SEND Update 16 – June 2016

❖ What is in this SEND Update?

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❖ Links to recent DfE and Council for Disabled Children publications


Council for Disables Children webinars on key working

NASEN SEND training for teachers https://nasen.org.uk/training-and-cpd/online-learning/online-learner-registration.html

❖ How is the SEN provision review progressing?
A big thank you to all of you who have taken part in the SEN provision review!

All four phases of the SEN provision review are now complete but this is not the end of developing of provision for children with complex needs but the beginning! Development priorities were identified in response to feedback and have been agreed by the Education, Health and Social Care Directorate Leadership Team and communicated via the SEN provision review website SEN provision review

A wide range of SEN provision developments have been identified relating to:
A. Mainstream schools and settings
B. Specialist Provision in Cornwall (Area Resource Bases & Special Schools)
C. Social, Emotional and Mental Health
D. Autistic Spectrum Disorder
E. Evaluation of provision effectiveness

Action is already taking place e.g.:
- communications on key aspects of provision developments - look out for the regular updates on the SEN provision review website and School Messenger
- liaison with stakeholders
- a public meeting about ‘free school’ developments to meet special educational provision needs.
- information is being shared and discussed with key partners e.g. Elected Members via the Young People’s Advisory Committee and Schools’ Forum in relation to potential funding adjustments
- training developments

Next steps

- Consideration by the Cornwall SEND Board that provision developments should be a priority within the Cornwall SEND strategy from September 2016.
- Full implementation of SEN provision action plan through SEN provision workstream which will be supported, challenged and monitored by the SEND Board.

How is Cornwall Council continuing to Assess, Plan, Do and Review?

SEND Reform Survey – 2 years on

Cornwall Council (CC) believes that ongoing feedback is vital for the improvement of arrangements for children and young people with SEND and their families. Please look out for the summer 2016 SEND reform survey.

This survey will feed into our evaluation of Cornwall Council’s response to the 2014 reforms. Let us know your views and they will inform developments over the coming academic year.

SEND Strategy
The Cornwall SEND Board is currently reviewing the Cornwall SEND Strategy in light of the SEN Provision review, other consultations and workstream progress.

The SEND Strategy is being updated in light of the review and new workstream action plans are being put in place.

Throughout the 2016 – 2017 academic year the strategy will be implemented and reviewed again in summer 2017.

The updated and current SEND Strategy will be found in the Cornwall Council SEN File and the Local Offer.

**The Local Offer**

Cornwall’s Local Offer can be found on the Care and Support in Cornwall site by following this link [Local Offer](#). On the Local Offer homepage there is an orange button the links to the SEN file.

The SEN File contains information for SENCOs but can be accessed by all. It can be found by following this link [SEN File](#).

It is very important that the Local Offer and SEN File continue to respond to local need, and include the most up-to-date information about the services, organisations, processes and provision available to children and young people with SEND and their families. In order that the Local Offer responds to local need we welcome comments from all stakeholders about its content and publication and accessibility on the Local Offer website.

Comments and contributions are welcome from:

- children and young people
- families
- education professionals including headteachers, SENCOs and teaching assistants
- social care professionals
- health professionals
- anyone else who uses the Local Offer!

Please comment and contribute by:

Going to the contents and consultations page on the Local Offer [Local Offer comments](#)

- emailing [localoffer@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@cornwall.gov.uk)
- joining the parent’s forum by contacting Parent Carer Council Cornwall [PCCC](#)
- joining the Young Peoples’ SEND Board

What will we do with your comments?

Feedback will be collated and we will respond using a ‘you said, we did’ approach published on the Local Offer. Comments regarding service provision and gaps in service, will be forwarded to the relevant teams.
How can you search the Local Offer?

To narrow your results list, you can use the ‘Filter by’ options found on the top right of the page.

You will come across the Local Offer symbol within your searches, this symbol means the service provider has supplied information about how they meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

If you would like to search only for services/ organisations which have written a Local Offer (i.e. they have said that they meet the needs of children and young people with SEND) use the filter ‘Local Offer – Yes’.

Search using keywords

Just typing in a few words into the search box brings up all entries that contain any one of the words you have entered. You can also use special characters to limit your results more closely.

The plus sign (+) before a word means that each of the results must contain that word, for example if you type in + Dyslexia Support +Service all entries containing the words dyslexia and service

Using double quotes (") around your search words brings back only entries that contain those words exactly as a phrase, for example: "Hearing Support Team"

Searching for contact names

Avoid searching for names of professionals, many services do not add names of staff as this information can become out of date quickly.

Search by Location

Search by place name (eg Bude)
Entering a place name in the box marked 'Location' will bring back results of services based in and around that location.

Search by postcode (eg PL25 5DR)
Entering a full postcode in the box marked 'Location' will bring back results in order of closeness to that postcode. This is really useful for finding services located close to your home.

Search by part postcode (eg PL25)
Entering the first part of a postcode (such as PL25) in the box marked 'Location' will bring back a list of services and activities located in your postcode area.

Refine search using filters
Once you have your search results, you may be able to improve them still further by selecting one or more of the search filters which are displayed in lists to the right of your results.

Sorting your search results
You can change the sort order of your search results using the options that are shown in the section just above your results.

Your results can appear in any of the following sort orders:
- Search radius (only if you search using a location or postcode)
- Sorted by relevance (i.e. the best match to your search)
- Sorted alphabetically (i.e. in A-Z order of title with numbers first)
- Sorted by distance (only if you have done a full postcode search).
What are SEND Area Inspections?

SEND Area Inspections are new.

Undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission the inspections will consider local areas’ effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The whole of Cornwall is our local area. The inspection covers all providers including schools and settings, health, social care and Council education services.

The inspections focus is on our effectiveness in what we do and how we all work together in light of the new SEND duties from 2014. There are three key themes:-

1. Effectiveness of local area in identifying children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
2. Effectiveness of local area in assessing and meeting needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
3. Effectiveness of local area in improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities

Inspections will:

- use a wide range of evidence – data, our Local Offer, communicating with families, children and young people, our own self-evaluation and action plans
- last five days with a week’s notice
- happen sometime between now and 2021, the first ones started in May
- review education, training, health and social care outcomes as well as academic outcomes
- look at how all of the agencies involved work together and the effectiveness of the support provided
- consider how well those responsible know the context of the area and deal with local issues
- include a wide range of ways to obtain the views of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and their parents and carers
- mean inspectors choosing parents and young people to speak to and places to visit, and which schools, colleges and other institutions to go to across the full age range

What will a successful area look like?

- Local area working in partnership with children and young people, and their parents and carers to understand needs so outcomes can improve.
- Early years providers, schools and colleges working in partnership with the local authority, social care and health services to identify and meet needs effectively.
- Education, health and social care services working closely together to jointly commission the support and services children and young people require.
- Arrangements are in place that focus on the needs of all children and young people with SEN not just those who have an Education Health and Care plan or statement of SEN.
• The local area knows if provision is improving outcomes, having aspirational yet realistic targets at all levels - area, service and individual i.e. the quality of our own cycle of plan do review.

The handbook for the inspections is now on the Department for Education website and can be found on the [gov.uk website](http://www.gov.uk).

❖ **What is the admissions process for children and young people with a Statement of SEN or EHC plan?**

Currently all children with Statements of SEN or EHC plans go through the regular admissions system when they start school for the first time, transfer to secondary or move schools ‘in year’. This can cause confusion for some parents when making their school preferences. A parent may include special schools or Area Resource Bases within their choices not understanding that placement in these provisions is determined by the Special Education Resource Panel (SERP) for children with Statements of SEN or EHC plans according to the child’s level of need.

The SEN and Admissions teams are working together to change the system for 2017/18 admissions. Children with Statements of SEN or EHC plans will be directed away from the main admissions system; placements will be made for these children by the SEN team in collaboration with parents and in consultation with schools. Parents will be able to discuss their preferred school choices with a team member according to the level of provision agreed at SERP. Once places are agreed by the SEN team the Admissions team will be informed.

Hopefully these changes will reduce:

• any confusion regarding which council team that parents should contact and
• ensure that parents are informed about the process and choices available to them in a timely fashion.
Cornwall Council SEND training can be found in the The SEND Training Directory for Schools

The SEN training directory:

- can be found on School Messenger (Pupil Support → SEN → SEND training)
- includes training run by Local Authority services aimed at meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND

The training is listed under the following headings:

- Including all children with SEND and breaking down barriers to learning
- Including children with communication and interaction needs
- Including children with cognition and learning needs
- Including children with social, emotional and mental health needs
- Including children with sensory and/or physical needs

What information is included in each entry?

- how to apply
- date, time and venue
- target group, course description and aims
- trainer details
- cost

School SENCO Networks Autumn Term 2016

The next SENCO network meetings will take place in the second half of the autumn term. Dates and venues will be published by September

If you would like to host a future SENCO network at your school instead of travelling please let us know by emailing senreform@cornwall.gov.uk

SENCO network meetings are free and open to all Cornish schools.