

# SEND

## Newsletter

SPECIAL  
EDUCATIONAL  
NEEDS AND  
DISABILITY  
0-25 IN  
KNOWSLEY

ISSUE 4 OCTOBER 2018

**SEND 0-25** Flourishing and achieving; becoming fulfilled and purposeful adults

# SEND

## 0-25

### PRIORITIES

As you know, the key SEND priorities for health, education and care are:

- **Joint working** across all SEND services and providers
- **Co-production** of activities and services to support children and young people with SEND and their parents / carers
- **Improve education, health and care outcomes** for children and young people with SEND
- Ensure that all young people with SEND **make a successful transition into adulthood**
- Continue to improve the **quality of Education, Health and Care Plans**

In order to progress these priorities, your input and views are essential. We will act on your feedback in order to drive forward improvements around SEND in Knowsley. We will include this in our regular parent / carer workshops.

At the parent / carer workshop in April, lots of discussions took place around good outcomes, the SEND strategy and the services you received. Overleaf is summary of those discussions and what we will do or have done.



## SHIELD

### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN EXPOSED TO EXPLOITATION

Shield is a multi-agency team in Knowsley with representatives from the police, council and partners such as Catch 22 who work together to safeguard children exposed to sexual exploitation, children at risk of criminal exploitation and prosecute offenders and bring them to justice.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Criminal Exploitation takes many forms and it is often under-reported as the children do not realise they are being exploited. Some important signs to look out for includes children who don't attend school, have extra money or presents, argue regularly with their family or change their appearance / look different. It can be more difficult to spot changes in some children and young people with SEND.

We know that this issue is important to you and we are making arrangements for Shield to run a parents / carers workshop over the coming months. As soon as the date is confirmed, we'll let you know.

## WHAT DOES A GOOD OUTCOME LOOK LIKE?

### YOU SAID

Child to be treated fairly / as an individual and to receive the best support regardless of cost or policy.

A young person's voice is powerful and should be listened to.

Listen to parents' concerns.



Better communication - from the council / services to parents and carers.

Seamless transition from children's services to adult services.

Education to be personalised to fit the needs of the child - not 'one size fits all'.

Quality of life for all children.

### WE WILL

We will ensure that fairness is included in our policies / strategies and we aim to provide the best support within the available resources. We will seek regular feedback to ensure that this is reflected in your experience.

We will develop a working agreement with young people about how we will involve as many young people as possible in decisions about service provision.

We will work with the Knowsley Parent and Carer Voice (KPCV) and share any concerns raised with staff. As well as listening, we need 'to do something' and we need to tell you what that is, and if we can't do something, why we can't.

We have introduced regular SEND newsletters to improve communication, as well as the 'have your say' facility on the Local Offer website. The monthly parent / carer workshops also provide an opportunity for better two-way information flow.

This is a priority in our SEND Strategy 2018-2021 and we are involving parents / carers and young people in this process.

This is particularly prevalent when a child has complex needs or they reach their teens and we are supporting our schools to be able to better understand and meet those needs.

This will be included in all of our policies and plans and we will support all of our children and young people to achieve their potential.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SEND STRATEGY 2018-2021?

### YOU SAID

Education settings need to be followed up - is what is in the EHCP happening?

Communication - lots of assessments and having to repeat information.

Police need to be involved in priorities - biggest fears are criminal and sexual exploitation.

Training is a priority.

### WE WILL

We will review this to see what is happening now and how it can be improved. We will also review some EHCPs with parents / carers to see if improvements can be made.

We will try and simplify our processes and try and avoid duplication. If you have examples, please share them with us to help us address this issue - email [send@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:send@knowsley.gov.uk)

We will involve Shield colleagues in a dedicated workshop to address this issue. We have also included information in this newsletter about Shield.

We are developing a training and development plan that will support our SEND Strategy and we will involve parents / carers and partners in this work. We are also working with schools to identify training needs for school support staff.

**THANK YOU - YOUR COMMENTS ARE REALLY APPRECIATED AND THEY ARE**

## YOU SAID

## WE WILL

Lot of talk and no action.

We accept that it feels like there is a lot of talk and that you don't see a difference fast enough. Partnership working can take time in order to get the best outcomes for you / your child, but please be reassured that there is a lot going on 'behind the scenes' and we will ensure that you are updated regularly on where things are up to.

Young people have a negative experience of short breaks - need to improve understanding, patience and perception of not being seen as the 'special kid in class'.

We will arrange a young person's workshop on short breaks to identify what works well, what needs improving etc.

## WHEN WE ARE COMMISSIONING SEND SERVICES, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

## YOU SAID

## WE WILL

More bespoke services for young people with complex health needs.

We already have a number of personal health budgets to provide individual packages of support for those with complex health needs and this is a feature of our approach to 'continuing care' for children and 'continuing health care' for over 18s.

Involve parents in decision making.

Staff across health, education and social care are working towards 'no decision about me without me' so this is a priority for us.

More training for school staff in communication and for all staff involved with the child.

A training module will be developed (in partnership with parents / carers) to address this.

Specialist services - behaviour, speech and language therapy, parenting, interventions.

We will review our specialist service offer alongside our SEND data which tells us the number of children and young people needing SEND support and the types of needs in the borough. We will involve parents / carers in workshops to agree the best way we can meet needs which will involve doing things differently, not just having more services.

Develop a quality standards / training package.

We will develop a training and development programme for everyone - staff and parents / carers.

Resources for police - vulnerable teenagers to adults.

We need to follow this up at a future workshop around the need for action (prevention). Part of the Shield team's remit is to raise awareness of important issues such as exploitation, but this can be explored further at a future workshop.

Could parents / carers be more knowledgeable about Shield?.

We will pick this up at a future workshop.

Sibling support is needed.

We agree that this is important and we need to work together and review what do we have now, what we need and how we can get there.

## MEET THE TEAM - KNOWSLEY YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE (YOS)

Knowsley Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency team working with young people aged 10-18 years who have committed criminal offences or have been referred by the police or the courts. The aim is to prevent offending and reduce re-offending whilst balancing the welfare of the child with the public's protection.

Between January 2017 and January 2018, of those aged between 10 and 16 . . .

- 24% had an EHCP
- 34% received SEN support
- 66% had received either a fixed term exclusion or permanent exclusion
- Overall 58% of under 16s who came through the YOS last year had special educational needs or a disability

## ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE YOS

Every child involved with YOS receives a holistic health assessment - called a Comprehensive Health Assessment Tool (CHAT) - which includes:

- Assessing a person's physical health (immunisations, diet nutrition, lifestyle issues, sexuality and sexual health)
- Risk review of self-harm, bullying, exploitation and safeguarding
- Emotional wellbeing assessment covering low mood, bereavement, ADHD, eating disorders, anxiety, stress, psychosis, depression and suicide
- Substance misuse
- Neuro-disability assessment including traumatic brain injury, speech language and communication
- Learning disability and educational needs
- Autism Spectrum Disorder - any diagnosis
- Care Plans

Information from school, the SEN team and the school attendance service is gathered to understand the child's needs.

An ASSET Plus assessment is also completed which informs the intervention plan for the child and family involved with YOS.

The assessment process helps us to identify learning disabilities, speech language and communication difficulties which may contribute to referrals to appropriate specialist services for further assessment and intervention.

## FAMILY FUN DAY AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

A family fun day, organised by Knowsley Parent Carers Voice, was an overwhelming success. Children, young people and their families enjoyed a range of activities from bouncy castles, messy play and cake



decorating, as well as learning new skills and making new friends. The army came along with an all-terrain vehicle, Aladdins Cave kept the children entertained with dancing and party games, Party Central Entertainment introduced the children to various animals and reptiles including snakes, lizards and an owl and children's favourites including Spiderman, Peppa Pig and Paw Patrol happily posed for photographs throughout the day.

Thank you for everyone who attended and supported this fantastic event.

## ASD PATHWAY

The ASD Pathway remains open, but there are currently delays with assessments and the council is working with Knowsley CCG (who commission the pathway) to take steps to address the immediate backlog and identify a longer-term solution. The council has provided additional support to undertake outstanding assessments. In the longer-term, the pathway is being redesigned and all services are working hard to ensure that this will be in place by 1 April 2019.

## LOCAL OFFER

Our Local Offer website is designed to be the 'one stop shop' of information, support and advice around SEND support and provision in Knowsley, as well as information about 'what's on' in Knowsley. If you can't find something, please tell us and we'll look into it.

Please keep us informed of any activities or events that you may be aware of in your area so that we can include the details on the Local Offer website.

Visit [www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/localoffer](http://www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/localoffer) today! You can provide feedback via the 'Have your say' tab on the website or you can email [send@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:send@knowsley.gov.uk)

