

Feb 2025



## Welcome from Sidrah Goheer, SENDIAS Team Manager

Happy New Year! I hope the return to school after the festive period has been a positive one for you. In this edition, we spotlight phase transfer, mental health and wellbeing resources, and updates from the transport team.

It's been a busy start for the SENDIAS service this year. We provide free and impartial information, advice and support to help parents/carers, children, and young people build their knowledge, understanding, and confidence in SEND procedures, policies, practices, and law. Our aim is to help you play an active and informed role in making decisions about your child's education, health, and social care.

You can contact us in a number of ways; by [email](#) 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.

You can also come and meet us, along with other support services (PACA, Carers MK and Local Offer), after the February half-term on Wednesday 05 March, 11:30am – 1:00pm at the [Rowans Family Centre](#) or join us at one of our workshops: SEND Support (04 Feb), Annual Review (26 Feb) and EHCP (04 Mar), you can book via this [link](#).



---

## Activities and events

Please find a selection of events listed below, more can be found here [SEND](#)

[calendar of events.](#)

[Gravity SEND Sessions](#) 18 Feb, 23 Feb

[Top Jump SEND session](#) 16 Feb, 23 Feb

[Climb Quest SEND Session](#) 19 Feb, 23 Feb

[Autism Milton Keynes Archery](#) 19 Feb

[Thomley](#)- have a variety of events and activities

---

## Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2025 #HAF2025

The Department for Education (DfE) have provided funding to the council to arrange free activities and food for school aged children in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals (FSM), during the Spring, Summer, and Winter school holidays in 2025. If your child receives benefit related Free School Meals, please find more information [here.](#)

---

## School admissions for children with EHCPs (Phase Transfer)

### Children who are due to start school in September, or moving from Primary to Secondary or Infant to Junior

The SEND Team are in the final stages of securing placements for children with an EHCP who are due to start school in September, Year 2 going into Year 3 (for those in an infant/ first school) and children transitioning from Primary to Secondary School (Year 6 to Year 7).

The team will be sending emails confirming placement between the 3 February and 15 February. Please do not worry if you do not get an email on the Monday, they will be sent out in groups over the course of the two weeks. **If by the 15 February you have not received the email please check your spam folder as it may be in there. There will also be information within the letter about how to apply for transport should you be eligible. It is important if you meet eligibility for transport that you apply as soon as possible.**

Details will be included within that email sharing what to do should you not agree with the named placement, families are advised to contact [SENDIAS](#) to seek advice and guidance on next steps if that is the case.

### Post 16 Phase Transfer

If you have a young person due to transition from year 11 to Year 12 or complete their current college/ post 16 educational placement you should have already

started to consider next steps, whether that be applying for an educational course or education ceasing and the EHCP being ceased. Your current school or setting can provide help if your young person is not sure what their next steps might be. In most cases you will have to apply for the provision yourself making it clear on the paperwork your child/young person has an EHCP. The provision will then contact us to send an official consultation. If you have any questions that your school/setting have not been able to answer or would like a call to discuss next steps please email [ehcp@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:ehcp@milton-keynes.gov.uk) and a member of the team will support you or direct you to the right team

---

## Transport

Happy New Year from the School Travel Support Team. We are currently supporting around 1600 children supported to access school via the varying transport options. Over 250 families have taken up mileage and Family Led Travel Budget (FLTB) options and over 100 children are using local bus services. If you would like to find out more about the different transport options available please look at the website [here](#) or contact the team on [sts@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:sts@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Update for those on Mileage or FLTB:

- Families no longer need to provide the previous terms attendance as MKCC school attendance systems now capture this automatically, to enable termly payments to be amended where necessary.
  - We are looking at options to make the payments processes easier for families and the local authority. If any changes are agreed, they will be communicated via a range of SEND channels (SEND newsletter, PACA, letters/emails to parents, update to website) and would not start until September 2025.
- 

## Parent programmes

Please find a variety of free programmes for parents and carers offering a range of strategies that can be used when supporting children and young people.

[Information can be found on our SEND Local Offer.](#)

---

## SEND Local offer

### Supporting Your Child's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Are you looking for mental health and wellbeing support for your child? The [SEND Local Offer](#) has a range of resources and services to help!

Visit the SEND Local Offer website for **information, advice, and support** tailored to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



---

## Parents and Carers Alliance (PACA)



Do you have experience of accessing mental health support for your child or young person in the local area? If your answer is "yes", then we would like to hear from you!

In 2022, PACA MK and Healthwatch Milton Keynes published a [report](#) about the experiences of CAMHS and Mental Health support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Milton Keynes. We aim to update this report and need your help by sending us your feedback. The final report will be shared with service managers in the NHS (*Individuals will not be identified and your answers will be kept confidential*)

Please contact us if you need support to complete the survey or to receive it in an alternative format.

[Here is the link to the survey.](#)

Please also find information on the PACA Online Coffee and Chat.

