

SEND & Inclusion Service Newsletter

Summer 2023



Welcome...

to the Summer 2023 edition of the SEND and Inclusion Newsletter.

In this edition we spotlight the Cognition and Learning team's annual conference held at the Education Development Centre in Spennymoor on 12 July 2023.

We also have new information from the Fun and Food team about Specialist SEND Summer holiday activities and new categories introduced to their webpage as well as good news stories, what's on and training and development updates.

If you have any questions or comments about the information in this newsletter please contact Julie McClure in the first instance (see Advisory Officer contact details below).



Easington Colliery Primary School with the Cognition and Learning team, see page 2 for more details

Durham's Local Offer is designed to help you find the very best support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (0—25 years). Visit www.durham.gov.uk/localoffer to find out more.

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Cognition and Learning Conference 2023

On Wednesday 12 July, SENCOs, head teachers, teachers and teaching assistants joined us at the Educational Development Centre to take part in our Summer Cognition and Learning Conference.

Over the course of the day, participants were immersed in dynamic and engaging workshops that delved into the most pressing topics and emerging trends in our field, specifically developing independence with our children and young people with cognition and learning needs.

The breakout sessions allowed attendees to dive deeper into specific areas of interest, fostering interactive discussions and knowledge exchange such as executive functioning, memory, literacy, mathematics, the use of assistive technology and many more.

One of the highlights of the conference was the vibrant networking atmosphere, where professionals had the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and forge meaningful relationships. From structured networking sessions to informal gatherings, participants seized every chance to engage with like-minded individuals, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie.

Watch this space for plans on our conference next academic year!

Contact: cognitionandlearning@durham.gov.uk



FUN & FOOD

Holiday activities with healthy food for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

New SEND and 11 - 16 year old offer

The Fun and Food Programme saw another brilliant May half term school holiday packed with free fun activities for families in County Durham.

Watch out this coming summer on our main [landing/listings page](#) for the logos below. These new categories will list Specialist SEND and 11 - 16 year old activities only. There will also be the general Fun and Food activities on offer (listed in blue).

FUN & FOOD

Holiday activities with healthy food for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



FUN & FOOD

Holiday activities with healthy food for young people aged 11-16



Haystax Hub Holiday Club
A fully-funded nature-themed holiday club specifically designed for those with SEND. If your young person is 7-14 years old and loves being outdoors but usually struggles to participate in clubs, we could be the perfect place to wind away a few hours this summer. If the British summer is water play we have, we have plenty of indoor options.

Week 1 - 9th and 10th August 12pm - 4pm Bee themed Forest School and Craft Activity.	Week 2 - 16th and 17th August 12pm - 4pm Bird themed Forest School and Craft Activity.
Week 3 - 23rd and 24th August 12pm - 4pm Tree and flower themed Forest School and Craft Activity.	Week 4 - 30th and 31st August 12pm - 4pm Minibeast themed Forest School and Craft Activity.

Each free session includes lunch and a snack.
<https://bookwhen.com/haystaxhub>

SEND
FREE

FOOTBALL CRICKET BOXING ROUNDERS TENNIS ROLLERS

SUMMER FUN

HOLIDAY CLUB
HEALTHY FOOD & KIDS ACTIVITIES
Every Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 2pm
1st August - 24th August
GTD Mandale Business Park Durham DH1 1TH

TO BOOK CALL:
0191 3805576

FUN & FOOD
Summer 2023
Infinite Air

Wednesday 30th August - 3:30-4:30pm

An exclusive trampoline and inflatable session for children & young people with SEND and their families.

SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities (SENEDIC) are working in partnership with Fun & Food to develop inclusive opportunities for your children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Booking is essential. Please call SENEDIC: 03000 240 270.

Places are limited and open to school aged children & young people only.

SENsational! Holiday Club

Summer Provision
Mondays - 12.30 - 3.30pm - 31st, 7th, 14th, 21st
Tuesdays - 9 - 12am or 12.30pm - 3.30pm 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

SENsational Holiday Club is a specialist provision for children with additional needs who are unable to access mainstream sessions. Our groups have only 6 children with 3 qualified and experienced staff.

"The only provision I've been able to find to support my child's needs, being non-verbal it's very hard to find somewhere that can not only care and meet my needs but also ensure my child has a great experience"



Durham
County Council




**DURHAM
CRICKET**

Free SEND Cricket Coaching - Summer Holidays 2023

Durham Cricket are pleased to announce the introduction of their first Disability Cricket Camps that are being run during the Summer Holidays 2023. The idea of the camps is to bring all young people with SEND together (regardless of ability or disability) and play cricket in a safe and fun environment.

The camps are suited to children and young people with disabilities, aged 7-17. The camps have many benefits and are led by SEND trained coaches. A new Sensory Room will also be offered, which is based at the ground for all young people with SEND.

See details below for the
Disability Cricket Camps:

- **Seat Unique Riverside**
26th July 2023,
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
- **Seat Unique Riverside**
9th August 2023,
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
- **Seat Unique Riverside**
23rd August,
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
- **Burnhope Cricket Club**
2nd August 2023,
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
- **Burnhope Cricket Club**
30th August 2023,
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
- **Marsden Cricket Club**
15th August 2023,
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
- **Marsden Cricket Club**
1st September 2023,
10.00 am - 12.00 pm



DISABILITY CRICKET ONE-DAY CAMPS

AGES: 7 - 17



**SEAT UNIQUE
RIVERSIDE**
Chester le Street
DH33QR

26th July, 10am - 12pm

9th August, 10am - 12pm

23rd August, 10am - 12pm



**BURNHOPE
CRICKET CLUB**
24 Vale View,
Burnhope
DH7 0EA

2nd August, 10am - 12pm

30th August, 10am - 12pm



**MARSDEN
CRICKET CLUB**
Highfield Road
South Shields
NE33 3JD

15th August, 10am - 12pm

1st September, 10am - 12pm

REGISTER:



More Information

0191 387 2868 daryl.smith@durhamcricket.co.uk

Click on the QR code to register.

Durham Cricket, Seat Unique Riverside, Chester Le Street, Durham, DH3 3QR

07847531736 | E: daryl.smith@durhamcricket.co.uk | W: www.durhamcricket.co.uk

SEND AT 'THE STORY'

A new heritage venue and registration service



The Story is an exciting new heritage venue and registration service for County Durham, bringing together five historic collections, including Durham County Record Office and the Durham Light Infantry Collection.

It will be located at Mount Oswald and will feature permanent and temporary exhibitions drawing on all collections to bring to life the fascinating history of County Durham from pre-history through to the modern day.

A dynamic programme of school workshops will be offered, to be delivered both on site and at schools. All sessions are designed to be as accessible as possible for all children and staff will also be working with teachers to develop a dedicated workshop for special schools, The Story of the Story, which will follow the sensory journey of an archive from its discovery to being cleaned and packaged.

The workshop is designed to be flexible and where appropriate, we can also explore how we can use archives and objects to find out about the past.

From September 2023, workshops will be offered to schools on the following topics:

- Real Stories, Real Lives – investigate real soldiers from County Durham who fought in the First World War using objects and archives
- Local History – discover the county's history using a range of engaging archives and secondary sources
- Remembrance – uncover the stories of local men and women who served their country and think about why we remember those who serve on Remembrance Day.

Look out for more exciting and engaging workshops to come as opening approaches.

Initial discounted price of £135 per workshop. The full price will be £150.

To book, please contact

learning@thestorydurham.org



Change of Name for Hearing Impairment Team

In November 2021 the British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (BATOD) asked professionals to move away from the term 'hearing impairment' or 'hearing impaired' (HI) which has been widely used within deaf education and has been used within our team name for a number of years. As a team we discussed the varying viewpoints on this complex issue and consulted with groups of our service users to support the decision-making process.

Overall responses were in favour of changing the current team name to **'Deaf and Hearing Support'**.

We believe this name more positively reflects the wide-ranging service we provide to the children and young people we work with.

The team is based at Education Development Centre, Enterprise Way, Spennymoor, Co Durham DL16 6YP

You can get in touch with us using the contact details below: Main telephone number: 03000 264 530

Email: cypssensoryteam@durham.gov.uk

Happy Retirement Cath

After over 10 years as Team Leader with the Visual Impairment team, Cath Ridley is retiring at the end of the summer term.

The team would like to thank Cath for everything she has done over the years to support children, families and schools and wish her every happiness in her retirement.

Good luck and best wishes for the future Cath!



New SENDIASS drop-ins at the Family Hubs

Monthly drop-ins from September 2023

We are pleased to share with you all the plan for SENDIASS drop-ins which will be starting in all our Family Hubs from September 2023. SENDIASS provide information, advice and support to parents and carers who have a child or young person (0-25) with Special Educational Needs or a disability (SEND).

Each month the drop-ins will be available for families to meet with a member of the SENDIASS team and discuss their child's needs as well as what support is available at nursery, school or college. For any queries or further information please email: sendiass@durham.gov.uk



SENCO Training

Date	Time	Advisory Training	Venue
20/09/23	9am - 4pm	SENCO Training	EDC Spennymoor

Book by emailing the SEND and Inclusion admin team at:

SENDInclusionAdmin@durham.gov.uk

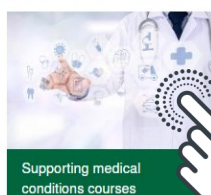
New SENCO - If you are a new SENCO, a free 1:1 1 hr session is available - Contact Wendy or Julie (see front cover for details)

SENCO Networks Dates via Microsoft Teams

Please note: SENCOs do not need to book a place onto the SENCO Network.

Date	Time	SENCO Network	Venue
10/10/23	9.30am - 12 noon or 1.30pm - 3.30pm	Primary	Microsoft Teams
11/10/23	9.30am - 12 noon	Primary	Microsoft Teams
11/10/23	1.30pm - 3.30pm	Secondary	Microsoft Teams
13/10/23	9.30am - 12 noon	Special	Microsoft Teams

SEND and Inclusion courses



National Award for SEN Coordination

[Home](#) > [CPD Courses](#) > [National Award for SEN Coordination](#)

Best Practice Network and Durham County Council SEND Advisory Team are recruiting for the NASENCO. Please check the website for details of upcoming start dates:

Link to: <http://bestpracticenet.co.uk/courses>

When registering for the NASENCO with Best Practice please use the following code: **Code-DRHM-CC**



Children and Young People's Services



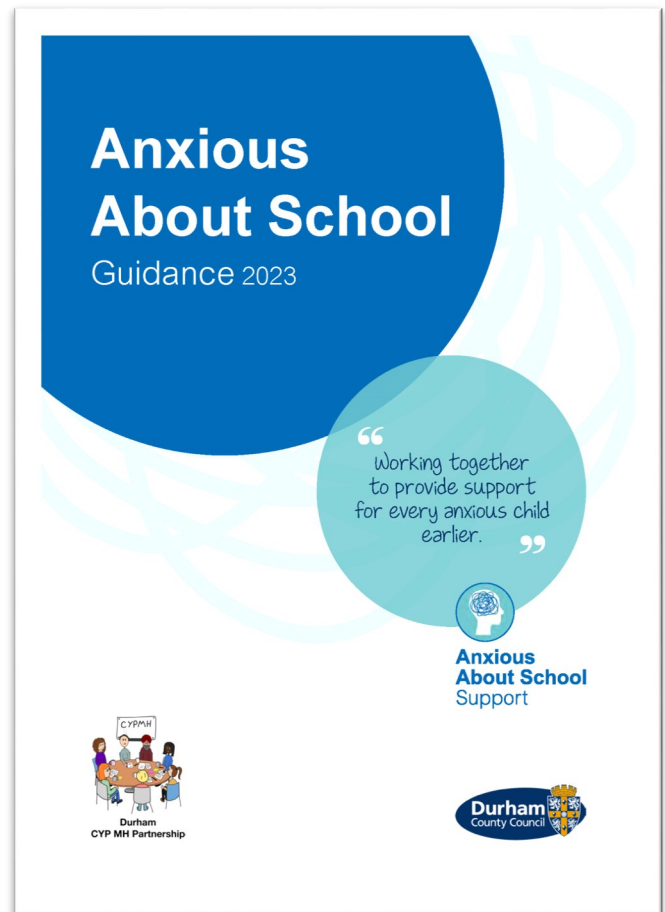
‘Anxious About School’ New Guidance Document

The "Anxious About School" guidance document is now available for all schools and educational settings. It is intended to support schools/ education settings with the early identification of anxiety needs and implementation of early intervention. It focuses on engaging in the assess, plan, do, review process and includes step-by-step process guides for schools who have children and young people who are anxious about school. It is filled with resources to support them through this process. This is a go-to guide for all schools in County Durham.

Download the [full document](#) here.

Dr Vicki Ferguson

Specialist Educational Psychologist



Nurture Hubs - New for September 2023

Nurture Group is for children and young people who:

- ✓ attend their local mainstream school
- ✓ may find it difficult to cope in the classroom
- ✓ may get angry or upset easily
- ✓ may be quiet and withdrawn
- ✓ find making friends difficult
- ✓ find it hard to manage their emotions appropriately.

Who is Nurture
Group for?



A new process will be trialled in Autumn 2023, introducing the Nurture model to four schools in County Durham:

- Silver Tree Primary School,
- Beamish and Pelton Community Primary School,
- Easington Colliery Primary School and
- Evenwood CE Primary School.

Details on how to refer a child and secure a place will be coming soon.

Click on the Useful Resources information boxes below to visit the relevant website for more information.



sendgateway
powered by nasen

Whole School SEND Index
Looks at National SEND data in England. A variety of indexes to tell us what is happening for pupils with SEND, including identification, attainment, exclusions.



Beacon

Beacon School Support have produced a guide on how to try to help cope with the return to school.



Anna Freud
National Centre for Children and Families

Schools in Mind - Wellbeing and mental health issues that affect schools



Durham
Safeguarding Children Partnership
DSCP is jointly led by Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary and the Clinical Commissioning Groups who have responsibility for North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield.

kooth
Online support for young people

NHS
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

Speech and Language therapy for children

GOV.UK
The DfE are carrying out a major review of SEND. The review aims to improve the services available to families who need support, equip staff in schools and colleges to respond effectively to their needs:



sendgateway
powered by nasen

A guide to making conversations with schools count for all families

NAO
National Audit Office
Support for pupils with SEND in England report
This report assesses how well pupils with special educational needs and disabilities are being supported.



DurhamWorks
To improve your future



SEND Advisory Team and Casework Team Updates

Top Up Funding Continuations

Just a reminder that continuation of Top Up funding that had a previous start date of 1st September 2022 or later does not require a continuation request. In this situation you do not need to do anything unless you are proposing an increase in provision from the last continuation. If so, you need to submit a full new request.

There will be an internal process to ensure all schools will continue to receive Top Up funding in the academic year 2023/2024.

The Finance Team will run the funding reports for individual schools and these will be sent in the first week of September 2023.

Please don't worry if this funding doesn't appear on the September 2023 report as readjustments will be made on future reports and all agreed funding will be backdated. The funding will be shown on the monthly funding reports that are sent by the finance team. If you have a pupil missing from the funding reports or have any queries contact highneedfunding@durham.gov.uk

Top Up funding will continue whilst the pupil attends your setting. The school must fund £6000 towards provision for the pupil.

It is school's responsibility to notify the LA if the pupil leaves the school before the usual transition point.

To ensure the school receives continued funding an annual review must be undertaken and evidence submitted to the Local Authority. There will be a new Top Up funding annual review process launching in 2024 - more details to follow.

Strategic Lead Updates

All 2022 to 2023 Annual Review paperwork must be sent to the LA by 21st July 2023.

Unfortunately we can't accept paperwork after this because of the migration onto the new system.

If you have a complex (possible change of placement) review meeting organised after 7th July 2023, you must still send in paperwork by 21st July 2023.

If you feel like you cannot meet this deadline we suggest you reschedule the review in early September 2023. This is only in exceptional circumstances so you must alert the caseworker immediately to discuss the case.

To support the migration we may have to send out final plans rather than proposed amended plans. Please be assured that schools and parents can still request changes if needed.

Bandings

- The uplift task of the Banding amounts has been completed.
- There has been a 9.5% uplift on Bands C and D and a new category of E1 and E2 has been added. E2 is only for EHCPs.
- There will be an internal LA process of transferring funding over to bandings for all EHCPs and Top Up Funding continuations. Schools will be kept informed of this.
- The Provision Descriptors and FAQ document is currently being updated and will be available soon.

Coming soon... a new SEND section on the School Portal

This area will include all of the current request forms, templates and proformas, along with details of events and news.

More information will be given when it is live.

‘Light touch’ reviews

In most cases, there should only be a need for a ‘light touch’ review of a plan.

The Code of Practice makes it clear that only significant changes should be made on plans (i.e. only a light touch review is needed).

Section A:

Parent/carers/child/young person (CYP) views will probably always need slight changes as CYP gets older and likes/dislikes and views change.

Section B:

Only change if there is a significant change in educational need, i.e. after an accident or operation, and if they are going to be long-term changes. Schools can ‘tweak’ needs slightly as the CYP grows older and from what they observe, but there is no need to change these year after year, unless there has been new advice received from an external professional.

Section F:

This always has to match Section B, so see above for details. However only significant changes would need to be made if the CYP has changed schools (e.g. from a primary in Year 6 to a special school in Year 7) and specific interventions may have to be adapted.

Section E:

Unless it is a Key Stage review, you only need to change the steps towards the Key Stage outcome. Has the step towards been met? If so, add a new step in.

Only change the Key Stage longer term outcome at the next available review (e.g. Reception, Years 3, 7, 9/10, 12, 14/15).

Sections C, G, D and H:

Schools must request updated advice on DCC templates from all active professionals to support any changes.

Data Breaches

Please ensure that current addresses are correct on SIMs, *EHCP and the meeting review record before sending paperwork to the LA. There will be a prompt on the new AR record to remind you.

*N.B. addresses will be systematically taken off EHCPs, in preparation for the new electronic EHCP.

General

All current advice and a copy of the EHCP must be sent to everyone involved in advance (at least 10 days prior to) an Annual Review meeting.

IPSEA are recommending to parents that if they have not received the information before the meeting then they should ask for the meeting to be cancelled.

New Systems

New electronic EHCP system is coming.

Please ensure when EHCPs are reviewed they are on the new format as the new electronic system isn’t compatible with EHCPs on the old format. If any school still has EHCPs on the old format, please let Wendy, Julie or Emma know.



Annual Reviews – Areas for Development

- In most cases, there should only be a need for a 'light touch' review of a plan.
- Outcomes should be linked to aspirations in Section A.
- Outcomes should describe what you want the child/young person to be able to do, rather than describe provision or read like a school report.
- School views should not be added in Section A.
- Don't move other documents (such as school report) into the EHCP sections. School reports can be sent in as additional evidence.
- Schools must request Health and Social Care updates 6-8 weeks prior to the Annual Review meeting.
- Use the review record to explain how request (s) for advice from Health and Social Care has/have been followed up if they have not responded.
- Needs should describe the CYP's needs rather than the provision.
- Needs must be numbered, Health and Social Care needs follow on the numbering.
- Steps towards outcomes should be short term targets rather than provision.
- Track out-dated information.
- When a costed provision map is needed to be submitted in the future - it must match the provision outlined in the EHCP and numbering will help with this.

Concerned about the provision for a child/young person with EHCP?

- There should be triangulated evidence about the child/young person from the educational setting, parent and any specialist involved. Settings should consider:
- Has the educational setting completed recent and relevant assessments?
- Has the educational setting sought advice from specialists?
- Has the educational setting acted upon the advice from specialists?
- Has the setting shown that relevant, purposeful and meaningful action has been put in place and monitored robustly?

If all avenues have not been explored:

- Seek further advice/support from relevant professionals.
- Setting to put a robust action plan in place in discussion with parents and child/young person.
- Actions to be reviewed in a timely manner.

If all avenues have been explored:

- Contact the Caseworker to alert and discuss next steps.

N.B. Prior to a review meeting being set up:

'Significant changes to needs' form (formerly named Appendix 2) must be completed and submitted to caseworker prior to a review meeting (at least 10 working days), not at the review meeting.

SEND IT Project

The SEND and Inclusion teams are in the process of moving to a new IT System. Following a successful procurement exercise, we are pleased to inform you, that Liquid Logic were the successful bidder and awarded the contract in December 2022.

The new system is both modern and intuitive, with built in tracking of statutory timescales, case notes functionality and the ability to monitor and report on cases more efficiently. It also has a centralised document store, which will allow us to bring together documents/files, to be held in a structured way.

The system also has capability to allow SEND Support and Inclusion Teams to digitise processes within their areas.

Along with the core EHCP workflow for our internal staff, we have also procured two portals.

- The first being the delegation portal, this will allow us to delegate requests for information, out to our schools and providers, as well as health and social care professionals. This will all be done in a secure environment and will feed into a young person's EHC Plan.
- The second portal is the parent/young person portal. This will allow us to proactively communicate with parents or a young person and provide timely updates, around the progress of an assessment, along with key dates within the process. The parent/young person will also be able to see when their next EHCP review is due.

It is a large-scale project with multiple elements, therefore we do have a phased approach to the roll out. Our planned date for go live for our internal system is towards the back end of the current year (2023) and we aim to start running some pilots for our portals from early next year (2024). It is a very exciting and busy time for us, however, we will keep you informed of progress.

Should you have any queries please contact:

Sandra Dowson (Project Manager)

sandra.dowson@durham.gov.uk

or

Sharon Middleton (Project Operational Lead)

sharon.middleton@durham.gov.uk



Communication between SENCOs and Caseworkers

There should be a named Caseworker for all new assessments.

Contact Duty on 03000 265878, Monday – Friday, 9 am - 5 pm If you have any casework queries.

Contact Themes 2 or 3 caseworkers to discuss EHCP reviews.

All schools have a named caseworker linked to them. It is vital to keep in communication to discuss potential issues and before things reach 'crisis' point.

- Theme 1 Casework Managers - Jill Harrison and Zelda Heney
- Theme 2 Casework Managers - Fiona Whitehouse and Andrew Shaw
- Theme 3 Casework Managers - Dianne Wilkinson and Peter Nicol.



Education Advice – Parental Request for Assessments

- Please provide advice within timescales.
- DCC are aware of school holiday issues, however, the SEND Casework Team are required to initiate from the date of the request. Exceptions are applied during the school Summer holiday period.
- When providing the advice it is useful to understand the school view point on whether the child/young person requires assessment – for example:
- Reference to:
‘Fully support parental request’.
‘Needs are met by/continue to be met by QFT’.

