

Solihull SEND Newsletter

April 2024

Strategic Update

Additional Needs Board Meeting

The Joint Additional Needs Board met on 12th April. They key messages were:-

- The Board heard Solihull Parent Carer Voice's feedback from the March SEND Community Event which highlighted things which were working well and where improvements are needed for families. The formal report will be shared widely soon and members committed to talking to their services about the feedback for their area and to provide a response for SPCV to share with those who attended.
- The Board talked about the importance of children and young people being involved in decisions which affected them and the need for child-friendly language to be used. Members of the Engagement sub-group agreed to go away and discuss how parents and schools could be encouraged to include children and young people in meetings about them; especially the EHCP annual review process. This group includes SPCV and Our Voices Heard representatives.
- The Board were pleased to see that the Integrated Care Board had launched its Children and Young People's Support Whilst Waiting webpage. This provides up to date information about health waiting times alongside the support that is available to families. It also includes a survey to gather feedback from parents to help develop support services and information sharing. This was welcomed by all. The website can be accessed here: [SEND support available to residents in Solihull :: NHS Birmingham and Solihull \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.icb.nhs.uk)

#SENDSpotlight

58 staff from across 38 schools in Solihull have recently attended trauma informed training led by the Educational Psychology Service to help them best support children to regulate their

emotions; with a further 11 schools and 45 staff already signed up to the remaining training this summer term.

The Graduated Approach to SEND in Solihull

A huge thank you to all of the professionals, school staff and parent carers who have helped to pull all information and resources available into a revised graduated approach in the borough. There will be some launch activity to come to help people understand and navigate this online resource and more accessible information is being created to support this.

However, if you cannot wait to have a look at what schools can provide at a whole school, universal and targeted level and what specialist support is available for children and young people please do take a look on the Local Offer [Solihull Graduated Approach](#)

Right Support, Right Place, Right Time (funded by the DBV programme)

There is a lot of activity happening to help schools provide the right support at the right time for their pupils and to bring the wider community together to further enable this. We will bring you a full update in future editions of this newsletter, but wanted to share some highlights so far:

- This term saw a practice partnership pilot begin – run by special school teachers to help some primary school colleagues explore other ways to better support their SEND children; especially those who are waiting for a special school place. It is early days but primary schools are already reporting how helpful this is to have special school input and talk to other schools about how they are implementing advice and new resources
- So far 21 schools have accepted a SEND focused visit to look at their areas of good practice in relation to meeting pupils needs and to identify any areas they would like to be supported with – with a further 3 schools scheduled for this term, and 18 others offered. Good practice from these visits will be shared with schools; with the first session taking place this term looking at “high quality adjustments and adaptive practice”
- Following the success of building relationships and communication routes between parents and schools, and more schools wanting to benefit from this work, SPCV have increased their SEND Engagement groups into another 10 schools (from the original 20). It has also been agreed that this work will be funded for a further year so more schools and parents can benefit

EHCP Service Update

The end of March was the deadline for issuing EHCPs naming placements for all our young people transitioning to post 16 education. We are happy to share that 96% of these young people had their final EHCPs issued naming a placement by March 31st.

This allows for our young people to have robust supported transitions into their next placements if they need them.

This can be a challenging transition point for all; not least because at 16 the decisions about education lie with the young person and no longer the parents...We all have to remind ourselves that young people with SEND are allowed to make what we adults might consider 'bad choices' just as much as their peers ! What we can do as parents and professionals is to ensure they have as much clear information as possible to make those decisions.

NHS - ICB update

Birmingham and Solihull ICB is pleased to share with you the new Children and Young People's Support Whilst Waiting webpage. We understand that the length of time waiting for services can be frustrating. As a system we are working to improve waiting times for children, young people and their families.

Partners across Solihull have come together to ensure support for residents is visible alongside up to date information about waiting times which can be found [here](#). We welcome the opportunity to hear from you about the support you experience and would like to see in the future through the survey on the webpage.

Solihull Early Years Team

We now have the final Local Government Association report from our Solihull Super Starts mini early years peer review. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The full version is [available here](#).

There is a lot to celebrate in this report. After attending a group meeting one parent said "*I am so grateful and have never met such kind people*". I'm sure I can speak for everyone supporting children and families in early years across Solihull that we encourage contact and would be happy to answer questions and guide when asked. Parents are the experts on their child, but we are always happy to add our contribution of help and support where we can. Some of the actions which have been identified to target will be helped by the [Family Hubs](#) opening in Solihull.

There is always great guidance for early years families on the following websites.....

- [Solihull Health for Under 5s](#)
- [Solihull Five to Thrive](#)
- [Solihull Local Offer](#)

And

- [BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

.....as starting points for support and advice.

Reception- Building Readiness Across Early Years

One of the themes that came through the LGA review was 'readiness'. We have a co-produced School Readiness definition for Solihull [here](#). If you are a parent of a nursery or reception age child, what information do you want to know about school readiness and working with schools to support a child starting school when they reach compulsory school age? We have a survey open [here](#) where you can tell us your thoughts [closes end April 2024]



scan the QR code with your phone or follow the link

- <https://forms.office.com/e/ihVrQ0PZjA?origin=IprLink>

Our Voices Heard and the SEND Local Area Partnership

Our Voices Heard and the SEND Local Area partnership are pleased to announce our next set of youth voice events -"Let's Talk SEND". We will be working with our children and young people on the following

- Children's "manifesto" – All
- Transitions – All
- Involvement in Community (Particularly around our parks and community areas)

All

Before the event we are running a competition with prizes awarded at the events. [Please see attached flyer here.](#)

Details are as follows -

Monday 10.6.24

Primary 9.30 -12 [Book Places for Primary event here](#)

Secondary 12.30 -3.00 [Book Places for Secondary event here](#)

Tuesday 25.6.24

P-16 5.30 -8.00 [Book Post 16 places here](#)

Schools please use these links to book places

[Book Places for Primary event here](#)

[Book Places for Secondary event here](#)

[Book Post 16 places here](#)

Young people, Parents and CICs please use these links to book places

[Please book places at our Primary event here](#)

[Please use this link to book a place at our Secondary event](#)

[Please use this link to book a place at our Post 16 event](#)

Any further information from bridget.morris@solihull.gov.uk

SPCV

In March we held our Annual SEND Community Event, this once again was a really successful event enabling parent carers and professionals to talk together about all things SEND in Solihull. The report from this event is now available on our website: [Reports - Solihull Parent Carer Voice \(spcv.org.uk\)](#) our Annual Report is also now available on the website, detailing what we have been doing over the last year.

We are also delivering the Healthy Parent Carer Course, this course is written and delivered by parent carers, and is designed to support your emotional wellbeing. We know all too often parent carers put themselves last and it is so important for us to look after ourselves. This is a 6 week course and is funded by the Fairer Futures Fund, so is free to attend. Please do keep an eye on our website or facebook page for more details about when and where the next course is being held.

We also hold monthly coffee and chat sessions for parent carers, these are opportunities for you to meet with other parent carers, and also to talk to us about your views and experiences. Our next sessions are 9th May 10-12 at The Hub in Touchwood, and 6th June 9.30-11.30 at the Sharmans Cross Pub. Please do come along.

As always, we are looking for your feedback and comments about the services in Solihull and your experiences. Please do get in touch with us at enquiries@spcv.org.uk

We are also looking for volunteers to work with us, this can be anything covering a wide range from supporting at coffee and chat sessions, attending workstreams or focus groups to leading on pieces of work. If you are interested in volunteering with us please do get in touch at enquiries@spcv.org.uk

Specialist Inclusion Support Service

This term we have gone out to all Solihull Schools regarding our traded service offer from the Social Emotional and Mental Health Team and Communication and Learning Difficulties Team, we will now be recruiting to the buy-back from schools and services. Information about the work of [these teams is available here](#). When you visit these pages please do provide feedback on information it would be useful to include on the SISS pages that isn't on there currently, as we will be rebuilding our SISS Local Offer pages for September 2024.

SISS run a [REFRESH primary SEMH Intervention Provision for KS1 and KS2 pupils](#). The provision takes pupils for an academic year, with pupils attending their home school one day in the week. The current pupil cohort will soon be graduating, with a new cohort of children starting in September. Schools are encouraged to put referrals into [Solihull's Single Panel](#) this term, for children who they feel meet criteria for, and would benefit from, this nurture based intervention support.

In March the SISS Sensory and physical Impairment (SPI)Team held a Family group for Hearing Impaired Children in the Early Years. This was attended and enjoyed by many families and

focused on developing Language and Communication. There is another family group planned for the 8th May targeting children from Reception to Year 3 with a hearing loss, the event will be held at Solihull Fire Station. Please contact your Teacher of the Deaf if you would like further information.

The SISS Autism Team have been holding Understanding Autism parent workshops. 40 families have already accessed this offer so far this year, with another 32 currently booked onto the workshops planned for later this term. Spaces are still available for the Northern Workshop being held at Windy Arbor school on the 14th and 21st May. Please book on via your school SENCo if you are interested. New dates for the next academic year will be shared towards the end of the summer term.

Birmingham Supported Internship

The Birmingham supported internship prospectus is available here - [Birmingham Supported internships prospectus \(digital\) \(9\).pdf - Google Drive](#)

Supported internships are programmes for young people with a learning disability and autism that help them to find work.

If you think other people you know would be interested in this newsletter please encourage them to [sign up on the Council website here.](#)

If you have any feedback on the newsletter, or suggestions for future items please email and let us know: jand@solihull.gov.uk

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