

SEND

Newsletter

SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS AND
DISABILITY
0-25^{IN}
KNOWSLEY

ISSUE 8 JULY 2019

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

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SUPPORT



Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Almost everything we do involves communication, but not everyone is able to use spoken language to communicate.

Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate. With Makaton, children and adults can communicate straight away using signs and symbols. Many people then drop the signs or symbols naturally at their own pace, as they develop speech, and opens up all kinds of possibilities. The Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy team in Knowsley is delivering Makaton Training for both parents/carers and professionals in June and July.

To find out more, contact the Speech and Language Therapy team on **0151 244 4387** or email ChildHealthServices@NWBH.nhs.uk

For further information on Makaton, visit www.makaton.org



Paediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Virtual Clinics

The Paediatric Therapy department is now running virtual assessment clinics as a way to streamline the referral to treatment process and reduce waiting times.

Once a referral has been received and has been triaged as appropriate for a virtual clinic, an opt-in letter will be sent to the parents, asking them to call to book a virtual consultation appointment - a telephone conversation when a qualified therapist will ask questions and get background information about the child, his/her difficulties and the parents' concerns.

At the end of the consultation, a shared decision is made on how the service can best support the child. Advice is offered over the phone, exercise programmes offered, and information leaflets sent out if appropriate. If required, an appointment for a face to face therapy assessment is booked in the setting that best meets the child's needs. Onward referrals to other services can also be made from this consultation so that the child is receiving support from other services in a timely manner.

The virtual clinics were piloted last year and received positive feedback from the parents/carers with many respondents reporting that they felt they were getting a good service with appropriate advice in a timely manner.

Further information is available on the Local Offer website - www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/localoffer

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Sunflower Seedlings Programme is an 8 week pre-referral sensory programme for children aged 2-11 years. Children who present with sensory processing difficulties are asked to follow this programme for 8 weeks prior to a referral to the service.

Some children with sensory processing difficulties need some basic sensory strategies, such as movement breaks, which help to reduce the sensory behaviours. School/nursery and home are asked to keep a record of the activities trialed and the outcomes of using these strategies. For some children this advice is enough and a further referral is not required. However, for some children, they need further advice and following receipt of the completed seedling programme, we can better determine this need.

If accepted, the parents will then be offered the Sunflower Parent Sensory Training programme which also includes a school/nursery observation with a more bespoke sensory programme being devised for the child at the completion of this training.

Further information is available on the Local Offer website - www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/localoffer



ATTENDANCE

Update

In Knowsley, 20% of the school-age population have a special educational need. As there is a proven link between regular attendance and educational achievement, it is vital that we recognise the importance of developing outstanding attendance for our children and young people with SEND.

The Department for Education publishes annual attendance data for pupils with SEND and the latest information available, relating to 2017/18, shows this group of pupils are slightly more likely to be absent in Knowsley than elsewhere (7.7% in Knowsley compared with 6.9% nationally). Our special schools' absence is also higher than the national average (13.6% absence compared with 10.2%).



Persistent absenteeism describes those young people with an absence record of 90% or below. In Knowsley, this is traditionally higher than national averages, although it is reducing year on year in the various SEND areas. The exception is those with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) in our secondary mainstream settings and we are keen to learn from our primary schools, where the percentage of pupils with persistent absenteeism is encouragingly lower than the national average.

The council already has an Attendance Strategy which describes ways in which schools can improve their attendance. The council is looking at those schools that have improved attendance for SEND pupils and how we share this good practice across the borough. The council has also prepared guidance notes for schools which includes:

- Ensuring the School Attendance Policy has a section on supporting all vulnerable pupils
- Understanding that if a school is named as part of an EHCP, that there is a duty to place the child on the school's roll
- Ensuring all pupils have an attendance action plan if identified as a persistent absentee
- Using authorised absence coding sparingly only as a short term measure
- Ensuring the focus is on a pupils' entitlement to a full-time educational placement
- Rigorously recording attendance in off-site arrangements and taking appropriate action where attendance is poor



If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please discuss with your school at the earliest opportunity. Further advice is also available by contacting the School Attendance Service on **0151 443 5147**.

FACE Forward Recovery Partnership

Knowsley Recovery College is a joint project facilitated by Knowsley Council's Family And Community Education Service (FACE) and North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

FACE Forward began in 2015 as a Community Learning Mental Health Pilot research project, funded by the Department for Education. The purpose of this pilot was to discover how educational interventions impact on participants' mental health and wellbeing.

As part of the partnership, an educational health and wellbeing board game, called Highway to Health, has been developed. It's a family game and covers a number of issues including emotional health, diet and nutrition, interactive exercise and the dangers of unhealthy choices, with the ultimate aim of improving communication and the mental and physical health of participants.



Feedback since January shows that 100% of participants are now able to self-manage their health symptoms better. National lottery funding has also been successfully secured, enabling the project to be sustained until December 2020.

For further information, contact FACE on 0151 443 2026 or email facegeneric@knowsley.gov.uk



PERSONAL BUDGETS

Personal budgets may be provided by health, care or education and may be a joint budget arrangement as any combination of these three. If your child or young person has had an assessment and it has been agreed that additional help or support is needed, then some or all of that additional help may be provided through a personal budget. This is the sum of money that you and your young person can have some control over how it is spent.

The Local Offer will show the different services in education, health and social care in Knowsley that may be paid for using health budgets.

A personal budget gives parents and young people choice and control over the support they have. This means they can use their personal budgets to arrange their support in a very individual way to meet their specific needs, at home or when out and about in the community, and sometimes in school.

In terms of eligibility, this includes children and young people assessed as being eligible for continuing care provision, those with an EHC Plan or Support Plan can ask for a personal budget. This is optional - if families do not want a personal budget, they can carry on as before and ask professionals to arrange services for them.

Feedback from parents include **"I used to have agency carers, but they would often cancel, leaving the family to manage. Having a personal budget has given us more control."**

To find out more about personal budgets, including the criteria, payment methods and how to apply, please visit the Local Offer website - www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/localoffer

School achieves National Autistic Society

AUTISM ACCREDITATION AWARD

Knowsley Central School has recently been accredited with the Autism Accreditation Award. The three day assessment included observations in class, interviews with a range of staff, parents and pupils, along with school governors.

The assessment highlighted the school's environment (that it was structured, organised and uncluttered), consistency of the teaching spaces, a calm and productive learning environment and that the school offers an extensive range of sensory experiences. In addition, inspectors also noted that staff consistently demonstrated their commitment to provide high quality support for autistic pupils. Staff were seen to be enthusiastic and passionate whilst providing engaging and purposeful lessons.

Well done
to everyone
concerned!



SENDIASS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE

SENDIASS provides independent and impartial information, advice and support for parents / carers and for young people with SEND.

From 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, Liverpool and Knowsley SENDIASS has provided information, advice and support to 206 families in Knowsley.

Families seek support around a range of issues including SEND support, EHCPs, Neuro Development pathway, exclusions, children and young people out of school, mediation and appeal, complaints, parental concerns, school admissions and transition.

SENDIASS empower families by providing information, advice and support on a range of issues related to special educational needs and disabilities, which can be accessed via telephone, email, home visits, meeting attendance, office meetings and tribunal support.

Further information is available at
www.liverpoolandknowsleysend.com

A message from the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) - Helen Meredith

We are very pleased to welcome a new member of staff to the CCG. Maria Burney is our Deputy DCO, working across the SEND 0-25 agenda. She is also leading on our Continuing Care cases for children with SEND and complex medical needs. Maria is a children's nurse with a great deal of experience in the SEND field and has literally 'hit the ground running'!

Maria is very child / young person focussed and has already shown that she will make a difference.

She recently met with Knowsley Parent Carer Voice (KPCV) to introduce herself, start an ongoing collaboration and to ask parents what is working and what is not. This is now helping to focus her work. Maria is loving her job, working for Knowsley and working with some great people - parents and professionals alike.



KPCV COFFEE MORNINGS

The next coffee mornings are:

St Peter & Paul RC Primary on

Tuesday, 24 September

from 10am until 12pm; Northwood

County Primary on Friday, 4 October

from 10am until 12pm and

Alt Bridge on Wednesday,

16 October from 10am until 12pm.

Come along and pop in for a chat, cuppa along with advice and support.



SHORT BREAKS

Do you know that you may be eligible for Knowsley's Short Breaks Service? Short breaks give children and young people with a disability (from reception up to their 19th birthday) an opportunity to join in with fun activities in the community. Activities can take place after school, during the weekend and also throughout school holidays and include swimming, sport, drama and art - to name just a few! The scheme is part of a wider range of services available to parents and carers through the Local Offer - www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/localoffer



LOCAL OFFER Website

Our local offer website -

www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk - is designed to be a one stop shop of information, support and advice around SEND support and provision in Knowsley.

If there are activities taking place in your local area, we can promote them on the local offer website.

CONTACT US

If you have any feedback on the services you are receiving or would like us to include information about a certain topic in a future newsletter, please tell us. You can email send@knowsley.gov.uk

The Knowsley Parent Carer Voice - KPCV - can be contacted on **0151 549 1412**.

Parent / carers and children / young people with SEND can contact SENDIASS for impartial information, advice and support via telephone on **0800 012 9066 (option 2 for Knowsley)** or via email at liverpoolandknowsleysend@wired.me.uk.

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