



SEND update.

Key information for SENCOs
in MK settings and schools

Welcome from the new Speech and Language Therapy Service Leads

Welcome to the January SEND Update newsletter, we are Nina Soloff and Emma Wilson and we were appointed to the roles of Children's Speech and Language Therapy Clinical Lead (Nina) and Operational Manager (Emma) in April 2024. We have both worked as speech and language therapists in Milton Keynes for many years!



We both live in Milton Keynes and are passionate about supporting local children, young people and their families.

As members of the Local Area SEND Partnership; we have been looking at how we can further develop our joint working with schools/settings and the local authority in order to develop a shared vision for the population and effective outcomes for children with SLCN.

We look forward to working with you.

SEND update newsletter

We are reviewing our newsletter distribution list to ensure it is reaching all settings and schools in Milton Keynes.

Please can we ask that SENCOs sign up with their **professional email address**. If there is another address that you use for work, please let us know (along with the school or setting you work within) so that we can update our records.

My Voice Counts - SEND Youth Council

We are extremely proud of our SEND Youth Council's achievements this term. They attended the first Milton Keynes Youth Summit, engaging with leaders and developing their debating skills. They also met with SEND Partnership Manager Mim Kendrick to inform thinking towards the new SEND Strategy, with the current strategy due to come to an end this academic year. Members also had a very important vote on their name, which they agreed by majority to now be known as 'My Voice Counts' which I'm sure we will all agree is a fantastic and very fitting new name.

Ordinarily Available Provision launch

We are very pleased to let you know our local area Ordinarily Available Provision documents are now on the SEND Local Offer for schools and settings to use

[Ordinarily Available Provision - School Age | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

[Ordinarily Available Provision - Early Years | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

These documents have been developed collaboratively by a range of stakeholders across Milton Keynes, including schools/settings, colleagues from the wider SEND Team and health partners.

Both documents include a detailed range of considerations and provision that might be provided as part of the ordinarily available provision within settings/schools. They are aimed at all setting/school staff and act as a supportive reference point when planning reasonable adjustments as well as targeted support.

We are offering some short online briefing sessions during January to early years providers and schools- these will be used to introduce the document and share its purpose. We will also focus on the document during our SenCo Quadrant and Early Years SenCo meetings in December, where we can begin to consider together how the use of these tools will be embedded in our practice.

To sign up for an online session in January please use this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/CSz4zPHer5>

Educational Psychology update

The Milton Keynes Educational Psychology Service is pleased to announce our first ever 'Aspiring Educational Psychologist' event, happening in January 2025. This event is for local people interested in a career in Educational Psychology. The session will include presentations from various members of the team about what it is like to work as an EP and how to become an EP, as well as the opportunity to ask

questions and network.

Date and time: Thursday 23 January, 3:30 - 5pm, Civic Offices, MK. Tea and coffee will be provided!

Please email education.psychology@milton-keynes.gov.uk to register your interest.

EBSA Guidance

The EBSA guidance part one document has been revised, which includes a new EBSA Support Plan template. This has been completed in partnership with the MK Moving Forward EBSA steering group. It should be read in conjunction with Part Two: Practical Support as well as a range of relevant policies and guidance. Please find the guidance on the [Local Offer](#).

Centralised Training Update

- The new Centralised Booking System is due to go live by 10 Jan 2025.
 - The 'link' to the booking system will be available on the usual CT information page on the LO: [Centralised training for professionals | Milton Keynes City Council](#)
 - A 'How to book' information document will be available on this page that will explain the process.
 - Any training that has already been booked by schools using the old process before 10 Jan **will not** need to be re-booked. We have a list of attendees from the old process saved.
 - There will be a few weeks cross over from the old system to the new.
 - SENCOs can contact the Training inbox if they have any problems after following the 'how to book' information doc.
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SENCo Quadrant Meetings Updates

The aim is to bring together SENCOs and the SEND Team to address key themes and complete audits. Since the emphasis is on discussions, these sessions are not minuted, but essential actions and discussions are communicated through our [SEND Update newsletter](#).

Agendas are agreed in collaboration with SENCo co- chairs a week before the meetings take place. Meeting information can be found [here](#) and there is no need to book to attend. Whilst we hope to see you attend your local quadrant group meeting, you are welcome to attend any that may fit with your working pattern.

North: (Chair Sarah Ray, Co-chair Sophie Parish)

SENCOs reviewed and discussed policies shared before the meeting, which

received positive feedback. However, concerns were raised about delays in EP and annual reviews.

East: (Chair: Hayley Prickett, Co-chair Lucy Rogers)

Hayley Prickett covered the East quadrant for Jenna Austin. Discussions were had in relation to the policies shared, alongside ideas for strategy priorities in the future. SENCOs also shared support for children/young people with complex needs. SENCOs had discussions around the Local Offer and the section available for schools and SENCOs.

South: (Chair Amy Segui, Co-chair Michelle Lasky)

We would like to thank SENDCOs for their attendance and contributions in our meeting this week. We had some very helpful discussion and feedback has been that the sessions are informative, worthwhile and have a supportive atmosphere. The policies are very welcome and the SEND Strategy we found links with the pressure points in schools. We look forward to working collaboratively with you in the new year.

West: (Chair: Allie Tranter, Co-chair: Sarah Cowper)

Thank you to everyone that attended. Feedback on the updated policies focused on the Section 19 policy, questions raised will be considered and feedback given in the new year. Speech and Language pathways were raised as some schools had been contacted/visited for audits; this was agreed to be a 'spotlight' for SENCOs at the next meeting for further discussion.

Early Years:

At the EY SenCo Meeting we shared our Ordinarily Available Provision document with providers, and discussed how it might be used as well as signposting to the briefing sessions in January. Thanks to those who attended.

Milton Keynes SEND Local Offer

For more information on services, support and activities for children and young people with SEND can be found on our [Local Offer website.](#)



Early Years update.

We are very pleased to let you know our local area Ordinarily Available Provision

documents are now on the SEND Local Offer for early years providers to use!

[Ordinarily Available Provision - Early Years | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

The document, developed with input from various stakeholders across Milton Keynes, It offers detailed guidance on provisions within early years settings. It serves as a reference for staff when planning reasonable adjustments and targeted support.

We will offer short online briefing sessions in January to introduce the document. Additionally, it will be a focus of our Early Years SENCo meeting on December 19th.

To sign up for an online session in January please use this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/eyKyNSf2E8>

The SEND Team hope all our settings and school colleagues had a wonderful Christmas break.

Updates from SENCOs

We're inviting SENCOs to share any updates or information they wish to contribute to the SEND Update newsletter. We aim to provide regular updates from SENCOs to be shared among colleagues in different schools. Please feel free to reach out to us via [email](#).

Sign up!

We produce this newsletter monthly. 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 would love to hear any ideas you have for future editions. Please share your views via [email](#).

