found on the [SEND Local Offer](#).

A relatively few schools (8 primary) took part in the second trial of the Language Link resources, feedback and proposals are currently being considered and conclusions will be shared on the outcome ahead of September 2023.

The next SENCo Quadrant meetings to be held on the week commencing 12 June, for more information please visit our [SEND Local Offer](#).

The theme of our next SENCo Quadrant meetings will be transitions. Please bring any suggestions for supporting one another with good practice ideas and ways of working within your quadrant that would strengthen transition processes and practice.

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## Transitions

As we are in the summer term, our attention turns to transition, the children we have joining us and those moving on to their next adventure, please remember we have [transition support available on the SEND Local Offer](#) as well as our [transition training offer](#):

- Supporting successful transitions for children with SEND: Starting School for the first time
- Supporting successful transition for children with SEND: Moving into year 1

We advise that transition meetings take place in the summer term and that the [SEN Support Plans](#) are updated and reviewed ready to be passed on to the next school or setting.

Some children, young people and parents can find transition a challenging time so it may be supportive to have a transition meeting with the child / young person (if appropriate) their current school or setting, parents and the new school or setting to share what strategies are successful and sharing the most up to date SEN Support Plan / EHCP.

Please find information on the [SEND Local Offer](#) to [support transitions](#):

- Early years to Primary
- Primary - Secondary
- Post 16
- Phase Transfers
- Moving into Milton Keynes



## Annual Reviews / EHC Review Updates

We are gathering feedback from parents following their child's [annual review](#) this academic year. For annual reviews being held this term, please could you make parents aware and encourage them to let us know their thoughts.

Please can all annual review paperwork following a review be sent in as soon as possible and before the end of the Summer Term. The EHC Review Officers continue to work through paperwork that has been sent and will send out proposed amended and final amended plans as soon these are available.

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## Phase Transfer Pilot

Following a successful phases transfer period with 98% of placements named on EHC Plans for children and young people starting or moving school in September 2023, the Local Authority have begun a small pilot with six primary school for phase transfer September 2024.

The aim of the pilot is to explore:

- Starting the transition process earlier, particularly for those children moving into secondary.
- Having parent's preferences for schools earlier, whilst enabling them to visit and attend school open days/evenings.
- To support children, young people, families, and schools at these key transition points.

Families of year 5 children within the six pilot schools have been asked to complete their secondary preferences by 23 June.

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## Mental Health Awareness Week

The week beginning 15 May was Mental Health Awareness week and we want to share information and support we have available on our [SEND Local Offer](#) for anyone that may need it!

We recognise that mental health is so important and we want to make sure our children, young people, families and professionals have access to the advice and support they need.

The BLMK Suicide Prevention Campaign group has produced a [communication toolkit](#) which we hope you will find useful.

The theme for this year is 'anxiety'. The toolkit aims to increase people's awareness and understanding of anxiety, along with how and when to access support.

Please also find additional advice and support available on our [Mental Health and wellbeing hub](#) and our [EPS page](#).

## [The Diana Award](#)

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Week (15-21 May), The Diana Award, in partnership with POPYRUS\_Charity, is hosting a brand new webinar focusing on the impact of bullying behaviour on mental health and suicidal ideation. [The Diana Award - Anti-Bullying Webinar Series For Educators \(diana-award.org.uk\)](https://www.diana-award.org.uk)

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## SEND Surveys – have your say!

We need children and young people, professionals, and parents/carers to complete some short surveys - to let us know what we do well and what we need to improve when it comes to SEND provision in MK.

How you can help?

1. By supporting eligible pupils in your school/setting to complete the [children and young people SEND survey](#). The closing date is **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**.
2. By ensuring that you and your colleagues complete the [Professional SEND Survey](#).
3. By asking parents/carers of children and young people to engage with the [Parents and Carers Alliance \(PACA\) survey](#)

Parents/Carers who complete the PACA survey, and provide their contact details, will be entered into a prize draw to win £50 Amazon Vouchers. PACA will randomly select one winner and contact them directly.

The surveys for pupils and professionals close on **Friday 26 May 2023**. The [PACA](#) survey closes on Wednesday 24 May 2023. Thank you for taking the time to support us with this. The better the engagement the better informed we are.

You can find further information on [SEND surveys](#). You can also find support at [Milton Keynes SEND Local Offer](#).

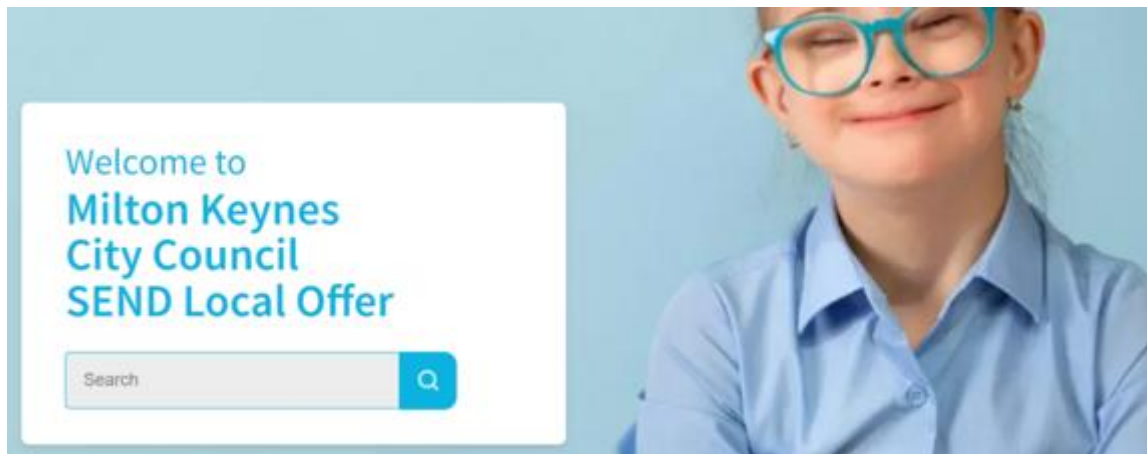


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## Updates on the SEND Local Offer

The SEND Local Offer team are continuing to improve the SEND Local Offer, please find the following updates:

- [Mental Health Awareness Week Communication Toolkit](#)
- [Transforming care information](#)
- [Top Up Funding Guidance and checklist](#)



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## NEW Face to face parent meet up

The SEND Team are hosting a parent meet up session with a variety of professionals to answer any questions parents may have following the parent programmes. This takes place on 8 June 1:30pm - 2:30pm at the Rowans Family Centre!

Please share this information with your families. To book your place please [email us!](#)

## Autism / Social Communication Needs in the Primary Years Parent Meet up

Have you attended our parent programmes?  
Would you like to meet up with other parents and professionals?

**Time and date:**

Thursday 8th June 1.30-2.30pm at The Rowans Family Centre

We will be joined by Occupational therapists, Speech therapists,  
Specialist nurse, Specialist teachers, PACA, Carers MK and SENDIAS



What sorts of questions can I expect to find the answers  
to?

How do I support my  
child with their  
communication?

What support and  
activities can I access with  
my child in Milton Keynes?

My child struggles to  
sleep, what can I do?

How can I help my child's  
sensory needs and support  
their emotional regulation?



To book your place please email  
[SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

<https://www.mksendlocaloffer.co.uk/>



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We welcome your views on the newsletter and would love to hear any ideas you have for future editions. Please share your views via [email](#).



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**Note: Please do not respond directly to this email.**

For SEND queries email: [SEND support line](#)