

# Education Bulletin

For all professionals involved  
in education and SEND  
in the Local Area



## Our Vision

We are collectively ambitious for our children and young people. Together we want to provide them with the best chances to achieve their best outcomes in life whatever their starting point and prepare them effectively for adulthood.

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## 1. Introduction from Jonathan Williams, Assistant Director, People Services Directorate (Children's Social Care and Safeguarding)

I have been in the role of Assistant Director for Social Care and Safeguarding for 10 months. During this time I have gained further knowledge of the Education world including the strengths and some of the challenges locally. What comes across to me is the commitment of staff who want to continually improve the system to deliver better outcomes for our children and young people; this is particularly evident in the partnership work across the system. For example, the interface between the Sutton Local Safeguarding Board and Education is very strong and one we can be proud of; more recently of course in the partnership response to the the Written Statement of Action.



Fiona Phelps and I share the same ambition for our children and young people of Sutton. We will be working very much as a team; only by working together can we really make a difference and add value to the good work that is already taking place.

With this in mind, I would like to highlight some of the key improvements that have taken place in Social Care during 2018:

- Introduction on our new Early Help Family Group Conference service
- Implementation of our model of restorative practice with locality teams
- Integration of our Youth Offending and Targeted Youth Services
- Reduction in the number of social care placements by 50%
- Stabilisation of our workforce - the vacancy rate is currently approximately 18%, down from a high of approximately 50% 3 years ago - but still more work to do!
- Our response to the protection of vulnerable adults and a positive Ofsted inspection <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50004822>

2019 will enable us to build on these partnerships which will inevitably mean a busy and productive year ahead. Some of the priorities from Social Care that will support education include:

- Supporting the actions against the Written Statement of Action and a commitment from social care to participate fully in achieving the desired outcomes. For example, we are ensuring that Social Care is fully engaged in the development of EHCPs by attending the SEN Panel, holding fortnightly quality assurance meetings to review social care advice and providing challenge and support at a strategic level.
- Developing a clear social care offer to support schools. Already in the diary is a meeting to review our top 10 young people 'at risk' linked to schools; from this we will develop a protocol including pathways to access support and a prospectus outlining assessments, interventions and services on offer.
- Strengthening our response to young people at risk outside of the family home. This links to a contextual approach to safeguarding. We are all concerned about youth violence, county lines and exploitation.

I am mindful that I will not know many of you but if you would like to meet with me or would like me to attend your school / service team meeting, then please do get in touch.

Best wishes,

Jonathan  
[jonathan.williams@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.williams@sutton.gov.uk)

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## 2. Loss of an amazing colleague

It is with great sadness that we communicated the tragic news of the death of Karen Shaw, Head of Service in Cognus Ltd, who passed away peacefully earlier in the month. Karen worked for many years in Sutton moving into Cognus Ltd as part of the spin out of education services. As a passionate advocate of inclusive education, Karen touched so many people across Sutton, including professionals, but also the children and families she worked with in our schools. She will be sorely missed.



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## 3. Would your school be interested in providing SEN Travel Assistance?

We are in the process of re-commissioning our Passenger Transport Framework which



ends this summer and will be replaced with a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). During discussions at the People Committee, Local Councillors were keen that our local schools are invited to become more involved in taking our young people to school.

A DPS allows us to bring new transport providers onto the system at any time, as long as they meet the legal, technical and quality thresholds. This can include small local providers, and schools are invited to consider whether they would have

an interest in taking a part in this - particularly if schools own their own vehicles that could be used more efficiently.

However, whilst it would be possible for schools to bid to deliver some routes in the Borough, it is likely that schools would need to comply with the Passenger Service Vehicle regulations: this means that a school will need to hold a PSV Operator Licence. Drivers would need to hold a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) as well as a valid licence for a D1 vehicle (a minibus), which must allow for 'hire and reward'. General guidance can be found in the [PSV operator licensing guide](#).

If you are a school that might be interested, or to find out further information, please [contact Colin Haggren](#) or by telephone on 07534 538442.

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## 4. Find out more: Sutton Information Advice and Support Service (SIASS)

Sutton Information Advice and Support Service, SIASS for short, is a statutory service that provides information advice and support to disabled children and young people and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) aged 0-25 and their parents. Our SIASS team consists of two case workers, Gunny Lenz-Mulligan and Katy King. We have a good working relationship with Sutton's schools and Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENcos) who often signpost parents to us when they require extra help or advice.

We are impartial, accessible and free and offer confidential advice and information to parents, carers and young people aged 16+ regarding:

- The law on SEN, Disability, Health and Social Care
- The Education, Health and Care needs assessment process
- Individual casework representation
- Support in preparing for and attending meetings
- Help filling in forms, writing letters and reports
- Support in resolving disagreements, including formal mediation and tribunals
- Signposting to other local or national sources of advice, information and support, including links to local parent support groups and forums
- Support with Annual Reviews
- Support with exclusions

Our office hours are 9-5pm Monday to Friday. There is an answer-phone service for out of hours calls and for when we are in meetings; we aim to return calls within 2 working days, normally far less.

We are also happy to attend coffee mornings or other events such as Transition fairs to explain about our service and discuss any issues parents may have.

If you want to know more about our service please contact us on: 020 8770 4541 or [siass@cognus.org.uk](mailto:siass@cognus.org.uk).

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## 5. SEN Service visit to The Limes College

The Sutton SEN Service visited The Limes College on December 6th and 12th 2018. The purpose of the visits was for the SEN team to understand more about the provision through observations and participation in lessons as well as discussions with the

leadership team about the support that the "short stay school" provides for the students that attend. In addition to attending and participating in various lessons throughout the day, the team also had lunch and interacted with the students during this unstructured period of the day,

There is a range of provision at Limes including 'BOOST', the Family Outreach team, the Safeguarding Team, Clinical Psychologists, Speech and Language and Emotional Literacy leads and Family Group and Turnaround sessions.

Feedback was positive and the team was impressed at the range of therapeutic interventions and the learning environment provided by the short stay school. It was an invaluable opportunity for the team to understand more about the specialist provision that is available in the Borough - something the SEN service is keen to do more of over the course of this year.

The SEN Service has visits to Carew Academy and Sherwood Park in the diary. If you think it would be beneficial to invite representatives of the SEN service to your school/provision so that we can strengthen our understanding and build stronger relationships with the specialist provision we have in the Borough please do get in touch with [amalia.banon@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:amalia.banon@sutton.gov.uk) Head of SEN service. If you would like to know more about the Limes College and the work they do with young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs please contact [Tracy Wooton](#) (Assistant Head/Senco at the Limes College).

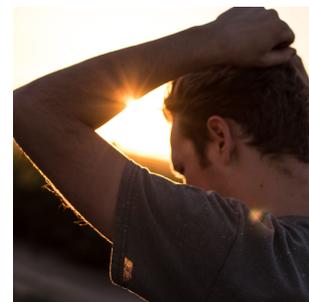
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## 6. Mental health support teams to support up to 25,000 young people a year in South West London

We are delighted to announce that South West London Health and Care Partnership have worked together with young people and their parents to secure £1.85m of trailblazer funding to help increase positive mental health in young people. The funding will help to create mental health support teams in three boroughs, including Sutton, giving almost 25,000 children and young people extra support with their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Initially, the extra funding will support the development of three teams as a pilot across Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth. These Mental Health Support teams will work with schools, children and young people and their parents and will be made up of:

- A clinical psychologist
- An emotional wellbeing nurse or therapist (to provide group support for younger children)
- 4 Well-being practitioners
- A pathway co-ordinator
- An administrator



The trailblazer mental health support teams will offer both one to one support and group treatment sessions for children and young people and, where needed, provide referrals to specialist children and adolescent mental health services (CAHMS). Unfortunately, not all schools who expressed an interest in this will be a part of the first wave as the funding secured can only support up to 8000 pupils. All schools that expressed an interest should have received a letter indicating whether or not they will be part of the first wave trailblazer; those that were not successful may have the opportunity to be part of future waves.

New schemes and services are also being introduced across south west London, including online peer support for young people, mental health first aid training for teachers, courses to empower parents to talk to their children about emotional wellbeing, an improved single point of access for CAMHS and a directory of support services.

If you would like to know more about the above please contact [james.Holden@swlondon.nhs.uk](mailto:james.Holden@swlondon.nhs.uk)

## 7. Sutton Local Safeguarding Children Board Update

The LSCB continues to support effective safeguarding of children and young people. This update focuses on::

- 1) Emotional Wellbeing Support in Sutton; and
- 2) Reporting Safeguarding Incidents

### 1. Emotional Wellbeing Support in Sutton

If you are worried about a child or young person's mental health, the following support is available:

Drop in provision:

Off The Record (OTR), Sutton young people's counselling service, offers a weekly drop in service:

- Every Tuesday from 3.30-5.30pm;
- If you are aged 11-25, you can drop in at the main office at 172 Croydon Road, Beddington CR0 4PG to speak to a counsellor with no appointment needed;
- For further information please visit the [Off The Record](#) website.

Telephone/online support:

- Samaritans on 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org);
- Off the Record Online counselling service for young people aged 11-25 in Sutton. Sign up on the [Off The Record](#) website;
- 'The Mix' – support for young people under 25 inc. telephone 0808 808 4994;
- 1-1 chat and crisis messenger text service via [the mix](#) website;
- Or find more information on the [young minds](#) website

For parents and carers:

If you are concerned about your child / young person, please contact the Sutton Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Single Point of Access (SPA) on 020 3513 3800 (option 1) and ask to speak to the duty clinician, who will be available 9am-5pm to discuss any concerns.

Further support services:

Information and contact details for further local and national support services for children and young people can be found in Appendix H of the [LSCB Management of Self-Harm Protocol](#).

### 2. Reporting safeguarding incidents

Since 29 June 2018 local authorities in England must notify the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 5 working days of becoming aware of a serious incident. This refers to incidents where the local authority knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected and:

- the child dies (including suspected suicide) or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area
- while normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England

MASH or the Emergency Duty Team should always be contacted as soon as the serious safeguarding incident is known.

MASH: Tel: 020 8770 6001, Out of Hours Tel: 020 8770 5000, Email: [mash@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:mash@sutton.gov.uk),  
Secure email: [mash@sutton.gov.uk.cjism.net](mailto:mash@sutton.gov.uk.cjism.net)

It is the responsibility of Children's Social Care to submit notifications to the national Panel and the details are also shared with Ofsted and the Department for Education (DfE).

## 8. National Funding Formula Update 2019/20

Further to the [Government's announcement](#) to increase funding to Local Authority's for pupils with additional needs, LBS officers have met with representatives from Schools Forum to discuss the implications for schools funding in 2019/20. Given pressures on funding in schools (and in particular to support those with additional needs), the Local Authority has agreed in principle to:



- To take the £506k in additional funding provided in 2019/20 and net that off the £766k transfer Schools Forum agreed to provide in the meeting on 4 December 2018. This means that the transfer from the schools block to the high needs block will reduce to £260k (equivalent to 0.17%).
- To redistribute the residual funding by providing a one off lump sum increase of £5k per school (as per original agreed option following consultation last year) plus a smaller allocation based on numbers on roll.

With respect to the in year position in 2018/19 where an additional £506k has also been provided, this will be discussed further with the Schools Forum at the meeting in February 2019.

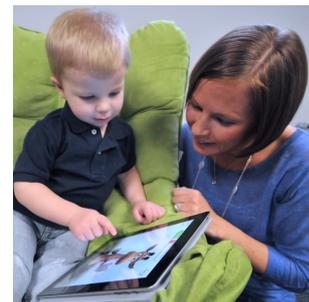
If you have any questions about this please contact [kieran.holliday@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:kieran.holliday@sutton.gov.uk) or [sue.holmes@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:sue.holmes@sutton.gov.uk)

## 9. Childcare Sufficiency Statement

The Childcare Act 2006, places a duty on the Local Authority to ensure there is sufficient childcare (so far as is practicable) for working parents. Childcare can provide many benefits for both parents and children, Childcare enables parents the opportunity to return to work or study if they choose to do so and access to high-quality early education can promote a child's development and learning to give them the best start in life.

In order to meet this duty the local authority must undertake an assessment of the local childcare available at least every three years. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2018 includes the analysis of:

- the demand for childcare
- the supply and availability of childcare
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers,
- any gaps in the childcare market.



In addition to the analysis of the current childcare market, the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment includes the local authorities plans to enhance the childcare provision available to parents and ensure there is sufficient childcare available in 2019 and beyond.

The most recent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2018) is available [here](#).

If you have any questions please contact [laura.byrnes@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:laura.byrnes@sutton.gov.uk)

We will be focussing on different briefing topics for each Bulletin to ensure that there is collective understanding of key issues and responsibilities across education in the local area. We thought we should start with a summary of roles and responsibilities for pupils with SEND.

## 10. Understanding our Roles, Responsibilities and funding for Pupils with SEND

A key part of the Written Statement of Action is to align our processes more closely to the Children and Families Act 2014. A key aspect of this is to ensure there is strong understanding across the system on the roles of responsibilities of partners in the Local Area. Whilst most colleagues will be familiar with this already, the boundaries of our collective roles and responsibilities can be blurry, so we thought it would be a useful reminder to write a short summary which [you can find here!](#)

If you have any questions about anything contained in the briefing please contact [amalia.banon@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:amalia.banon@sutton.gov.uk) or [fiona.phelps@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.phelps@sutton.gov.uk)

## External events and training opportunities

### 11. Sutton Parent Carer Forum - Information Day 2019

**Where?** Phoenix Centre, Mollison Drive, Wallington, SM6 9NZ

**When?** Wednesday, March 13 th 2019 from 9.30 am until 3.30 pm

**Why?** To provide information, help and advice to families with children and young people of all ages with additional needs and/or disabilities

**Cost?** Free to all as funded by Parent Carer Participation Grant. Refreshments available all day, buffet lunch provided between 12 and 2

**Parking?** Limited parking on forecourt for dropping off only as these spaces need to be kept free for our families with disabilities. There is plenty of unrestricted parking in the surrounding roads

If you are a provider of services and would like to have a stand stand at the Information Day to set out the services that you provide SPF would be grateful if you could confirm attendance by Thursday 31st January so that we can include your details in the advertising materials.

There will be 30 minute slots for providers who wish to give a short presentation. We would also like to run surgeries as these were very popular last year. Please advise us of what you can offer when you confirm attendance.

The information day has typically involved the following services: Young Carers, Therapies, Hospital Passports, Personal Budgets, Welfare Benefits and Disability Related Expenses / Financial assessments, Transition, Housing, EHCNA / Next Steps and respite / short breaks.

If you could indicate your main area of expertise and your availability, we will then group providers according to specialism e.g. Short breaks providers, Adult respite care, Early Years Support, Transition to adulthood, leisure, support groups and plan the timetable accordingly.

Contact us: [suttonparentsforum@outlook.com](mailto:suttonparentsforum@outlook.com)  
Phone – 07557 760328 or 07468 692410

### 12. Wandle English Hub

In September 2018, the DfE officially launched the English Hubs project. 32 English Hubs were appointed across England to support schools to deliver excellent early language and reading in EYFS and Key Stage 1, including age-appropriate phonics and essential next steps.

Chesterton Primary School in Wandsworth is one of the government's new English Hubs - one of just 32 schools nationwide recognised for their excellence in teaching and learning, and now charged with supporting other local schools to raise their standards.

The aim of our Hub is to support schools to achieve excellence in early literacy teaching through an initial focus on:

- Developing early language and closing the word gap
- Developing early reading through systematic, synthetic phonics
- Promoting a love of reading.

The [attached flyer](#) provides details of how schools can (i) register their interest and join the hub mailing list and (ii) a link for schools to book a place on a showcase event (3 dates currently available).

There is also further information in the [following presentation](#) on the work of the hubs and what they do as well as via the [website link](#).

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## 13. London Teacher of the Year – Join our search for a Star!

The London Borough of Sutton is working with other London Boroughs as well as Aspire schools to promote the [London Teacher of the Year](#) awards.

The event aims to find the very best teachers, support staff and volunteers working within schools in London. The judging panel is searching for individuals and teams of people who go above and beyond the call of duty for the benefit of their pupils and school community. Making a nomination is easy. Visit [www.londonteacheroftheyear.co.uk](http://www.londonteacheroftheyear.co.uk) and complete the nomination page.



These are challenging times so it's important we find ways to celebrate successes as well as focussing on what could improve. If you have a colleague that you think should be recognised then please nominate via the nomination page above. It would be great to get some Sutton nominations in and hopefully winners too!

The launch for the 2019 contest – organised by the educational charity Inspire Schools – was held at the Royal Aeronautical Society's Mayfair headquarters, which will also host a glittering awards event in June 2019. The event is endorsed by celebrity Terry Waite.

LBS is proud to be supporting the awards night. Academic categories include: literacy, maths, sport, foreign languages, science – biosciences, physics, chemistry, forensics, drama and performing arts, history, citizenship and politics, fine art and music and early years foundation stage leader, as well as the major categories of primary school teacher of the year, secondary school teacher of the year, team of the year, senior leadership team and head teacher of the year.

For volunteers and non teaching staff there are also categories to trumpet their contribution to the school. Everything from career advisers, those involved with pastoral care, school secretaries, dinner ladies and caretakers will be recognised through the event, as will members of the PTA, school governors and volunteer readers. A panel of judges select winners from each local authority area, and then have the tough task of picking the capital's overall champions. All will be revealed at the awards event this June at the Royal Aeronautical Society's headquarters in Mayfair.

London Teacher of the Year is staged by Inspire Schools and is supported by multiple London boroughs. Nominations are accepted from January 1 to March 7 each year. Visit [www.londonteacheroftheyear.co.uk](http://www.londonteacheroftheyear.co.uk) to submit your entry. Follow Teacher of the Year on Twitter @InspireSchools1 and #LToTY

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## 14. Anti-bullying Alliance

In November 2018, in response to Anti-Bullying Week, Sutton Council resolved that:

- That bullying in any form, by any group or individual, in any walk of life, is unacceptable.
- To join the UK-wide **Anti-Bullying Alliance**, which already comprises over 140 organisations and individuals.
- To adopt the Anti-Bullying Alliance's definition of bullying.
- That Sutton Council staff are encouraged to undertake the Anti-Bullying Alliance's online training module, so they can feel more confident in identifying and calling out or reporting bullying behaviour.
- That as councillors we should lead by example in our actions and interactions, and will support efforts in our communities to highlight and end bullying. We will further demonstrate this by signing a pledge that we will refrain from bullying behaviour and instead 'Choose Respect'.
- That once signed these pledges will be displayed on councillors' official Council website profiles to show that we take bullying seriously and are determined to stand up for our communities.
- That an external anti-bullying training programme is provided for councillors.
- To encourage all our borough schools to draw up their own anti-bullying pledge in collaboration with their students.
- To launch a review to ensure that, for Council colleagues and our residents, there is clear signposting to internal processes and external helplines and support groups such as Childline, ACAS, Citizens Advice Bureau, Bullying UK, and others.



Many schools, services and organisations have already signed up to the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#), but if not, this is an opportunity to consider it - it is only £100 for Core Membership or £60 for Associate membership, or if you are a education setting you can sign up to the School Network, to receive bulletins, invitations and contact with others committed to reducing bullying.

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## 15. Do you have an item for the Bulletin or an example of good practice / success you want to share

In our discussions with schools we know there is some excellent practise taking place in our schools to support the needs of our more vulnerable young people. This could be teaching and curriculum models, could be approaches to support for care leavers or could be whole school SEN support strategies. We are really keen to capture information about this work so that we can share this information across the Local Area. Emma Bradshaw, Simon Vines and Anne Claxton will be raising this with HTs in future primary/secondary Heads groups but in the meantime if you have a case study please take 2 minutes to fill out the following [proforma](#).

If you're working on a project that supports children and young people, or perhaps you have an event coming up that is relevant to schools and education, or just want to make sure schools are aware of what you are doing then why not contact us?

Submitting a story is easy. Simply email [educationbulletin@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:educationbulletin@sutton.gov.uk) with your update of no more than 500 words. Full guidance on how to submit an item and the deadlines and publication dates can be found [here](#).

**Did you miss the December Bulletin?**

You can download previous Education Bulletins here:

If you have any queries or would like to submit an article for the next edition, then please contact [educationbulletin@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:educationbulletin@sutton.gov.uk)

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