

SEND

Newsletter

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

ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 2019

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

JOINT WORKING

A workshop attended by practitioners, parents and managers took place on 6 November 2018, which focussed on the Team Around the Child (TAC) model, principles of TAC, as well as how this approach is benefitting children and families.

Our new IT system is based on this approach to multi-agency working. The statutory assessment process has now gone live on this electronic system and will make it easier for all partners to contribute to the assessment and planning process.

Service managers meet fortnightly to develop working practice and our joined up service response to needs (Joint Operational Managers). There are meetings of multi-agency Team Managers to translate this into actions at the frontline of service delivery (Knowsley Health Forum).

Outreach Managers are meeting with individual schools twice a year to discuss their role and the input of services. We are supporting and challenging them to identify special educational needs more accurately (the data suggests we have work to do here - we appear to have too many children with moderate learning difficulties and not as many as expected with speech, language and communication needs).

The unusually high numbers of children with special needs is straining capacity to arrange multi-agency meetings with full attendance. As in other areas we need to prioritise those meetings that need a full multi agency attendance - this would be where change is needed or transition is imminent.





INC@THEYOUTHY

(INDIVIDUAL NEEDS CLUB)

INC is a youth club for young people aged 13 to 25 years with special educational needs and disabilities, providing young people with an opportunity to make friends, 'chat and chill' with other young people whilst doing fun activities, projects and awards. It is delivered by Knowsley Youth Mutual (KYM).

Club members have a variety of needs including moderate or severe learning difficulties, physical disabilities, autism (ASC), epilepsy, cerebral palsy, hearing impairment and visual impairment.

Opening times are Fridays 4.45pm until 6.45pm during term time (with staff onsite from 4.15pm until 7.15pm).

Three hour sessions are also available during half-term and a weekly three hour session during the five-week summer holidays on Fridays (1pm until 4pm). A light snack is provided at all sessions.

KYM's approach uses the 'social model of disability' and empowers young people to become active members of their community, promoting equality and diversity and contributing to great life outcomes for our young people. Through the programme, INC aims to promote positive relationships with peers, encourage independence, actively promote health, wellbeing, empowerment, participation, personal and social development and to be responsive and flexible to the needs and the voice of the young people in a safe and welcoming club.

INC / KYM hold focus groups and work with club representatives to encourage members to have their say on issues important to them. Staff listen and record the views of the young people to help shape future activities. They have been actively involved in the development of our SEND Strategy and Joint Commissioning Strategy and we are grateful for their hard work and valuable contributions to these.

Young people over the age of 18 years can be supported on a pathway to leadership. Each young leader requires different levels of support, those young people who wish do so, can then be supported to go on and become an Adult Volunteer for KYM and promote co-production.

INC is based at The Youthy, River Alt Resource Centre, Woolfall Health Avenue in Huyton. You can contact the team on **0151 443 5333** or **0151 443 5323** from 2pm daily.



SEND FEEDBACK

As you know, supporting our children, young people and their families with a Special Educational Need and/or Disability (SEND) is a priority for partners across the care, education and health. We have an action plan to progress our SEND Strategy 2018-2021 and the priorities of joint working across SEND services, co-production with children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers, improve education health and care outcomes for children and young people with SEND and ensure all young people with SEND make a successful transition into adulthood.

Feedback from parents (both positive and negative) is extremely important to us and helps us to improve our services as well as helping us to know when we have got it right. We have an email from a parent thanking us for our continued support, stating that the family feel really supported by Charlotte Greenbank, a Leader Education Officer for SEND, stating that Charlotte was detailed in addressing matters.

Another compliment has been received, again highlighting Charlotte, where the family state "it's the first time in six years I felt at ease in the review meeting."

Kimberley Milne, one of our Portage workers received a thank you card recently; such feedback lets us know that our frontline staff are doing a good job and their impact is valued by parents.

This is great feedback and is a great testament to our teams providing SEND support across the borough. Well done!

If you have any feedback you'd like to share with the team, please email send@knowsley.gov.uk





ON MY MIND WEBSITE

The Anna Freud Centre has recently added a new self-care page to their 'On my mind' website - www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind

The page consists of a range of self-care strategies which young people have told them help them manage their mental health and wellbeing when they are feeling low or anxious. They feel this page will be particularly helpful for young people who do not wish to engage with professionals or who are waiting for support. Young people can also provide feedback on each strategy to help us build the evidence base for each activity and help direct future research.



Knowsley Outdoor Education Centre

Knowsley Youth Mutual's Outdoor Education Centre (known as The Dam) is a unique outdoor experience in the heart of the Knowsley Park Estate (near Knowsley Safari in Prescot) where highly qualified technical instructors deliver a range of learning activities in the outdoors.

The activity programme can be run throughout the year (bad weather/winter months may limit access to some specific outdoor education activities). Instructors will engage with participants to build a positive, supportive, professional relationship to further enhance their experience.

The programme helps to develop personal and social skills and activities are bespoke and designed around individual ability.

Knowsley Outdoor Education Centre has been at the forefront of providing unique opportunities that improve and raise aspirations through experience and achievement. It provides an environment where everyone, regardless of ability, can reach their full potential and succeed, overcoming perceived barriers. All facilities have been recently redeveloped and are fully accessible, to ensure everyone is able to fully participate.

To find out more, contact Knowsley Youth Mutual on **0151 449 1502** or email outdoor.education@youthmutual.co.uk

WELCOME... TO KATIE HINDS



Katie has joined Knowsley Council as the Head of Education and Inclusion. Katie is very experienced and a real asset to Knowsley. She is meeting as many people as possible to get know Knowsley and what is important to our children, young people, their families and the services that support them. She is already hard at work leading on improvements and strategy across the borough.

A key part of Katie's role is also to lead on a number of education functions and services, including special education needs so if you haven't had chance to meet Katie yet, I am sure you will over the coming months. We will ask her to write something for the next newsletter when she has had a chance to settle into her new role.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVENT

March 2019 (date and venue to follow)

SEND PROVIDERS AND SUPPORT

If you are a parent/carer and want to be involved in developing services and strategies, we collaborate with the Knowsley Parent Carer Voice (KPCV) to run workshops. These are advertised on the KPCV facebook page and the Local Offer website.

KPCV also hold coffee mornings to update and involve all parents. SENDIASS attend these coffee mornings so that they can answer queries and give advice face to face rather than over the phone.

Coffee mornings are usually held at Bluebell Park School, Cawthorne Walk, Southdene, Kirkby, L32 3XP. However, new venues are also being used which will help to involve mainstream schools. We want to see if this helps people who may find Bluebell difficult to get to.

Dates of upcoming coffee mornings:

13 March 2019 (10am - 12pm)
Stockbridge Village Primary School

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

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



FIND OUT MORE ON THE REFRESHED LOCAL OFFER WEBSITE

We have been working with parents to improve the look and accessibility of the Local Offer website - please check it out and let us know if you can't find what you are looking for.

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.



SEND SYMPOSIUM

Our SEND Symposium, which took place on Friday 15 February, was a huge success and was well attended by parents, carers and professionals across 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. Further information about the symposium can be found on the local offer website.

Feedback from parents / carers 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. ”

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

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