



# SEND Local Area Newsletter

Issue 4

Oct 2017

Your local special educational needs and disability information bulletin

## News and updates

### Department for Education (DfE) visit to Buckinghamshire

The DfE visited Buckinghamshire in late August to check on our progress and we updated them on our ongoing work with the new reforms. The visit went well and we were congratulated on the improved pace of the work on conversions of Statements to Education Health and Care Plans. We were also able to share some of our plans to improve the timeliness and quality of the support we provide to children, young people and their families. The DfE advisor was supportive of these plans including:

- The development of a new process to support children, young people and families who require an EHCP;
- The ongoing development and implementation of the graduated approach;
- Co-production and ensuring a child centred approach to all our work;
- Work to improve the preparation for and transition to adulthood.

We were also able to highlight some of the challenges we face and discuss the national picture relating to SEND. Overall the visit confirmed we are moving in the right direction.



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## DfE visit continued

### Can You Help?

We know that there is a lot of good work going on in Buckinghamshire to support the needs of children and young people with SEND. As part of our ongoing development work we are keen to collate some good practice case studies that highlight this work and describe how the collective efforts of families and professionals have led to positive outcomes for children and young people. If you:

- Have a case study that you would be happy to share, or
- Are working with a child or young person who is achieving their goals and you are able to jot down the journey you have been on.

Then we would like to hear from you.

Please could you send your case studies to Lucy Pike [lpike@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:lpike@buckscc.gov.uk). There is no set format so please forward whatever you have. These stories will then be pulled together and used to showcase the achievements of children and young people in Buckinghamshire.

## What's new on the Buckinghamshire Local Offer?

**[Buckinghamshire SEND Local Offer—advice and information for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities](#)**



### **SEN Officer List**

If you need to know who is the designated SEN Officer for your school, you can now find out on the [SEN Team record on the Local Offer](#). The documents are split up by year groups and by Buckinghamshire schools and out of county schools.

### **October Half Term Activities**

October half term is already looming so don't forget to check out our listing of [SEND-specific and inclusive activities and events](#) to keep your children busy. If you know of an activity that isn't listed here then please [let us know!](#)



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## Local Offer update continued

### Coming up

Here are some of the things we are planning to do over the next few months:

- We are working with some young people to review the SEND Local Offer postcard to make a new electronic version
- We are going to review the website information with a group of young people at Alfriston School
- We are doing another evaluation of our website with the Local Offer Advisory Group which is made up of parent carer reps and professionals
- We will take part in the next South East Local Offer Peer Review along with FACT Bucks to give feedback on another authority's Local Offer while they do the same for ours.

### Your feedback

Why not give us your feedback on the Local Offer? You can do this by:

- Filling out our [online form](#)
- Emailing: [familyinfo@bucksc.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@bucksc.gov.uk)
- Sending us a message via facebook: [www.facebook.com/BucksLocalOffer](https://www.facebook.com/BucksLocalOffer) or
- Calling us on 01296 383065.

## Information for Young People

### Disability Participation update

Work has now started on transition information for young people approaching 19 years. The information will be displayed as a series of videos following the journey of when a young person's educational provision ends. The first completed video is a tour around Thrift Farm – led by the young people who undertake supported employment there. The video will be available on the local offer website next month.

The SEND youth forum have been very busy feeding into the Early Help Consultation, Independent Travel Training planning and creating a young person's version of the SEND strategy 2017.



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## Disability Participation update continued

The forum also attended the SEND youth forum activity day which was followed by lunch at Pizza Express in High Wycombe.

In the coming months the SEND youth forum will revisit their chosen campaign topic, **bullying** by testing the new bullying reporting platform and app – Tootoot. Following the success of the last activity day the forum have planned another activity day in October Half Term. The day will include participation work on the key priorities for the year along the theme of a 'courtroom drama' – letting the young people act as the Jury in a courtroom scene.

For more information on Disability Participation in Buckinghamshire please contact Emily Dover, [edover@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:edover@buckscc.gov.uk) 07786661138



## Information for Parents



The Haven aims to be a welcoming, safe place where anyone with additional needs, and their families, can come and explore the Christian faith. There will be a bible story, simple songs with makaton, activities and cake!

## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE HAVEN

WHERE? St. Mary's Church Rooms  
Church Street, Chesham, HP5 1HY

WHEN?

Sunday 5th November

3.30pm till 4.30pm  
with refreshments

There is an accessible entrance, accessible toilet and parking.

For more information contact  
Hannah Martin  
[children@cheshamchurch.co.uk](mailto:children@cheshamchurch.co.uk)  
01494 784574

# Support and Advice

## News from Bucks SEND IAS Service

Thank you to those of you who responded to the joint [Bucks SEND IAS Service](#) and [FACT Bucks](#) survey we held in July. The survey aimed to capture your experience of the [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) reforms](#) in Buckinghamshire – these are the reforms stemming from the Children and Families Act 2014 - such as the person-centred approach, co-production, SEN Support, Education, Health and Care Plans, Personal Budgets, the Local Offer.

We are pleased to report that we received 90 responses. Key messages include:

- The processes families go through to get support are not straightforward.
- Getting in touch with professionals is often difficult.
- 44% of respondents agreed that professionals involved in assessing and reviewing their child's needs communicate in a way they understand
- 58% of respondents said that they know about the Buckinghamshire [Local Offer](#).
- We are proud to say that nearly 70% of respondents said that Bucks SEND IAS Service helped them to obtain the support their child needs.

The full dataset is being analysed and a more detailed joint SEND IAS/ FACT Bucks report will be shared with you and with other key stakeholders including the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups in the next few weeks.



Please email [sendias@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@buckscc.gov.uk) or call 01296 383754 for help from our service or to join our mailing list.

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## News from Bucks SEND IAS Service continued

We have a number of events coming up:

If you have a son or daughter with SEND aged 11 – 25, you may be interested in attending our first Preparing for Adulthood conference:

Stoke Mandeville Stadium,

**Wednesday 22 November.**

This will feature expert speakers Melinda Nettleton and Hayley Mason from SEN Legal Ltd on Deputyship, Mental Capacity and Transitions. Free of charge for parents and professionals. Further details to be announced shortly – booking will be via [Eventbrite](#).



Education, Health and Care needs assessment/Outcomes training led by Olga Hamer:

**Saturday 7 October 10am – 4pm.** Please book via [Eventbrite](#)

Education, Health and Care needs assessment/Outcomes training led by Olga Hamer:

**Thursday 7 December 10am – 4pm.** Please book via [Eventbrite](#)

Preparing for Adulthood training, led by Sharon Forgan:

**Tuesday 17 October 9.30am – 1pm.** Please book via [Eventbrite](#)

Your son or daughter aged 11 – 25 is invited to an event on **Saturday 9 December** in Aylesbury. This is being organised jointly by SEND IAS with Emily Dover, Youth Worker Disability Participation. It will include fun activities and a chance for young people to find out about their legal rights. Further details to be announced shortly – booking will be via [Eventbrite](#)

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