# Cornwall’s Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Update June 2020 No. 28

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[View previous SEND Updates]
Hello

As you are well aware this is a challenging time for everyone with lots of uncertainty and change. Please be assured that SEN colleagues are still carrying out a full range of activity. Please feel able to contact us for advice, guidance and support.

Also, please look out for our new ‘virtual’ training opportunities which will be advertised through School Messenger over the next few weeks.

Take care of yourselves and we look forward to seeing you all in the ‘real world’ soon!
Latest News Continued

Covid-19 SEN Information for Schools

SEN updates and information are included in the daily bulletins for education providers and School Messenger. For all the latest updates and advice on Covid-19 and SEND, Cornwall Council have a webpage that contains guidance for schools, FAQs and resources.


Cornwall’s Local Offer now has a page dedicated to SEND resources for families. All resources have been compiled by Cornwall Council’s SEN Services. The page includes links and downloadable resources to support education from home.

[https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/sendlearn](https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/sendlearn)

Autism Spectrum Team — an example of a support service’s current activity

Casework

The Autism Spectrum Team is very much open for business (virtual naturally). We are continuing to offer support to young people with autism, staff in their educational settings and increasingly to parents who are delivering their children’s education while they are socially distancing. Where the Autism Spectrum Team is already working with a pupil we are liaising with their school and sometimes then directly with their family.

Advice line for professionals

We are also manning a telephone advice line for professionals who have an issue they would like to discuss outside of existing casework.

If you would like to use this service please e-mail the following address giving your own name and phone number, times during the working day when you are likely to be available for a phone call and a brief outline of the issue that you would like to discuss. Please do not use the names of children or young people in these e-mails.

For the Autism Spectrum Team please contact AST.Advice@cornwall.gov.uk

Our aim is that an Autism Advisor, as appropriate, will phone you back within two working days and offer a consultation regarding the issue you have raised.
Latest News Continued

We are also happy to accept new referrals to the team and our current system of prioritisation still applies. You can find a link to our referral form on the Autism Spectrum Team web-page www.cornwall.gov.uk/childrensautism

New Resources

The team has created a number of new resources in response to the current situation, with both non-specialist professionals and parents in mind. These include information sheets and exemplars for the following areas:

- Well-being and positive mental health for young people attending settings
- Education and structure for young people at home,
- Emotional well-being and socialisation of young people at home

Some of these have been added to our web-page (see above) and others have been shared with organisations such as Parent Carers Cornwall, the Early Help Hub, SEND Cornwall Council pages and with Autism Champions in schools. Please do contact our team if you have particular ASD specific resources that you are trying to source and we shall do our best to locate them for you.
SENDIASS

Coronavirus Notice

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic our office is now closed until further notice and following Government guidelines SENDIASS staff are now working from home.

You can still contact us for information, advice and support. We are still providing our usual service by telephone, email, through our website and Facebook page:

You can contact us by: • Calling us on our helpline number is 01736 751921 (Monday – Friday: 10.00am to 3.00pm) • Emailing us at: info@cornwallsendiass.org.uk • Visiting our website at: https://cornwallsendiass.org.uk/ • Or you can follow us on Facebook for any latest information: https://www.facebook.com/cornwallsendiass/
SENDIASS

CSW Group are delighted to announce that we are the new contract holder for SENDIASS Cornwall.

SENDIASS Cornwall provides Information, Advice and Support to parents and carers of children aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We also directly support young people with SEND.

A change but the same

- The same experienced, well trained staff will be delivering the service
- The website and telephone number will stay the same
- Young people and families currently involved with the service can transfer their records, by giving their consent to ensure a seamless service, to get the same support.

Our SENDIASS Advisers are fully equipped to work from home and the helpline remains open.

You can contact the SENDIASS team through:

01736 751921
info@cornwallsendiass.org.uk
www.cornwallsendiass.org.uk
www.facebook.com/cornwallsendiass/
Latest News Continued

The Graduated Response

With many schools running a reduced staff rota, more teachers and TAs may be working from home. This might also mean that schools are setting CPD activities to be completed until schools fully reopen.

One CPD activity which schools might consider promoting to staff is familiarisation with Cornwall Council’s Graduated Response which can be found here: www.cornwall.gov.uk/graduatedresponse

The range of Graduated Response booklets aim to:

- introduce school staff to the graduated approach to SEN support
- ensure that children/young people and their families are the main focus
- emphasise the role of class/subject teachers as teachers of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/ or disabilities
- look each aspect of the Assess-Plan-Do-Review cycle
- explore ways to involve parents and carers throughout the process

There are several different documents which can be downloaded. The guidance documents below set out the minimum standards for pupils with SEN across Cornwall. The aim of these documents is to inform inclusive, enabling and consistent practice across Cornwall’s schools.

The Graduated Response in Mainstream Schools

The Graduated Response in the Early Years Foundation Stage

For further guides please visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/the-graduated-response/

NASEN has also created a very comprehensive guide to SEN Support and the Graduated Approach which can be found here.
Latest News Continued

Moving and Handling Training – book early to prepare for transition!

As of 1 April 2020, the Moving and Handling training for schools will be delivered by Steve Deacon and Mel Leishman of the Physical and Medical Needs Advisory Service. This training is essential for any staff who are supporting a pupil with Moving and Handling needs and is free to schools if you have a pupil with a Moving and Handling plan already in place.

If you have a pupil transitioning into school this year with Moving and Handling needs, or if you already have a pupil with these needs but need a training update, then please visit the service webpage to book training. Due to the current response to Covid-19, we are offering the first part (theory) of this training virtually. Schools can then book the second part (practical) for a later date.

www.cornwall.gov.uk/pmnas

You can also contact the service if you have any questions about physical and medical needs at physicalandmedicalneeds@cornwall.gov.uk

SENCO Conference 2020

The 2020 SENCO Conference has been postponed due to the national response to Covid-19. We are currently looking to reschedule but are awaiting further national government advice before setting a new date. Once confirmed the conference will be advertised via School Messenger.
SEN Services and Statutory SEN: Senior Contacts Updates from May 2020

At the beginning of April, Bev Vann retired after working in different roles in SEN in Cornwall for over 30 years. Bev’s most recent role had included the SEN Support Services and different aspects of communications about SEN. Over the next few months the key contact for SEN Services is Theresa Maunder Interim Lead for SEND Support Services, Theresa.Maunder@cornwall.gov.uk. As well as leading on SEN Services’ activities and responsibilities Theresa is able to link people who contact her with other colleagues who are undertaking development and communication roles during this year.

At the end of April Mike Connolly stopped working for Cornwall Council as the Manager of the Statutory SEN Service. Mike has returned to London where he has caring responsibilities. Over the next few months the senior contacts for Statutory SEN will be Julia Freeman.
Success Stories

Communication Support Service

While face-to-face therapy will always be best, where it’s possible and appropriate, the Communication Support Service (the Council’s Speech and Language Therapy Team) are running tele-therapy sessions for some children and young people during the COVID-19 lockdown. This means that the children’s speech and language programmes can carry on while the children are not in school.

The Team has had to find new ways of providing shared resources for the sessions and get to grips with the technology – they would like to be able to grow a few more arms though to be able to juggle equipment, choice boards, sounds cards, toys etc! Staff in schools and settings will know the feeling!

The Special Partnership Trust - Supporting Families during Covid-19

The Special Partnership Trust is the Multi-Academy Trust for Special schools and some ARB’s in Cornwall.

During this difficult time the staff are continuing to support children and families under the current restrictions as many families are feeling anxious and isolated. Regular support and contact is being provided to families in many different ways across the Schools. This is to ensure Children can continue to learn but also support families and carers with emotional wellbeing as well as practically with resources and, in some cases, food parcels. On the next page are some examples of the innovative and creative ways the Schools have been engaging with pupils and supporting families.
Below is some feedback and some further examples of how SPT staff have been creatively engaging and supporting pupils and their families:
Success Stories

An HLTA at the School has organised a choir competition and everyone has been sharing their entries to this page, singing, signing, and vocalization and the odd dance move. It has involved staff, parents and wider families. It has lifted spirits and united everyone.

It is lovely to see the photos from her classmates she is missing them so much - we can talk about and see what everyone is doing!

Thank you for sending the article about people with SEN being okay to go out and exercise more – it has been a life-saver!

We love the daily videos my son loved this song, he responded to hearing your voice – Brilliant!

Thanks for creating Tac Pacs to be used at home to support interactions and wellbeing.

We made a video to let pupils know we are still there for them. The story talks about how we are all connected together through the invisible string. It is important that our children and families know that we are thinking of them, that we miss them, that we will still be here for them when this is all over, that they are not alone, and we will support them through this difficult time.

Thanks for all of the amazing singing/story/music video’s which have been created to help pupils with their virtual learning.

Pupils are getting regular postcards, letters and video updates from School staff. Families are contributing photographs of life in lockdown for tutor group newsletters.

Parents who are struggling indoors and want to travel to a place in their car with their child for exercise have on occasions been stopped and challenged, the School have written letters for families to explain that their child has an EHCP and needs to exercise in a quiet location.

Thanks to the teacher who delivered art parcels to the homes of her pupils.

Thanks to the teacher who dropped a laptop to her pupil’s house and promptly gave him an IT lesson over the garden fence.

Thanks to the teacher who delivered sensory packs and sent a video of her Attention Autism session for her students.
Success Stories

Thank you to all education settings

We would like to thank all staff in educational settings for their hard work, perseverance, determination, and creativity in supporting children, young people and families during the national response to Covid-19. Across different services and teams we have had lots of amazing feedback about virtual schooling, education packs being sent home, innovative ways to keep in contact with families, delivering resources, supporting with food deliveries and vouchers and many other things which have ensured families with children and young people who have SEND have felt supported throughout the last few months. Working alongside colleagues in health and social care what a great Cornwall wide SEND system we are!
Reminders

Statutory SEN Team: Education, Health and Care Plan Reviews

Year 5 & 10 summer term reviews are an important component of phase transfer. Schools hold these reviews in the summer term to discuss preference for secondary and post 16 placements. This practice has proved its worth over time and providers with learners in year 12 are also asked to undertake a summer term review to inform whether post-18 education is appropriate, and if so, what form it should take. The review is vital for updating needs and provision information, in many instances people are also able to provide information about their ideas about ‘what next?’ for the child or young person. If an annual review was held in March there is no need to hold an additional review meeting in the summer term. During the Covid-19 response, whenever possible, Council staff will prioritise attendance at phase transfer reviews to support with the process.

Have you seen the guide for virtual reviews?

Augmentative and Alternative Communication Service (AAC)

Weekly newsletters are going out to the parents/carers and settings of children and young people with high-tech communication aids. The newsletters include tips, videos and resources on using AAC. Not already receiving the AAC newsletter and would like it? Please let us know by contacting aacsupport@cornwall.gov.uk

For AAC updated video resources showing parents/carers and settings how to programme communication software. These can be found on our YouTube channel with further resources available on our webpage

Youtube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqPol1MDPaCxtLutSfRmAQ9awKV2HkcZ
AAC Team Webpage - https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/aac
Reminders continued

Social, Emotional and Mental health (SEMH)

With the ever changing picture around COVID 19 and the differing discussion about mental health, you can find advice, guidance and resources to support young people’s Social, Emotional and Mental health at

https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/covidresilience

https://www.headstartkernow.org.uk/sec-sch-support/covid-19/

https://your-way.org.uk/coronavirus/

https://www.healthycornwall.org.uk/organisations/healthy-schools/training/pshe-curriculum-and-training-programme/

http://www.startnowcornwall.org.uk/coronavirus/back-to-school
What’s Coming Up?

Supporting Communication for Children with Complex Needs

The Communication Support Service (the Council’s Speech and Language Therapy Team) have a two day course running in the Autumn Term:

A 2-day course for people working with children whose learning is at or below Pre-Key Stage Standard 2, in mainstream schools and ARBs

- Part 1: Friday November
- Part 2: Friday 20 November

This will be available for booking through Cornwall Learning Online.

New online training available from Kate Cairns Associates (KCA)

As a response to some of the current challenges brought about by the current Covid-19 pandemic, Kate Cairns Associates have developed some new e-learning training materials to support practitioners:

Toxic stress and community resilience -
https://kca.training/?service=e-learning&course=972

Community resilience and secondary trauma -
https://kca.training/?service=e-learning&course=973

They have also worked with Church Park Consultants to produce a suite of courses for Early Years SENCOs that can used for CPD or mapped to the Level 3 SENCO qualification:

The role of the early years SENCO
https://kca.training/?service=e-learning&course=586

Supporting colleagues in their work with children with SEND
https://kca.training/?service=e-learning&course=665

Liaising with professionals or agencies beyond the setting
https://kca.training/?service=e-learning&course=664
What’s Coming Up contd.

Early identification and action: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in the early years [https://kca.training/?service=e-learning&course=584](https://kca.training/?service=e-learning&course=584)

This e-learning is provided through kcaonline, a tried and tested learning system. It addresses the training needs of the children’s workforce and the delivery requirements of the organisations who employ them.

Further details of these and a wide range of other courses can be found at [https://kca.training/?service=e-learning](https://kca.training/?service=e-learning)

How to apply:

Email Tracy Owen, Learning and Development Lead (Early Years)  
[earlyeducationtraining@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:earlyeducationtraining@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Please explain how the training will benefit you and the children in your school/setting.**

Only one course will be allocated at a time and you must complete each course before applying for another.

Cost: **£10.00 per course**

### SEN Support Services Conference 2020

Friday 23 October 2020 at Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall Showground

This conference will focus on meeting the needs of children and young people with moderate learning difficulties in mainstream schools. The most frequent type of SEN across Cornish schools and settings.

It promises to be a great interactive and practical day! The morning session will focus on the inclusion of children with sensory integration needs and will be delivered by Occupational Therapists. In the afternoon session, there will be a range of workshops to choose from.

Before the conference and during breaks there will be opportunities to visit the conference exhibition and to mingle with other delegates as well as a range of different services and groups.
What’s Coming Up contd.

Cost: £30 per person or £50 for 2 members of staff from the same school (refreshments and lunch included).

Booking available in due course via www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk

Cognition and Learning Conference 2021

(in collaboration with Dyslexia Cornwall)

Friday 12th March 2021 at Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall Showground

With keynote speaker, Dr. Camilla Gilmore, from the Mathematics Education Centre at Loughborough University.

Dr. Camilla Gilmore will be focusing on ‘understanding and making provision for children and young people with barriers to learning in mathematics’.

Cost: £95 per delegate (educational setting)

£40 per delegate (parents)

More information will be released nearer the time. Booking will be available in due course via www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk
Stay Up-to-date with SEND Information

Cornwall Council’s SEN File

Cornwall Council's SEN File is a valuable and extensive resource of information related to Special Educational Needs and Disability in Cornwall.

Key features include:

- Education Health and Care (EHC) needs
- Assessments and plans information
- SEN Support Services information
- Transition planning guidance
- Useful forms and guidance documents

www.cornwall.gov.uk/senfile

Cornwall SEND Local Offer

The Cornwall SEND Local Offer is a website that hosts information related to:

- Education
- Leisure and Transport
- Money Matters
- Health and Social Care
- Childcare and Early Years
- Youth Local Offer and Preparing for Adulthood

www.supportincornwall.org.uk/localoffer
Thank you for reading the SEND Update

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send@cornwall.gov.uk

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