SEND Update 17 – Autumn 2016

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All previous SEND Updates can be found on School Messenger and the Local Offer section of the Care and Support in Cornwall website: https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/family.page?familychannel=0

Update no. 18 will be published in Winter 2017

❖ Useful Links

The new look Council for Disabled Children website
https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/
Council For Disabled Children Autumn Digest
https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/cdc-autumn-digest-out-now
SEND Gateway www.sendgateway.org.uk
The Communication Trust
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/policy-and-practice/send-reforms/
Autism Education Trust www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/
Dyslexia SpLD Trust www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/
NATSIP www.natsip.org.uk/
Focus on SEND training oln.nasen.org.uk/
Two years on for SEND

Two Years On for SEND – we’ve come a long way, the journey continues

It is two years since the legislation, heralded by the Department for Education as the biggest change for special educational needs in 30 years, came into effect. Here in Cornwall parents and carers, children and young people, schools and settings, the voluntary sector and health, education and social care services have been working together to implement the new arrangements, finding our way together whilst regularly reminding each other of the reason for the changes – improving the lives of children and young people. Across the country implementation of the new arrangements hasn’t been easy and is ongoing. Writing with a national perspective about the new special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) arrangements Edward Timpson, Government Minister, has spoken of ‘wide ranging challenges’ whilst Christine Lenehan of the Council for Disabled Children says that ‘the journey of the SEND reforms has been difficult and challenging’.

![Image]

You may remember this image from the SEND reform briefing sessions held in the summer of 2014?

These were our aspirations then and they still are today

Here in Cornwall, as these significant reforms are worked through, we have not finished everything and we are not satisfied with the quality of all the arrangements in place for children and young people with SEND. However, our rigorous and shared assess – plan – do – review approach means that we have opportunities to acknowledge successes and agree priorities so that we focus our shared efforts on the most important next steps.

On our two year journey together there have been many shared successes, for example:

- **The production of education, health and care plans.** Cornwall issues more within the 20 week timescale than any similar local authority. The timeliness of transfers from Statements of SEN and Learning Needs Assessments has improved significantly and there are now more Education, Health and Care plans than Statements of SEN in Cornwall.

- **Improved communications.** Our Local Offer is co-produced and is continuously developing with increasingly more options to feedback about what is available in Cornwall. The SEN file has been established and linked to the Local Offer. This provides up-to-date guidance and documents on a range of aspects of SEND. Each week School Messenger includes SEND information. Surveys, website developments and meetings are informing changes, such as the Education Provision Review.
• **Training and support.** SENDIASS the independent information and support service for parents and young people has been retendered. There is a co-ordinated and continually growing range of training available for settings and schools. Information about this training can be found in the Pupil Support section of School Messenger.

We are aware that more needs to happen to change arrangements for children and young people with SEND. Our shared priorities and the focus for further improvement can be found in Cornwall’s SEND Strategy [SEND Strategy 2016 - 2019](#).

Particular developments relate to:
The information needed to plan for years to come, and even closer working arrangements between education, health and social care – **Joint Commissioning.**

Support for schools and settings in relation to SEN support, establishing equal access to and an increased amount of specialist education provision within Cornwall – **Provision Developments**

A focus on employment, accommodation and the interface between children’s and adults’ health and social care services - **Preparing for Adulthood**

Ensuring communications between Cornwall Council, NHS Kernow, educational settings, children and young people with SEND, their families and those that support them are embedded and sustainable – **Communications and Local Offer**

Two years on everyone involved in the world of SEND has achieved and learnt much. It is exciting to consider what we will be able to do together in the next couple of years. I personally am delighted to be part of the ongoing journey and have the opportunity to engage with so many people who are also focussed on the best outcomes for Cornish children and young people.

 EVP What did the Two Years On survey show? EVP

Thank you very much to everyone who took part in the survey about SEND this summer.

It showed:

• Generally all groups have engaged with the reforms but the knowledge and engagement varies according to group.

• Parents and carers provided a range of responses that probably correlates with their experience to date, such as whether their child has had a statutory assessment. Education professionals were most knowledgeable, confident and positive, demonstrating the high impact of the training and support for this group. Social care professionals were reasonably aware of key aspects of SEND arrangements but health professionals, a relatively small percentage of the respondents, felt less confident and knowledgeable.

• Across all groups there was lower level of understanding about developments planned and underway than about established aspects of SEND provision and systems.

 EVP What is going to happen as a result? EVP

The results of the survey have been discussed with representatives of the Parent Carer Council and the feedback will inform ongoing close working and a range of communications.
Communications and developments across the full range of health professionals will be refocussed. This will include establishing the approaches of different groups of health professionals to a range of activities, including meetings about individual children and young people. Sharing more information about the roles and responsibilities of health professionals will support shared expectations of how different services are able to contribute to SEND processes.

The Council will re-energise efforts to engage directly with a broad range of young people with SEND. New links with groups of young people will support improvement to the range and type of approaches used.

A wide ranging new communications approach for SEND provision developments will be implemented from autumn 2016 onwards.

More information and guidance about expectations of what SEN support means for children and young people across the age range and types of need will be developed, consulted upon and then publicised by early 2017.

Publicity about the Local Offer will continue to support it being embedded and more actively used to inform SEND provision and developments e.g. a prompt is now on Local Authority documents and emails and there is a homepage ‘pop up’ feedback function for users of the site.

Julie le Masurier
Head SEN Assessment and Inclusion - Cornwall Council

If you have any feedback or questions about Cornwall’s SEND Strategy or the Two Year On survey please email senreform@cornwall.gov.uk

❖ Introduction to our new SEND School Effectiveness Officer.

My name is Will Pritchard and I am the newly appointed School Effectiveness Officer for SEND in Cornwall.

Before coming to Cornwall I worked in Devon and have a wide experience in SEND supporting vulnerable groups and learners in a variety of settings. I have a particular long standing interest in mental health, working on projects with colleagues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Exeter University to improve outcomes for children and young people who have social, emotional and mental health needs. I have also worked as an adviser, SENCO and Senior Leader in a large urban Middle School.

In the coming months I look forward to visiting schools and settings, meeting SENCOs at network meetings and working with them in their schools. I also look forward to working with parents/carers, young people with SEND and the many professionals who support them.
What is the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SEN'SIASS) and Independent Support?

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SENDIASS - www.cornwallsendiass.org.uk

Disability Cornwall has secured the contract for the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly SENDIASS for the next three years. This service is independent of the Local Authority and is available to children and young people with SEND, their families and the professionals that work with them.

SENDIASS provides information, advice and support for any child or young person aged 0-25 with a special educational need or disability and their parents and families. Their service is confidential, impartial, accessible and free.

They can assist with:
- Understanding the Local Offer, personal budgets, the law on SEN and disability, health and social care
- Advice on SEN support, Education, Health and Care plans and can refer parents to one of our Independent Supporters
- Preparation for meetings and when relevant attend meetings with parents, children and young people
- Resolving disagreements, including mediation and tribunal support
- Offering confidential information and advice to children young people around SEN issues
- Linking parents/carers and young people with local support groups and forums.

Contact SENDIASS’s friendly and professional team by:
Telephone: 01736 751921 or email: sendiass@disabilitycornwall.org.uk

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Independent Support Service

Due to additional funding from the Department for Education the Independent Support service which was due to end in March 2016 has now been extended until March 2017.

Independent Supporters are available to support families through the transfer of statements of SEN to EHC plans. The service is run independently from SENDIASS and offers impartial advice and support to individuals requesting an EHC Plan or transferring from a statement of SEN to an EHC Plan, working with families and young people from 0-25 who are remaining in education or training.

Contact the Independent Support Service by:
Telephone: 01736 751921 or email: sendiass@disabilitycornwall.org.uk
What are the latest SEN Support Service developments?

Support for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs

A single webpage has been created to signpost resources and services available to support the Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs of pupils. To find please follow this link SEMH webpage. You can also find the webpage by doing an internet search for Social and Emotional Mental Health Cornwall.

We welcome your suggestions, comments and ideas to develop this webpage. Please email sebss@cornwall.gov.uk.

How do you know that you are using the correct SEN Review Form?

Following feedback from educational settings, the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Review Form and the SEN Review Guidelines document have been updated for academic year 2016 – 2017.

So you can be certain that you are using the correct SEN Review form, this year’s form has been changed and is purple and blue. To avoid duplication, last year’s SEN Review form (orange and green) will be accepted by the SEN Assessment and Provision Team if received on or before 28 October 2016 – the Friday of half term.

Cornwall’s Local Offer can be found at:
https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/localoffer

Please comment and contribute by:

- emailing localoffer@cornwall.gov.uk
- going to the contents and consultations page on the Local Offer Local Offer comments
- joining the parent’s forum by contacting Parent Carer Council Cornwall PCCC
- joining the Young Peoples’ SEND Board by emailing spage@cornwall.gov.uk

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.
Comments made regarding the Local Offer and the Local Authority’s response

These comments were mainly taken from the ‘Two Years On’ survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You said</th>
<th>We Did</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is still not the easiest site to navigate.</td>
<td>Search guidance has been simplified and put in a prominent position on the Local Offer homepage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The Local Offer needs more publicity before it becomes part of our ‘culture’. | • Local Offer info stalls at all SEND conferences including Thinking Differently events  
  • Awareness raising sessions for libraries, one-stop-shops and social care  
  • Links to the Local Offer on parent/carer and young peoples’ websites  
  • Local Offer review at SENCO networks etc. |
| I think the title Local Offer is vague and many parents don’t feel it is relevant to them. | The Local Offer is a statutory function led by the Government. All Local Authorities have to provide a Local Offer so hopefully, by using the same name, it creates consistency across the country helping families to easily access the information they need. |
| Will the Local Offer enable further funding?                             | The Local Offer describes the services and support that is on offer for children/young people with SEND and their families. There is no funding attached. |
| The Preparing for Adult (PfA) section is too broad to navigate          | This section is currently being reviewed in line with increased activity in relation to PfA |
| There should be a dedicated webpage for children young people and families and one for professionals | The Local Offer is open to all to support partnership working. There is a professionals area on the Care and Support in Cornwall website which can be accessed via the homepage and there is a link from the Local Offer to the SEN File which is aimed at professionals but open to everyone. |
| The services my family needs are not on the Local Offer                 | The ‘pop-up’ survey on the Local Offer now asks if there are services that can’t be found on the Local Offer. You can also use the ‘feedback’ link. |
| I couldn’t easily find information re children and young people needing to have a Statement of SEN or an EHC plan to attend a special school. | The information can be found in two clicks and the information given has now been made more explicit. |

People also said:
- The Local Offer is very clear
- I know where to access information
- More easy to read and understand
- It has been really good to see the development of this and the easy web access to advice and guidance
- Hopefully by providing a central database it will enable people to access services easier
Training and networks

Cornwall Council SEND training can be found in the ‘SEND Training Directory for Schools’ on School Messenger

The SEND training directory:

- is for educational settings
- 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 and cost

School SENCO Networks

Autumn Term 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>9th November 2016</td>
<td>2.30-4.30</td>
<td>Camelford Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>17th November 2016</td>
<td>2.30-4.30</td>
<td>Brannel School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>24th November 2016</td>
<td>2.30-4.30</td>
<td>Penryn College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The agenda will include the following items:

- HeadStart
- Effective EHC needs assessment requests
- Graduated Approach and the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle
- Whole School Provision – expectations in SEN support.

Please email senreform@cornwall.gov.uk to reserve a place. We want to ensure that there are sufficient handouts, chairs and cups of tea!

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.