

SEND

Newsletter

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

ISSUE 7 MAY 2019

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

INVESTMENT APPROVED

At the Council meeting on Wednesday, 6 March 2019, investment has been approved which will help to improve the identification and assessment of special educational needs. The funding will boost the Educational Psychology service.

The investment will also fund the establishment of a new, dedicated education centre in Knowsley for learners aged 19 and above who have complex and severe special educational needs and disabilities. This is being developed in partnership with parents and carers to ensure it properly addresses the needs of the young adults. We aim to open the doors on the new provision in September 2019.

There will be four learners in the first year - all are leavers from Bluebell Park who would otherwise have had to go to an education provision outside of Knowsley. A further four learners will start in September 2020 and another four starters in September 2021 bringing the provision up to full capacity.

The provision will be funded through the council's Family And Community Education service (FACE), and will be called "Flourish FE". It will be based at the River Alt Resource Centre in The Youthy, which is currently unused during the day. Youth clubs will continue to run in the evenings. Building works to make the spaces fit for purpose will take place over the next few months.

The curriculum offer will be centred around Preparation for Adulthood and a large proportion of the delivery will take place in the community with the intention of developing, with families and adult social care, an individual long-term life plan for each learner.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

WHO WE ARE

Children and young people's mental health service camhs support children and young people up to the age of 18 years with mental ill health and emotional wellbeing needs.

Mental health refers to how you feel and how you cope with things happening in your life. Everyone's mental health fluctuates depending on situations they are in and life events. Young people can face a lot of difficulties with home life, education, friendships and social media. The service aims to normalise adolescent behaviour and give access to needs-led support without the need for specialist services where possible.

The service work with people who experience mental ill health - in other words where their daily functioning is affected by the difficulties they are experiencing.

Help is available including assessment, formulation (this means how your difficulties affect you and what support you need to help you), and care planning with the child /young person and family is integral to this.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The service is currently being restructured towards a 'THRIVE model'. THRIVE aims to work with families, schools and children themselves to promote mental health and wellbeing to prevent problems becoming entrenched. It means children / young people don't have to be in great need of help before they get a service (the right help, at the right time). Some will need a small amount of help over a short period of time and others will need very specialist support.

Referrals are accepted from any professionals working with the child / young person including GPs, schools, health visitors, school nurses and social care.

HOW WE WORK

The service works closely with schools and families in relation to any special educational needs or disability (SEND) that may require adaptations to what we do and how we do it.

Children, young people and their families are empowered through their active involvement in decisions about their care and through shared decision-making. More targeted and specialist services are available for those who need it.

For young people involved with the service, a transition process is followed six months prior to their 18th birthday to help support the move from children's to adult services.

The majority of appointments take place at Knowsley Resource and Recovery Centre, although on the rare occasion that a young person cannot access the building, alternative arrangements will be made, such as using rooms at school or the GP surgery.

The service runs from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. A crisis response team is available outside of these hours on **01925 579 405**.



Team manager

Janet Jackson

Administrative staff

Support workers

To help young people and families in a practical way, for example, exposure work, young people's participation group and supporting the young person's lead clinician (Care Co-ordinator).

Care Co-ordinators

Come from different backgrounds including social work, nursing and probation. All Care Co-ordinators are highly skilled and knowledgeable in evidence based practise and can support the young person with 1-1 therapeutic support as well as liaising with the wider multi-agency team, eg schools, social care, family first. Agencies working closely together provide a holistic approach to supporting the child / young person and their family.

TEAM ROLES

The service currently has a small team of staff with a range of specialist therapies and aim to provide an exceptional standard of service in line with NHS Trust values to ensure that clients achieve good outcomes, the voice of the child is heard and the family feel listened to and supported. Specialist therapies include Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Adolescents (IPTA), Systemic and Family Therapy, DBT skills training (not the full DBT offer), Trainee Psychologists - who, under supervision, provide a range of different therapies, Trainee Wellbeing Practitioner and Psychiatrists.



SEND SYMPOSIUM

The SEND symposium earlier this year was very well attended by parents / carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND), along with representatives from health, social care and education.

André Imich, the Department for Education's SEN and Disability Professional Advisor, along with Christine Lenehan, Director at Council for Disabled Children, gave an update on the requirements of health, social care and education services in relation to the Children and Families Act 2014 as well as providing feedback from across the country on the local area inspections.

Positive feedback from parents / carers about the event included:

“ I have recently moved into Knowsley from another local authority and I'm amazed with the co-production between the parents and providers / partners. ”

“ I have never seen a local authority so passionate about bringing about changes for the betterment of our children - it is great to see how they liaise with parents / carers to get their views - well done Knowsley and Knowsley Parent Carer Voice. ”

“ Things are starting to change for the better. ”

KNOWSLEY PARENT (KPCV) COFFEE MORNING

Are you a person aged 18 years and over who provides or intends to provide care for a disabled child or young person aged 0-25 years for whom you have parental responsibility?

If you are and you'd like to find out more about what support is available to you across Knowsley, then why not attend the KPCV coffee morning / information days that take place across the borough.

The coffee mornings / information days are a chance for parents and carers to get together with like-minded people to chat informally or to raise any issues or concerns they may have. These get-togethers are really popular and are a great way to be yourself for a few hours and just chat and laugh while having a brew and a biscuit, listening to the speakers of the day who attend to let you know what's going on across Knowsley and what their service offers. The speakers are selected by our parents telling us who they want to attend the next session and there's never a shortage of organisations and groups coming forward to us as the popularity of these events grow.

We alternate these information days between Bluebell Park and Stockbridge Village Primary School who both kindly offer us their buildings free of charge and we'd like to say a massive thank you to Jamie and Michelle at Bluebell Park and Emma at Stockbridge Village Primary for this.

What we have found really positive is that by attending different schools, getting to know the staff and the SENCo's and seeing the different approaches to dealing with our children, we have broadened our own skillset. Our last coffee morning / information day was held at Stockbridge Village Primary and Emma talked to us about the positives of using a sensory circuit that they had adapted for the children in their school. The sensory circuit consists of 3 x 10 minute sessions throughout the day that reduces the likelihood of our children having meltdowns and massively reducing what is commonly

known as the coke bottle effect where a child will basically wait until they arrive home before exploding. Sensory circuits are proven to work and also have shown a real benefit in ensuring that a child is alert and ready to learn.

This is just one example of good practice and shows that schools are willing to try and adopt new skills for the betterment of our children. On the back of attending the last coffee morning at Stockbridge Village Primary, one parent has written to us to ask about setting up a team to go into schools across the borough and collate and share good practice. This is now a piece of work we will be supporting and we have three parents who we have identified to support us in this. What we need now is for schools across Knowsley to invite us in, let us host a coffee morning / information day in your school and share your good practice with our parents. We will then be able to share tips with SENCo's right across the borough. It was eye-opening to see how Stockbridge Village Primary operate and Emma was brilliant in sharing her knowledge with us. We'd like to find out what works in other schools and what we can learn and then spread the good practice so that all of our children benefit.

If any school / SENCo's (specialist or mainstream) would like to offer their premises for us to host a coffee morning/information day or to invite us in for a chat about how we can support each other moving forward, then please get in touch with us.

 knowsleyvoice@outlook.com

 **07376 233 141** (Ian or Debbie)

 www.facebook.com/knowsleypcv/

 [@carers_voice](https://twitter.com/carers_voice)

LET'S SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE AND BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

CARER VOICES

NGS

THANK YOU

Following the new arrangements we've implemented to address waiting times, a parent has contacted us following an "extremely positive" assessment and praises both the speech therapist and clinician psychologist. Whilst we know we can't address the waiting times overnight, the parent did say that they are seeing "real changes taking place."

Thank you for the feedback.



NEURODEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT SERVICES IN KNOWSLEY

To address the waiting time for a neurodevelopmental assessment, additional resources have been put in place along with better co-ordination of the services involved. A number of children have now attended for assessment or have appointments in place over the next few months, with priority given to children who have been waiting the longest.

Further staff from an external specialist organisation will be brought in to ensure we have the right level of specialist skills and support required. The service is currently reviewing all the children awaiting assessment and you should be contacted by the end of May with an update on next steps for your child. Should you have any questions about this process, please contact **0151 244 3091** or email **nwbh.ndpathway@nhs.net**.

KOOTH COUNSELLING SERVICE

Kooth is a counselling service for 11-19 years olds, available both online and face to face.

In 2018, 809 young people accessed the service online. These young people will have generated multiple log-ins between them so the actual usage of the site is much higher than this - this figure is simply the number of individuals using the site.

For face to face provision, 211 young people were referred into service. This may not cover all young people who used the face to face provision during the year as some cases may have been active and on-going from the previous year.

Further information about Kooth is available at www.kooth.com.



SENDIASS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE

SENDIASS services provide free and confidential impartial information, advice and support to disabled children and young people (from 0-25 years), and those with SEN, and their parents.

SENDIASS also covers issues related to special educational needs / disability (SEND) such as education, health and social care issues. Knowsley SENDIASS is a combined service for residents of Liverpool and Knowsley and is delivered by WIRED. Services available include:

- Telephone and email helpline service
- Information and support for parents, carers, children and young people
- Written information about Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Information sessions for parents and carers
- Advice and support relating to school admissions and appeals

Further information is available on the **SEND IASS website**.
liverpoolandknowsleysend@wired.me.uk



KNOWSLEY SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Knowsley Supported Internship Programme commenced in 2016 and aims to prepare young people with a learning difficulty and / or disability for employment.

The programme is a partnership between Knowsley Council and Knowsley Community College.

The programme offers 12 month's work experience and supports young people to find sustainable employment in the future.

In 2016 and 2017, a total of 21 young adults enrolled on the programme, with 17 securing employment. For 2018, 10 young people are currently gaining work experience in a variety of businesses across the borough.

As well as employment outcomes, feedback from participants has been extremely positive including improved confidence, social skills and enjoying meeting new people. Feedback from participants includes:

Through Government funding, the council has appointed a Supported Internship Co-ordinator (Sue Temple-Fielding) who is providing job coach training and breaking down barriers to support employment opportunities. Sue is also delivering disability awareness sessions and job carving training to potential employers.

Job carving takes less skilled tasks from staff to create a new role for a person with a learning difficulty or disability. This frees up staff time to concentrate on the more skilled aspects of their roles, leading to increased productivity and job satisfaction.

“ I enjoy the banter with staff and being part of a team. It has also improved my confidence in speaking to new people. ”

“ I have learned to follow instructions and be more aware of health and safety. ”

“ I have a real passion for gardening so it's even better that I get to work doing something I really like. ”

“ Since being on my placement I know how to use my initiative and I can communicate more with staff. ”

“ I feel more confidence in my ability and complete more tasks independently. ”

“ I enjoy the tasks that I do and the people that I work with, thank you for helping me! ”

“ Thank you for giving me this placement, it's really boosted my confidence. ”

“ I have learned how to be work as part of a team. ”

To find out more about the Knowsley Supported Internship Programme, the help and support available to you as an employer considering offering a work placement or employment opportunity to a young person with a learning difficulty or disability, contact Sue Temple-Fielding on **0151 443 3054** or email **susan.temple-fielding@knowsley.gov.uk**





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

KNOWSLEY PARENT CARER VOICE (KPCV)

hosts a number of coffee mornings to keep parents / carers updated on the latest news and developments. The next events are scheduled for:

17 May 2019
(9.30am - 11.30am)
at Bluebell Park School

3 July 2019
(10am - 12pm)
at Stockbridge Village Primary School



INCLUSION AWARD WINNER

Jenna Morris, a SENCo at Kirkby Day Nursery, has won the Bright Horizons Inclusion Award. The award recognises the support provided to children and families with SEND. **Well done Jenna!**

NW SEND REGIONAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

The network is keen to share effective practice developed in the North West, including activities, support and information about forthcoming events.

The network works with partner agencies to help to co-ordinate activities and support which will improve the life chances, aspirations and outcomes for children and young people across the North West, (aged 0-25) with additional needs and disabilities.

Further information, including their latest newsletter, is available at www.nwsend.network



WHAT PARENTS / CARERS TELL US

Feedback has been received from parents around Adult Social Care services. Here's just one example, but we'd like to hear more.

Please share your feedback by emailing send@knowsley.gov.uk

A parent whose child has transitioned from children's to adult social care services said

“ From the minute we first spoke, I felt relieved that someone was willing to listen and at least try and help, not just a blanket no. She was honest and upfront, explained things including the reasoning behind what she was doing and why. For the first time in a very long time I felt she was supporting us as a family (I have only ever felt that from the school). ”

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.

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



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