

Education Bulletin

For all professionals involved
in education and SEND
in the local area



NHS
Sutton
Clinical Commissioning Group



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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Introduction from Fiona Phelps, Assistant Director of Education and SEND

Welcome to the first Education Bulletin of the new academic year - I hope everyone had a good break over the summer and that the new term is going well.

As you will know, the Local Area's Written Statement of Action (WSOA) has now been in place for over a year, and the Ofsted/CQC Revisit will take place at some time during this term. So - what has changed since the WSOA was deemed 'fit for purpose' back in July 2018? This was the question discussed at the 'Stocktake' morning, held on September 17th at Carshalton Athletic Football Club where over 70 colleagues came together across Health, Schools, Cognus, London Borough of Sutton, councillors and parents/carers of children and young people to review the progress we have made and the work yet to do. A big thank you to all those colleagues that attended the event and for those that weren't able to attend you may wish to review [this link to the presentation](#) that was delivered in the morning as well as a [short summary of the discussion and feedback](#) received during the event. In addition, Headteachers, Jan Allen and Helen Matt kick off this bulletin with their reflections and thoughts on the event as well as where we are as a Local Area in our improvement journey.

As you will also see below, the Local Area is developing its Self Evaluation ('SEF') - the narrative that explains where we all think we are in our improvements, and what we still need to do. Please do take some time to read this, and if you have any feedback - whether comments, challenges or contributions - we would very much like to hear it.

The work arising from the High Needs Block review that took place last year (if you need any reminders, the [executive summary](#) is on the Local Offer website) is progressing as the [Sutton Education Partnership](#) is now up and running. Bec Allott, CEO and Executive Head of Cheam Academies Network is co-leading on this, but the involvement of heads, SENCOS, parents and other stakeholders is essential; if you want to get involved, please email oonagh.bensberg@sutton.gov.uk.

One piece of feedback from the Stocktake session was that we all need to promote the 'small things that make a difference', so don't forget to contact educationbulletin@sutton.gov.uk if you want to share your organisation's views, ideas or developing practice - we would be very happy to share it for you.

With best wishes,



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Articles

1. Written Statement of Action WSOA 'Stocktake Morning', 17th September 2019

As headteachers of infant schools in Sutton we were pleased to attend the SEND Stocktake morning on 17th September. Overall, the event was very well attended by multi-agency professionals from across Sutton. The session started with a recap on the Written Statement of Action and then presentations showing the progress made in the last fourteen months through the many projects underway or being developed to improve outcomes for children and families. Although there has been



a great deal completed there was the acknowledgement that there is still a way to go.

As part of the presentations Helen gave a presentation on Inclusion Expert; a project we are both involved in. After our school visits by the consultant we found it very helpful to have the opportunity to discuss the impact in each of our schools and to share good practice.

This project provided us with the opportunity to reflect on our practice and be given documentation and ideas on how to move forward. This has been particularly helpful due to the higher level of need we are both now seeing in our schools, and we feel, is the same across other schools in Sutton. There is more work that can be done with sharing the knowledge and support we heard about during the session during the morning. There have been lots of pieces of work and projects carried out but there must now be some joining up of these and more sharing of information where appropriate. As a start to moving forward at the end of the session we had an opportunity to talk to LA and Cognus staff considering next steps through discussion in groups.

The morning was very beneficial for us in finding out what is happening to improve SEND provision for pupils in Sutton and the support that will be available to schools however this is clearly just the beginning.

Helen Matt - Headteacher, Victor Seymour Infants School - hmatt@suttonmail.org, Jan Allen - Headteacher Robin Hood Infants School - jallen16@suttonmail.org

2. Local Area WSOA Self Evaluation

Prior to the stocktake morning, we circulated a copy of our [Self Evaluation document](#) which was used to inform the plenary sessions. The document is a draft summary of where we were as a Local Area, what we have done, what impact it is having and our remaining areas for development. We recognise that the document is a little 'text heavy' presently but we are keen to understand whether professionals across the Local Area (i) recognise the assessment, (ii) can provide evidence of our work to improve services for young people with SEND not yet captured, (iii) any other feedback. We would be most grateful if you could email any feedback on the latest version of the Self Evaluation document to kieran.holliday@sutton.gov.uk as soon as possible and by no later than **11 October** as well as any evidence that you could provide to the WSOA (the latter being particularly important).

3. Launch: Graduated Response to meeting SEMH needs - Alternatives to Exclusions

We are pleased to launch the 'Graduated Response' (GR) in Sutton to help support schools prevent exclusions. The GR outlines a multitude of interventions and services that can be accessed to support the social, emotional and mental health needs of children and young people in and beyond school including links where possible to the point of access.

The GR should be used by staff in educational settings in Sutton to ensure that preventative approaches and early support are embedded in policy and practice to ensure that they are given the best chances to achieve in school and beyond. It has been developed through successful collaborative multi-agency working and we would like to thank everyone in the Local Area who has played a part in the development process. The GR will continue to evolve over time as research develops and further support services in Sutton emerge - the latest version will be shared on the Local Offer which can be found here-

https://www.sutton.gov.uk/downloads/file/4018/sutton_schools_graduated_response_-_alternatives_to_exclusion

We are keen that the GR is shared with everyone with a responsibility to support children and young people in Sutton and appropriate steps are taken to ensure the it becomes commonly used across all schools and services in Sutton.

If you have any feedback about the GR or if there is anything you feel should be included in the document please do not hesitate to contact Kate Leyshon, Sutton Virtual School

4. A view from Darlington - Early Help is anything that helps; driving a partnership approach to improved outcomes for families

A colleague forwarded this timely and inspiring post from Nicholas Lindsey the Head of School at Longfield Academy in Darlington - we thought it encapsulates the role of schools and other services in early help eloquently and passionately - so we thought we would share it here!

"I am passionate about ensuring the school not only provides a first-class education for its pupils; but embraces the wider community role all schools should be playing in supporting the early help offer for families. Schools are uniquely placed to be able to identify issues early as they emerge for children and their families; and are often trusted more than other services which encourages an openness from families to ask for help.



The uncomfortable truth is that children aren't born with equality of opportunity. The exciting reality is that some of us may, in some small part, do something to redress the balance. If enough of us do, the difference could be significant. Belief can be much more important than intent".....to read the full blog click [here](#)

5. Specialist Domestic Abuse Services

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority in Sutton. As part of the Domestic Abuse Transformation Programme, the London Borough of Sutton (LBS) has recently undertaken a commissioning exercise to strengthen the coordination, accessibility and sustainability of specialist Domestic Abuse services in the borough. LBS has awarded the contract to Cranstoun who have formed a consortium ("Transform") with local specialist DA organisations in Sutton.



A joint announcement notice can be found here:

https://www.sutton.gov.uk/news/article/425/the_transform_partnership_sutton

From the 1st November 2019, The Transform Service will offer an integrated specialist domestic abuse service for Sutton residents. The service provision will consist of;

- Assessment and support for victims and children
- Assessment and support for perpetrators
- Women's refuge and floating support
- Education - offering support to children in schools
- Health - establishing referral pathways through social prescribing

A directory of specialist services to support victims of domestic abuse (DA) is available on the not alone in Sutton website <https://notaloneinsutton.org.uk/>

For more information speak to Shirley Green, Interim Commissioning Manager, shirley.green@sutton.gov.uk

In the event that someone experiencing abuse requires help out of hours they can ring the national helpline for victim support, 0808 168 9291 or National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247, but should always contact the police on 999 if they are concerned about their immediate safety.

6. School Improvement update

In light of the WSOA, much of the focus for the forthcoming year on school improvement

will relate to SEND. Providing our leaders and schools with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide inclusive environments that can meet the predictable needs of our young people from 2020.

All our schools, both the maintained and academies, [have the opportunity to participate in quality action researched based CPD](#), which is being led by well-respected professionals within their fields. The offer will be fully funded for maintained schools and heavily subsidised for each of our academy trusts. The training we are providing is designed to have a positive impact on the professionals participating and their schools on a daily basis. [Schools can book courses via the Cognus website here](#)

In terms of the wider school improvement role, Jane Morgan Head of School Improvement / SEN support will be conducting visits to all maintained primary schools in the Borough. The visit will involve a learning walk and discussions with the leadership team, as to where their school is and their key priorities. Where support is required or requested, this will be tailored to the specific needs of the school.

These processes are set out clearly in our School Improvement Strategy, which will be shared with schools at the beginning of October. School Improvement this academic year provides an exciting opportunity for our dedicated professionals to work together to change and improve SEND practice within their own school and within the Borough.

If you have any questions please contact: Jane Morgan - miranda-jane.morgan@cognus.org.uk

7. Councillors James and Batt visit to the LEO Academy Trust

On a bright sunny morning we had the pleasure of visiting some of the primary schools which are part of the LEO Academy Trust. We started our morning at Cheam Common Junior and Cheam Common Infants where we heard about the history of the LEO Academy and how it has developed its vision, mission and values for the pupils and staff. We were shown around by some Year 5 and 6 pupils who were keen to tell us about the range of opportunities and experiences available to them for sport, music and the arts.



They were very proud to show off their club photos and trophies that they have won over recent years! Whilst being shown around we heard about the 'Battle of the Books' and were impressed by the number of books that the pupils had read. We then moved onto Cheam Fields Primary Academy where we were shown around by some Year 6 pupils who were also keen to share their experiences of the different activities available to them. We heard about the exciting Chromebook Programme which will initially be launched in Year 4.

Next stop was Cheam Park Farm Primary Academy which we learned was the first school in the LEO Academy Trust. Cheam Park Farm received a rating of 'outstanding' in their recent OFSTED inspection something which the staff and pupils are very proud of. We could have spent much more time at all of the schools and it was clear that the pupils had a lot they wanted to share with us but sadly we ran out of time. We hope to be able to visit the rest of the schools in the Trust in the future.

Thank you to all the staff and pupils for hosting our visit and giving us such a warm welcome. We are keen to visit as many providers in the Local Area as possible so if you would like to speak to us or to arrange a visit please contact jenny.batt@sutton.gov.uk or marian.james@sutton.gov.uk

Updates and Notifications

8. A Letter to all Schools from the Mayor of London

The mayor has written to all schools in London, thanking them for the excellent work that they do and to raise awareness of four important issues that he is asking for cooperation and engagement on:

- (i) reducing violence,
- (ii) hate crime,
- (iii) teaching about healthy relationships,
- (iv) Gender action.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

9. Sutton's refreshed Local Offer launched

The [Local Offer website](#) is for children, young people and their families to find information about services that are available in their Local Area. Partners from across the Local Area have refreshed the site and whilst there is much still to do, we hope that this becomes a more useful resource for families and young people but also professionals from across the Local Area.

If you have ideas for how we can continue to improve our Local Offer, if you have information that you think should be available on the local offer or if you have feedback of any other kind please fill out the online form, which is located on the '[Get Involved](#)' page. OR, please get in contact with Megan Kiely - localoffer@sutton.gov.uk, 020 8323 0412.

We have produced a [Local Offer flyer](#) which **we would be very grateful if colleagues from across the Local Area could distribute** via newsletters, notice boards or any other suitable channels. To request copies of the flyer please contact Megan using the details above.

10. London Councils / National Audit Office publish key SEND reports on SEND'.

London Councils have been conducting research into the excellent work in London's schools and local authorities delivering on their legal duty to ensure education is inclusive and enabling a significant number of children with SEND to benefit from a mainstream education. They also found examples of unfair admissions practice, off-rolling and inappropriate exclusions. The report invites LAs, Trusts and schools to scrutinise their practice and think about what more they could be doing to ensure that all children can access mainstream education where appropriate. A copy of the report can be downloaded [here](#).



The National Audit Office (NAO) has reported (September 2019) on how well pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are being supported. The NAO finds that while some SEND pupils are receiving high quality support they express "significant concerns" that many others are not being supported effectively, and those without Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans are particularly exposed. A copy of that report can be found [here](#).

11. Whole School SEND Consortium

Many schools / SENCOs will already be familiar with the 'Whole School SEND Consortium' (WSSC) but for those that don't the WSSC brings together schools, organisations and individuals who are committed to ensuring that every child and young person with SEND can achieve their potential at school. The consortium exists to:



- Drive education institutions to prioritise SEND within their CPD and school improvement plans including facilitating greater links between mainstream and special schools

- Equip schools to identify and meet their training needs in relation to SEND.
- Build the skills of teachers working in mainstream and special schools and of SENCOs and teachers of classes of children and young people with sensory impairments by promoting best practice.
- Identify and respond to any gaps in the training and resources available to schools.

[To find out more about the consortium or to join their community of practice please click here](#) or contact your regional rep: Amelie Thompson, Regional SEND Leader for South East and South London, RSL.SESLON@wholeschoolsend.com or Tina Harvey (Deputy Regional SEND Leader DRSL.SESLON@wholeschoolsend.com)

12. Try 'GoSutton' for the daily school run

GoSutton is a 12-month bus trial brought to you by Transport for London & ViaVan, operated by Go-Ahead London.



When parents, students, or staff use GoSutton for the daily school run instead of taking a private car, it can help address congestion, parking shortages, and emissions near schools. Please help us spread the word about this service to your community.

You can share the information below in school newsletters, and reach out to us at support@gosutton.co.uk for posters and flyers about the service.

Here's how GoSutton works:

GoSutton takes multiple passengers heading in the same direction and books them into a shared, on-demand bus. Customers can request a ride, select their pick-up and drop-off points and pay directly through the GoSutton app (for iPhone or Android).

Rides cost just £3.50 and you can add additional passengers to your ride for £2 each. Children under 5 years old ride for free. Children between the ages of 13 to 16 can create their own accounts to ride unaccompanied on GoSutton, when they have consent from their parent or guardian.

All GoSutton vehicles are wheelchair accessible, and Freedom Passes are accepted. Download the app and enter promo code 'GoCommunity' to get your first two rides for free. You can find out more about the service at <https://gosutton.co.uk/> or contact support@gosutton.co.uk

13. The WIRE - widening inclusivity in Religious Education

The WIRE award is a SACRE-led project which is free to enter for Sutton schools to encourage inclusive and best practice Religious Education. SACRE wants to encourage all schools to develop their RE provision in positive and outward-looking ways. The WIRE award is one way in which it hopes to do this.

OFSTED view the provision of quality RE education as vital in realising the potential of a child and this award will undoubtedly assist a school in clearly demonstrating the high standard of their delivery. For more information on how to apply please click [here](#)

If you require further information please contact:

Penny Smith-Orr RE Consultant Sutton SACRE
Email: pennysmithorr@gmail.com
Sutton SACRE -Sutton Education Department

14. Young Epilepsy's Free Guide for Schools

Young Epilepsy has recently launched a free online guide for schools: www.youngepilepsy.org.uk/guideforschools

Supporting young people with epilepsy: A guide for schools has been designed to ensure

young people with epilepsy are fully supported in their educational setting.

Supporting pupils with medical conditions is a [statutory duty](#) under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014. We hope that the guide will help school leadership teams ensure they have sufficient policy and practice in place. Supporting pupils with medical conditions also supports schools' safeguarding and equality duties.

The guide includes information on [seizure first aid](#), [epilepsy's impact on learning and behaviour](#) and the [key elements of support](#) that should be in place at school, and template documents, including a policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions, an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) and a seizure record form.

The guide also features Young Epilepsy's ABLE tool (Assessment of Behaviour and Learning in Epilepsy). This is a [simple questionnaire](#) for staff and parents to use to identify potential areas of concern.

If you require further information please contact:

Lisa Thurston, Project Co-ordinator, lthuston2@youngepilepsy.org.uk

Tel: 01342 832243 extn 310

Young Epilepsy is a national charity based in Surrey

15. Update from GOV.UK – Influenza-like illness (ILI): managing outbreaks in schools

The Government have issued Guidance on managing outbreaks of influenza-like illness (ILI) in Schools it can be accessed [here](#)

16. Working together with the Department for Education to promote Teaching Vacancies

[Teaching Vacancies](#) is a free job search and listings service that makes it easy to find and fill teaching roles in schools across England. It has been developed to help schools save time and money on recruitment so as much resource as possible can be invested where it counts most – in the classroom.

So far, 77% of schools in Sutton have signed-up. There are some real benefits to the service for schools in your area.

- helps relieve financial pressure by providing a free, trusted government service
- offers a simple and real-time recruitment tool; it puts schools in control of their own recruitment so they can advertise as many times as they want and directly upload, edit and re-publish vacancies
- allows roles to be seen by potential candidates from across the country as well as in your local area, widening the talent pool
- job listings are automatically picked up by other search engines, giving schools more exposure at no extra cost.

For more information please contact Hifjun.NAHAR@education.gov.uk or Matt.Weller@education.gov.uk

Forthcoming Events



17. Seminar for London Schools on Improving Support to SEND pupils - 14 October 2019, City Hall

The GLA is running a seminar on Schools for Success and Whole Schools SEND, to be held on the morning of Monday 14 October at City Hall. This will be of interest to mainstream school leaders and SENCO practitioners across phases. The main areas of focus will be on ways of reducing the risk of exclusion and providing the right early support for SEND pupils. Details of how to register for the seminar [can be found here](#).

18. The Sutton Autism Interest Group - 14th November 2019, 12pm - 2pm

The Sutton Autism Interest Group are next meeting on 14th November 12-2pm at Denmark Road Council Offices (main entrance). This group is chaired by Rebecca Duffus from Cognus. If any colleagues from the Local Area would like to attend, please email rebecca.duffus@cognus.org.uk.

The purpose and role of the group is to:

- To develop links with and have participation from representatives from all agencies working to support autistic young people working or living in the borough of Sutton.
- To work collaboratively, to provide inclusive peer support for professionals working within the field of autism.
- To share and develop good practice, which will strengthen and support provision locally.

The group is open to any individuals with a responsibility for supporting autistic young people. There are no restrictions on numbers and no charge for joining the group.

19. National Democracy Week - 14-20 October

This year's National Democracy Week will be running between Monday 14 and Sunday 20 October 2019.

National Democracy Week is a great opportunity to raise awareness of what democracy means, and to encourage more people to take part in it. The week aims to increase the number of people who engage with and participate in the democratic process, including those who are less likely to be registered to vote, such as young people, those from

ethnic minority backgrounds, and home movers.

At Sutton Council, we have developed several presentations and quizzes which you may wish to share with your pupils, or incorporate into lessons. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can become involved, and if you would be interested in an officer or Councillor discussing democracy in Sutton with your pupils, please contact committeeservices@sutton.gov.uk.

You can keep up to date by using the hashtag #NDW19 on social media or by visiting gov.uk/nationaldemocracyweek

20. Back the bid! London Borough of Culture

[Pledge your support](#) for Sutton to become the London Borough of Culture in 2023. Sutton is a real

contender for this prestigious award. It could bring in up to £1.35 million to invest in the cultural offer across the borough, to inspire our children and build a legacy for the future making culture matter more than ever in our borough. [Find out more...](#) and share with your colleagues, friends and family! Please contact jan.underhill@sutton.gov.uk, Assistant Director for Wellbeing, for more details.



Did you miss the previous Bulletins?

You can download previous Education Bulletins [from the LBS website here](#):

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

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