



# SEND newsletter

Special Educational Needs  
and Disability

## Welcome from Sidrah Goheer, SENDIAS Team Manager

Welcome to the SEND Newsletter. With the academic year drawing to a close, exams and transitions are keeping us busy. In this edition, we spotlight Ofsted, Mental Health resources, Short Breaks update and Youth Council. For more information and resources, visit the [SEND Local Offer](#) and follow SENDIAS on [Facebook](#).

Our last SEND drop-in session for this year will take place on Thursday 06 June at the Daisychain Family Centre. Join [SENDIAS](#), along with other support services such as [PACA](#), [Carers MK](#), and the [Local Offer](#) to find out what support there is for children with additional needs and how our services can support you. These popular sessions will resume after the summer holidays.

SENDIAS also offers variety of workshops for parents and carers – our upcoming sessions include SEND Support (04 June) and EHCP (11 June), you can book via this [link](#).

As we look back on this year, our service has experienced a significant 33% increase in referrals. Our workshops and drop-in sessions have been well-received, and we've extended our outreach services to include Wellbeing and Career fairs across various schools in Milton Keynes.

If you need information, advice and support, you can contact us in a number of ways; by email at [contact@mksendias.org.uk](mailto:contact@mksendias.org.uk) or leaving a message on our advice line 01908 254518 or by completing our [online referral form](#).

On our website you can find SEND related information, advice and support including factsheets and template letters. Our website can be accessed via this [link](#).



Lastly, a sincere thank you to all the families who we have supported over the years. Your kind words and valuable feedback are much appreciated.

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## Ofsted and CQC Local Area SEND Inspection

Thank you to everyone who took the time to speak with inspectors or complete the surveys during our visit from Ofsted and the CQC in March. To read more about their findings, please visit our [website](#).

[Click here to read the full report](#)

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## SEND Support Line update

The SEND Support Line callback service number has changed to 01908 252222, our SEND Support email address remains the same [SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

The SEND Support Line offers advice and signposting for schools, professionals, parents and carers.

Just a reminder that SENDIAS continue to be the main point of contact for parents and carers who offer free, confidential and impartial information based on the legal framework of the SEND law and local policies within Milton Keynes. Please find further information available on the [SENDIAS website](#).

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## Statutory proposal for making prescribed alterations at Bradwell Village School, Germander Park School, Priory Common School, Southwood School and Romans Field School

The MKCC school place planning group have been looking at the numbers of children and young people currently in our special schools, and thinking about what this might look like in the future. Like other areas, there are an increasing number of children in Milton Keynes with Autistic Spectrum Condition. Some of these children are travelling out of area to have their needs met.

At MKCC we work hard to give as many children as possible the opportunity to access suitable schools locally which supports children to develop support networks in their local communities and reduces the time they spend travelling.

Having considered current and likely future numbers, the school place planning group have agreed that we need to commission additional places in local schools

for children whose needs relating to their Autistic Spectrum Condition mean that they require additional support over and above what a mainstream is offering them.

The school place planning group have identified that developing Unit Provisions on existing mainstream schools (where children would access specialist support), and an additional secondary pathway in one of our local special schools would enable local expertise in supporting and meeting the needs of children and young people across the whole Milton Keynes school landscape.

A consultation will take place for the next 4 weeks which describes the proposals to create these Units and new pathway, and to gather opinions on the proposals.

Please read the [full statutory proposal](#) and [view the statutory notice](#). You can send us your views by emailing [sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk) or by completing the [online response form](#).

Feedback from this consultation will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families in July 2024.

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## Short Breaks service update

Our short breaks service are in the process of commissioning a new online provider to replace the short break voucher offer. Due to the commissioning arrangements this is set to launch in the summer ready for the summer break. We recognise that this is taking longer than originally thought however our priority is having a service that meets all needs. This new offer will provide our children and young people a wider range of activities. We will email all our families of children and young people with an EHCP once they are able to register for this scheme.

Please find a timeline on our [SEND Local Offer short breaks page](#).

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## Short Breaks Easter 2024

We hope that our children, young people and families enjoyed the short breaks Easter offer. We wanted to share that 840 sessions were available during Easter 2024 and were delivered by 9 providers across 9 locations.

An amazing 722 short break sessions were booked during the Easter school holidays. Approximately 300 individual children and young people aged 0-25 years attended the activities on offer between 1 to 14 April 2024. Thomley Hall and Gulliver's Theme Park day visits and stayovers achieved 85% to 100% attendance.

Following the success of the Short Breaks Easter Offer, we are excited to share that we will be providing FREE activities over the summer holidays for our children and young people with EHCP's.

This offer is available to all eligible families to access over the summer holidays. Further information will be shared on our Milton Keynes SEND Local Offer!!

Please see below feedback from some of our families:



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## Sensory bags

We still have some sensory bags available from our Easter short breaks offer. Families with children or young people with an EHCP are invited to collect a sensory bag from the designated Family Centres. Please note each bag contains a variety of items, please check the items are suitable for your child or young person. There are a limited number of bags and they will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

- [Conniburrow Children's Centre](#)
- [Daisychain Family Centre](#)
- [Moorlands Family Centre](#)
- [The Rowans Family Centre](#)

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## School holiday activities

We are continuing to update our SEND Calendar of events, please do check the calendar at the bottom of the home page on the [SEND Local Offer](#). Please see below some of the activities and providers that are available over the half term.

[MK Gallery Relaxed Screening: Butterfly Tale \(U\)](#) 26.05.24

[MK Gallery Art Together](#) 30.05.24

[Gravity SEND Sessions](#) 26.05.24, 28.05.24, 30.05.24, 02.06.24

[Climb Quest SEND Sessions](#) 25.05.24, 26.05.24, 01.06.24, 02.06.24

[Top Jump SEND Sessions](#) 26.05.24, 02.06.24

[Thomley camping](#) 24.05.24-25.05.25

[Thomley Disability Family Day](#) 28.05.24

[Willen Lake Dedicated SEN sessions at Splash 'n' Play](#) 29.05.24

*By sharing this information, we are not endorsing or quality checking any events or activities, and parent/carer/families remain responsible for their own research. We recommend contacting providers directly.*

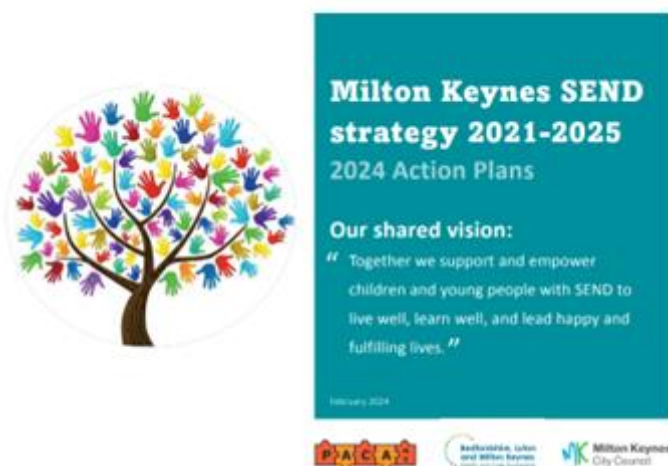
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## Milton Keynes SEND strategy 2021-2025 -2024 Action Plans

Have you seen the SEND Strategy information we published last term? It outlines the plans for this academic year which have been developed through collaboration with stakeholders, including schools, families, and professionals in education, health and social care.

They highlight the five main priorities of the SEND strategy, provide examples of activities planned for this academic year, explains how success will be measured, and outline how the local partnership will oversee the plans.

Information can be found on the [Milton Keynes SEND Local Offer](#).



## Meet the Team - Kerry Reynolds Inclusion Practitioner



I work as part of the Early Years Team as an Inclusion Practitioner, working to support children primarily in early years settings with SEND and also supporting transitions into school. I began my career as a nursery nurse, working in various nurseries and schools, primarily in early years education. I later moved to Milton Keynes Hospital, where I trained as a hospital play specialist in Leicester. It was during this time that my interest in special needs grew, prompting me to seek further experience at Redway. Afterward, I joined Walnuts, where I worked with children aged 5-16 for 10 years. Following this, I moved to MKCC on a secondment, where I have been in my current role for the past 13 years.

In my spare time you will find me on our families small holding looking after my 5 pet goats and running a little farm shop or on the sofa cuddling my very lazy dog.

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## Transitions

Starting or moving school can sometimes seem a daunting step if you child has SEND, or you have concerns about their development.

The Local Offer has lots of information and resources for you to use with your child as well as a helpful [parent guide](#) which offers practical ideas for supporting transition. There is information to support:

- Helping your child with SEND prepare for school
- Transitions
- Early years to primary
- Primary to secondary
- Post 16
- Moving into Milton Keynes

If you think your child needs extra support in school, we recommend you speak to the school SENCO (special educational needs and disabilities coordinator). The SENCo will consider what reasonable adjustments will be put in place to support your child or young person.

Some children may have a SEN Support Plan, that identifies the provision through the [Graduated Approach](#) that the child or young person needs. The receiving school, will use the SEN Support plan to inform the child's transition plan and their support. Please see further information on the SEND Local Offer.

### **Additional resources to support transitions:**

- [Supporting learners with autism during transition \(autismeducationtrust.org.uk\)](#)
- [The Autism Resource Suite | Autism Education Trust](#)

- [Transitions : Mentally Healthy Schools](#)
- [Young Minds Supporting school transitions](#)



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**Mental Health Awareness Week 2024 took place from 13 to 19 May, on the theme of “Movement: Moving more for our mental health”.**

Movement is important for our mental health. But so many of us struggle to move enough. We know there are many different reasons for this, so this Mental Health Awareness Week we want to help people to find moments for movement in their daily routines. Going for a walk, putting on your favourite music and dancing around the living room, chair exercises when you’re watching television – it all counts!

[Mental Health Awareness Week | Mental Health Foundation](#)

Find your moments for movement

One of the most important things you can do to help protect your mental health is regular movement. Moving more can increase your energy, reduce stress and anxiety, and boost your self-esteem. If you’d like to improve your mental health by moving more, read our tips to help you get started.

[Mental health Foundation have shared some top tips!](#)

Please find addition information on our [Mental health and wellbeing hub](#)

## How you feel matters in Milton Keynes

A range of services and support is available for supporting children and young people in Milton Keynes with their emotional health and wellbeing.

A local working group has co-produced a document which sets out clearly how children and young people can access support in Milton Keynes.

[How you feel matters: Getting support in Milton Keynes.](#)



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**Mind BLMK Young Person Sanctuary is now open 7 days a week**



Mind BLMK is delighted to be working collaboratively with CAMHS and Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) in Milton Keynes to provide crisis

services for young people (aged 14-17) in need of mental health support.

The sanctuary is now open 7-days a week at CAMHS Eaglestone Health Centre, between 4pm and 10pm.

Mind BLMK Young Person's Sanctuaries are safe, non-judgemental spaces where young people can come if they find themselves in crisis or mental distress in the evenings. There is no need to call ahead or book an appointment. If you are aged 14-17, simply drop in and you will be met by a trained youth mental health professional who will listen carefully and help identify ways to address the problems you are

facing. The teams will also be able to refer and signpost to other services if required.

For more information about the Milton Keynes Young Person's Sanctuaries, please visit the [Mind website](#).

# Young Person's Sanctuary



Supporting young people with mental health across Milton Keynes.



Where?



Milton Keynes

no referral needed

14-17yrs

my needs are listened to.

Mental Health Drop-in

A safe and inclusive space

365 days a year



## Location:

CAMHS Eaglestone Health Centre, Standing Way,  
Milton Keynes MK6 5AZ

Monday - Sunday (4.00pm - 10.00pm)

[www.mind-blmk.org.uk](http://www.mind-blmk.org.uk)



To find out more:

☎ 0300 330 0648

✉ [yps@mind-blmk.org.uk](mailto:yps@mind-blmk.org.uk)



Central and North West London  
NHS Foundation Trust

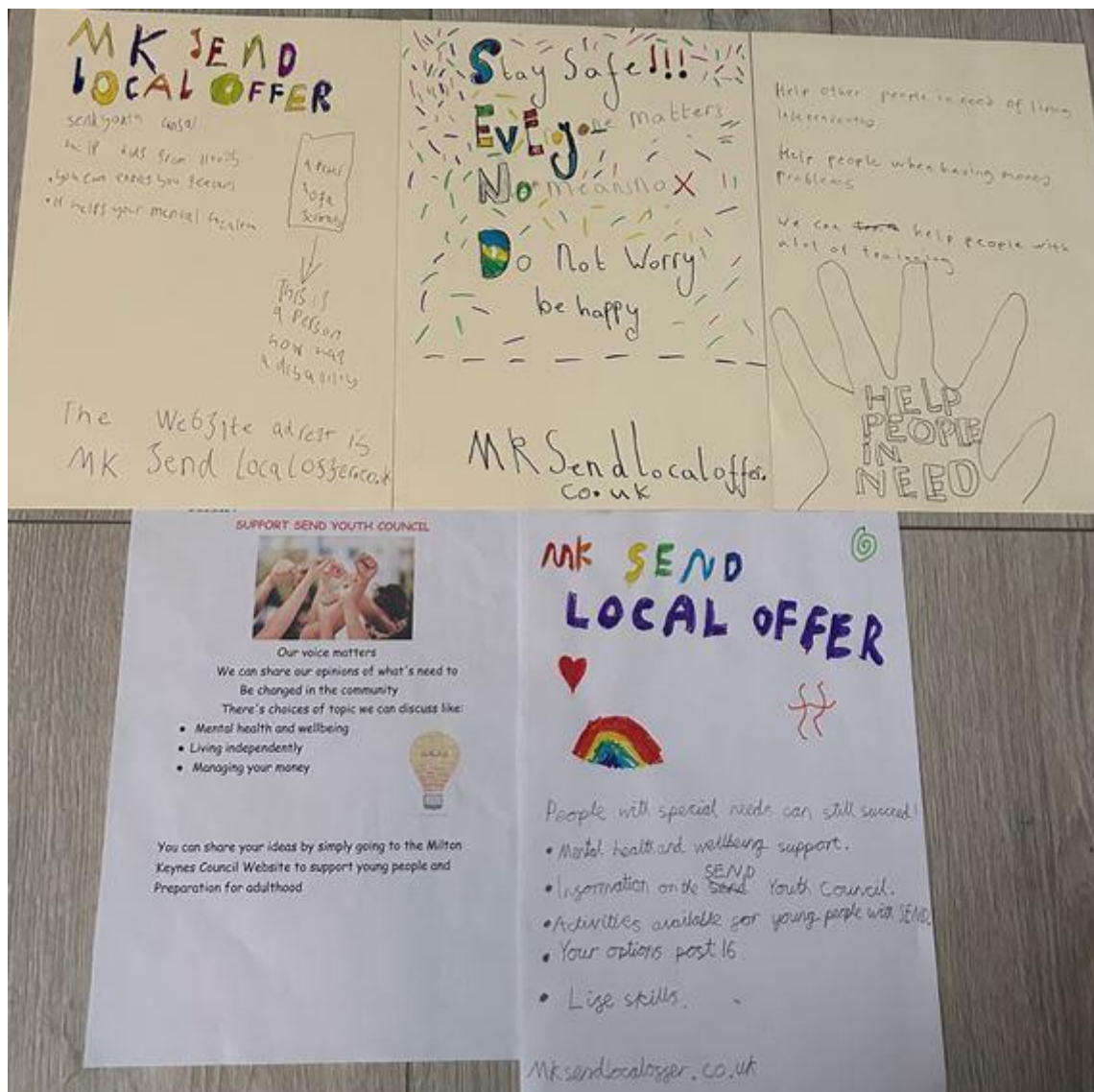
SEND Youth Council Update

The SEND Youth Council met on 08 May and our focus was the SEND Local Offer and the changes the young people would like to make to the support for young people's section.

The SEND Youth Council looked at the conditions that they would like to be included in the support for young people section of the Local Offer – the group came up with an extensive list and we will be looking at adding these to the Local Offer soon.

The Youth Council have started to create some posters to share with other young people highlighting the information available.

Please see below some of the designs from our SEND Youth Council. Please keep an eye on our social media and Local Offer website where we will continue to share the posters!



## Supporting your Neurodiverse Child Toolkit



PACA MK are excited to announce the official launch of their brand-new Neurodiverse toolkit 'Supporting your Neurodiverse Child' .

Through an amazing opportunity provided by BLMK ICB and the amazing work of PACA Parent Reps, parent/carers members , with support from SENDIASS and professionals and partners across health and education, they have been able to deliver not only a digital version (available to view on the PACA website from 17th May) but for the first time in Milton Keynes a printed copy of a localised 'Supporting Your Neurodiverse Child' resource.

This resource is written for parents by parents and covers useful information for families wherever they are on their journey with neurodiversity.

Copies will be available throughout the local area shortly.



Scan the QR code for online access to our  
NEW resource supporting your  
neurodiverse child,  
written by parents for parents.

[https://pacamk.org/supporting\\_your\\_neurodiverse\\_child/](https://pacamk.org/supporting_your_neurodiverse_child/)



## Parent programmes

[SENDIAS SEND Support Workshop](#) via Microsoft Teams - Tue, 4 Jun 2024 10:00 - 11:15

[SENDIAS Education, Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) Workshop](#) - Microsoft Teams  
Tue, 11 Jun 2024 10:00 - 11:15

Further information on our parent and carer programmes can be found on our [SEND Local Offer](#).

### **National Autistic Society - A guide to the mental health experiences and needs of autistic teenagers**

Free of charge - The aim of the module is to increase understanding of autistic experience, autistic mental health experiences and to explore supportive strategies to support young autistic people's mental health.

The module will be free to access throughout 2024.

#### **Module outcomes**

- Identify some of the autistic experiences relating to the autistic young person they are supporting
- Identify some of the mental health experiences relating to the autistic young person they are supporting
- Adjust their practice and make reasonable adjustments to better support their autistic young person.

[Access this free module now](#)

## SEND Drop In

Need help with the special educational needs processes relating to education, health and social care? Find out what support there is for children with additional needs and how our services can support you.

Thursday 06 June 11am - 12:30pm at Daisychain Family Centre.

## SEND Drop-In Session at the Daisychain Family Centre



Need help with the special educational needs processes relating to education, health and social care? Find out what support there is for children with additional needs and how our services can support you.

<b>Thursday 06 June 2024</b>	<b>11am– 12:30pm</b>	<b>Daisychain Family Centre</b> Melrose Avenue, Bletchley, MK3 6PS
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A statutory service offering confidential and impartial information, advice and support. The service supports children, young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities as well as their parents/carers.

**T: 01908-254518 | E: [Contact@mksendias.org.uk](mailto:Contact@mksendias.org.uk)**



Parent Forum - An independent and voluntary group of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs.

**T: 01908-257828, 07852526057 | E: [pacamk@gmail.com](mailto:pacamk@gmail.com)**



Carers MK are dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of unpaid family carers in Milton Keynes.

**T: 01908-231703 | E: [mail@carersmiltonkeynes.org](mailto:mail@carersmiltonkeynes.org)**



An opportunity to find out more about the SEND Local Offer website and the SEND Team offer of support.

**T: 01908-657825 | E: [SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk)**

## Summer school holiday activity programme

Our Summer activity and food programme, aimed at school aged children **in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals (FSM)** will run for **16 days during 29 July – 22 August 2024**. The programme seeks to offer a diverse range of events aimed at meeting the local interests and needs of children, young people,

and their families.

The programme is live from 1 July via the [online booking system here](#). More information can be found via the [HAF webpage](#).

### **What is the Summer Activities and Food programme?**

A range of free activities and food sessions for children, young people and their families who are **in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals**.

All activities will take place **29 July – 22 August** at a range of locations across MK. From multi sports camps, outdoor adventures, arts, crafts and more, which include a healthy meal and are free to attend. We hope there is something for everyone!

During our Spring HAF we delivered over 8,200 places, including 11 locations with dedicated support for children with special educational needs and disabilities offering a range of fun activities. 2,148 individual children and young people attended sessions, 33% of which stated they had special educational needs and disabilities.

In Summer we will continue to engage a diverse range of provisions that supports the needs of local children and young people **in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals (FSM)**.

All can be view through our online booking system here from the end of June and providers can be contacted directly.

Further information can be found on the HAF website here. If you have any questions, please do contact the HAF team: [HAF@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@milton-keynes.gov.uk)





## Sign up!

We produce this newsletter half termly. If you are not receiving this directly and would like to, [please follow this link to sign up.](#)

We welcome your views on the newsletter and any ideas you have for future editions, please share your views via [email.](#)

[Sign up here!](#)

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**This newsletter has been co-produced between and the MKCC SEND Team, SENDIAS, Health colleagues and with engagement from Parents and Carers Alliance (PACA MK).**

*PACA is an independent forum for parent carers of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs who live in Milton Keynes.*

*We share our experiences with the SEND Team as an independent voice representing what matters to families in MK. We do this by taking an active role in meetings such as the Short Breaks Steering Group, Local Offer Group and the SEND Strategic Partnership Board.*

*The idea for this newsletter came from our regular meetings with the SEND Team, with the aim of keeping parents informed and up to date with the latest developments in SEND.*

*If you are a parent and would like to join PACA MK, or would like to know more about us, please visit [PACA MK](#)*

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

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