

SEND & Inclusion Service Newsletter

Spring 2023



Welcome...

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



This term we would like to welcome Diane Watson - Designated Clinical Officer for SEND (North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board). Diane comes from a nursing background and has worked as a General Nurse and Health Visitor (HV) as well as a Specialist HV for children with SEND. In both of these roles Diane worked closely with SEND Casework teams, linking with Health, Education (including SENCOs) and Social Care.

Diane is looking forward to working with colleagues across County Durham and is keen to help overcome any barriers that may be encountered to ensure the smooth running of all services.

Diane works Monday to Thursday (with some flexibility) and can be contacted via:

Email: diane.watson@nhs.net

Mobile: 07918 377 432



Cheesy Waffles group enjoying Fun and Food Christmas holiday activities, see page 5 for more info.



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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Annual Reviews

Timescales

Education Health and Care (EHC) plans must be reviewed by the Local Authority (LA) as a minimum every 12 months in order for the LA to comply with this statutory duty, the following timescales should be adhered to:

- Review meeting must be held 11 months after the final initial EHC plan issue date.
- At least 2 weeks prior to the meeting SENCO to obtain information and advice from all invitees and circulate to all invitees. IPSEA recommends parent should consider postponing the meeting if they have not received the required reports within two weeks of the meeting date.
- Review paperwork should be sent to the sencasework.gov.uk within 2 weeks of the review meeting date.
- The LA's outcome decision is within 4 weeks of the review (i.e. within 12 months of the plan's date).
- Any amendments to the plan sent to parents/carers within 8 weeks of the outcome decision (i.e. 12 weeks after the review meeting date).

Also see Annual Review Checklist guidance from [IPSEA](#).



Important Reminders

Schools must ensure that addresses are correct on SIMs, EHCP and the meeting review record before sending back to the LA. All current advice and a copy of the EHCP must be sent to everyone involved in advance of an Annual Review meeting.

SENCOs must check that Section B and Section F of the plan match. There will be very few occasions where changes are needed. Schools should only make significant changes to needs in Section B if it is supported by recommendations or advice from professionals.

Attendance

The responsibility for organising and facilitating the review meeting should be undertaken by the setting. Settings should notify the LA of all planned review dates for the academic year as early as possible in the Autumn term. Send planned Annual Review dates to sencasework@durham.gov.uk

The LA will try to attend the review meeting where the setting has indicated a significant change in the child/young person needs.

For young people in year 11 & the year they leave school a SEND Caseworker will always attend these annual review meetings.

Reviewing the EHCP

Read through the whole plan, section by section, summarise key points made in reports and review current outcomes (this can be done using tracked changes before the meeting in preparation).

On the basis of all of the discussions agree amendments to the plan including any new, continuing or amended aspirations, needs, outcomes or provision (there must be evidence to support any amendments or changes to the plan).

The review should encompass a golden thread directly from the aspirations to the provision - this is achieved by thinking about outcomes as steps on the journey towards those aspirations.



Top Up (TU) Funding Banding

- Ensure you use the updated TU Request Form and SEN Support Plan for all requests.
- Ensure the request form and SEN support plans have parental signatures.
- Make sure the provision is quantified sufficiently. Only additional provision will be considered when deciding a banding.
- Continuation of TU advice will be available soon.
- If you have any generic feedback on the new banding system please use the email tufenquiries@durham.gov.uk. There is an ongoing review of the system.
- This email address should also be used for individual funding queries for SEN Support TUF requests.
- If there is an individual query about a funding amount linked to an EHCP schools should contact the SEND Caseworker or relevant SEND Manager to discuss further.
- Funding cannot be used as a reason to refuse admission of pupils and should not be discussed with parents/carers.

Transitions

- All schools must follow the DCC Transition Protocol and make sure information is passed on to the next setting in a timely manner.
- There have been a number of examples where a receiving school has been unaware of needs as they have not received copies of reports or SEN Support plans before the child/YP has started with them.
- Where the receiving school is known the SENCO should be invited to any meetings/reviews to ensure a robust or enhanced transition is put in place.
- There have been reports from SEND Caseworkers of good practice with SENCOs from receiving schools attending meetings with the current setting and parents. Parents have been reassured that their child's needs can be met in a mainstream setting and SENCOs have offered guidance about the provision they would put in place to be able to meet need.

All EHCPs on the old format must be reviewed on the current format in preparation for the new electronic EHCP system that is coming soon. If any schools still have plans on the old format please let Wendy or Emma know as we will organise workshops to support you to move them over.

Part-time timetables

All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package. A part-time timetable should not be used to manage a pupil's behaviour. A part-time timetable must only be in place for the shortest time necessary and not be treated as a long-term solution. Any pastoral support programme or other agreement should have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend fulltime, either at school or alternative provision. There should also be formal arrangements in place for regularly reviewing it with the pupil and their parents. In agreeing to a part-time timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore must treat absence as authorised. Page 18 Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

SEND Advisory Training 2023

Date	Time	Advisory Training	Venue
15/06/2023	9am - 3.15pm	New SENCO Training	EDC Spennymoor

Book by emailing the SEND and Inclusion admin team at:

SENDInclusionAdmin@durham.gov.uk



SENCO Networks Summer 2023

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

Date	Time	SENCO Network	Venue
21/06/23	9.30am - 12 noon	Primary	Microsoft Teams
21/06/23	1.30pm - 3.30pm	Primary	Microsoft Teams
22/06/23	9.30am - 12 noon	Primary	Microsoft Teams
22/06/23	1.30pm - 3.30pm	Secondary	Microsoft Teams
30/06/23	9.30am - 11.30am	Special	Durham Trinity School
07/07/23	9.30am - 12 noon	Nursery	Microsoft Teams

SEND and Inclusion courses



About our courses



SEND and Inclusion
Advisory Team courses



Cognition and learning
courses



Social, Emotional and
Mental Health (SEMH)
courses



Communication and
interaction courses



Sensory and physical
courses



Equalities and interventions
courses



Supporting medical
conditions courses

For more information about SEND and Inclusion courses, visit:

www.durham.gov.uk/sendcoursedirectory

FUN & FOOD

Free activities for all abilities from Durham County Council's Fun and Food Programme

The Fun and Food programme just keeps getting bigger and bigger. Christmas 2022 saw lots of free exciting activities on offer from specialist providers such as Eric Knows, Cheesy Waffles, Jack Drum Arts to the huge Fun and Food parties at listed local leisure centres.

Take a look at some of the fabulous activities that took place in our Christmas 2022 video below.



For further information about the Fun and Food programme visit:

funandfood@durham.gov.uk

New Resource for Children and Young People with Autism

A group of young people from Investing in Children have been working on a resource about autism for other young people.

Their aim are:

- To provide information specifically for children and young people
- To help children and young people to learn to support themselves and understand themselves
- To help demystify autism – it's not all negative!

The group are planning on launching the resource during autism acceptance month in April 2023.

Further details will send nearer to the time but if anyone would like to get in touch to stay informed about the launch of the report, email

louise.frost@investinginchildren.net



Free BSL Lesson for Schools



13th -19th March 2023 is Sign Language Week!

Why not sign up to a free British Sign Language (BSL) lesson available to all primary schools on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

Have some fun while learning a new language !

<https://signlanguageweek.org.uk/>

School of Sanctuary Award

The EAL Team has worked closely with Framwellgate School Durham for many years and has advised and supported them more recently in their journey to achieve 'School of Sanctuary' status. School staff have worked consistently to improve and embed their provision for all EAL pupils into daily practice, including those who arrive as refugees. This has taken place over a period of 18 months, with their final assessment carried out by a qualified EAL Team assessor. The School of Sanctuary framework is an excellent resource which we recommend to all schools.

Please visit <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/become-a-school-of-sanctuary> for further information and contact the EAL Team at eal@durham.gov.uk for guidance and support.





Cognition & Learning Annual Conference 2023

*Developing
Independent Learners*

9am - 4pm
(including light refreshments and lunch)

**Wednesday 12 July
2023**

The conference will include:

- a focus on exploring ways of developing an environment which supports pupils to be confident, independent learners and communicators.
- Easy to apply ideas which could support pupils who encounter independence difficulties in areas such as: spelling, reading, handwriting, writing, maths, motor skills, memory and sensory needs.
- recent developments in assistive technology resources and equipment which pupils can use to access the curriculum independently.
- access to a range of different workshops, providing attendees with the opportunity to explore evidence-based strategies, resources and practical activities.
- opportunities to network and share good practice with professionals from a range of settings.
- a certificate of attendance and a resource pack for all delegates.

Price: £150 or 1/2 a CoL credit

Venue: Education Development Centre, Spennymoor, DL16 6YP

Please book via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GHdUsdAhH1>



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.



Online support for young people

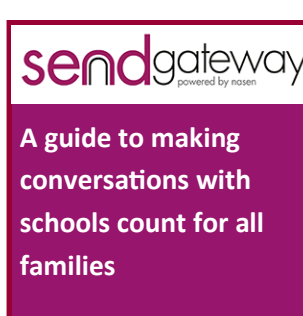


North Tyneside and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

Speech and Language therapy for children



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:



A guide to making conversations with schools count for all families



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.

