

SEND

Newsletter

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

ISSUE 5 NOVEMBER 2018

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

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION DATA

Each year, the Department for Education publishes information about SEND for every local area. Here's what Knowsley's data tells us:

- There has been an increase in children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan - now 800 children (3.9% of the population). Knowsley has the third highest rate of SEND in the country, so demand for our services remains one of the highest nationally.
- Children accessing SEN support has slightly decreased compared to the previous year - 3,193 children (15.8%) to 3,105 children (15.3%).
- Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) remains the most common type of SEND support in both primary and secondary schools. Currently 43.2% of school children with special needs in primary schools and 47.4% of young people with SEND in secondary schools have been assessed as having MLD.
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder has the highest prevalence in special schools with 37.6% of children with SEND identified as having ASD.



PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD WORKSHOP

Last month, we held a parents / carers workshop event that was focussed on preparation for adulthood - a priority area identified by parents / carers. This was a very productive event, summarised below.

Sue Temple-Fielding, the Knowsley Supported Internship Co-ordinator, was appointed in July and Sue updated the workshop on how she is increasing opportunities for young people with SEND in Knowsley by:

- Developing strategies to increase the number of Knowsley residents with learning difficulties and/or disabilities moving into paid employment.
- Engaging employers to encourage them to offer supported employment.
- Promoting the concept of job carving with employers - this involves taking away part of a number of different jobs / duties to create a job that is suitable for someone with a learning difficulty or disability, so you create a job 'carved' from other jobs.
- Promoting accessible recruitment processes and interviews.
- Delivering disability awareness sessions and systematic instruction training to employers.
- Providing job coach / mentor training for employees.
- Supporting the Knowsley Supported Internship Programme and the Knowsley Works Enable programme.
- Setting up a Supported Internship Forum to identify what opportunities are currently available, what the barriers are and ways to overcome them.
- Working with colleagues within the Liverpool City Region to share best practice.

We also heard about the current Adult Provider Services offer for those young people and adults who receive a care and support package.

Knowsley has achieved a 'Good' Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating for Registered Services - Respite, Shared Lives and Supported Living. This rating recognises:

- The council's effectiveness as a specialist provider for people with complex health and support needs.
- The flexible support options available within Day Services, which includes sessional support to provide more choice and control.
- Our travel training service to achieve good outcomes and maximise independence.

- The pathway approach to transitioning from Children's to Adult Services in Respite and Shared Lives that is developing well.

We have also achieved National Autism Accreditation for our Adult Disability Service and we have specialist transition hubs and co-located services in the heart of the community.

Adult Provider Services is currently undergoing a transformation of their facilities and working on a number of new developments:

- Create micro social enterprises to meet individual outcomes and acquire new skills on a pathway to volunteering and employment.
- Changing CQC registration to include 16-18 year olds for Shared Lives, Respite and Supported Living.
- Seamless pathway for foster carers to become Shared Lives Carers.
- All staff having Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks to include children as well as young adults and undertake relevant training to safeguard children and young people (so that we are equipped for engaging with 14-25 year olds).
- Development of Shared Lives sessional support to help maintain friendships and peer support for young people in transition.
- Continue as the specialist provider of choice for people with complex health and support needs.





THE PERSONAL OUTCOMES EVALUATION TOOL (POET) SURVEY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Knowsley Parent Carer Voice will be holding coffee mornings for parents / carers on **18 January 2019, 13 March 2019, 17 May 2019 and 3 July 2019** - the venues will be confirmed shortly.

Parents / Carers workshops will be arranged in the spring, summer and autumn next year. These will pick up the topics parents / carers have identified as important and continue the joint work on the SEND Strategy. More details will follow when we have reviewed progress.



Over the last 12 months, we ran a national survey (POET) requesting feedback and seeking views of children, young people and parents / carers with regards to the EHCP process in Knowsley.

The numbers of children and young people referred for an assessment for an EHCP applies to only a small proportion of the wider SEND population in Knowsley. This is also true in other areas of the country and therefore the national findings allow for meaningful comparisons to be made.

We received our 2017/18 report in July this year and overall the feedback is positive. We had 129 parents completing the survey and their responses were broadly similar to parents elsewhere in the country. One notable difference, however, was the fact that compared with other areas, fewer children in Knowsley with EHCPs attend mainstream school. Of those children and young people with EHCPs, 65% attend special schools compared with 48% in other areas.

- 74% of parents in Knowsley said their views had been fully included in their child's EHCP compared to 68% of parents in other areas. This demonstrates that we consider and take on board the views of parents.
- Similarly, the percentage of children whose views were included in the EHCP in Knowsley was better than in other areas - 52% in Knowsley compared with 46% nationally.
- Parents were also asked about the quality and amount of support their child received. Responses about the amount and choice were similar to other areas - 55% good and very good when responding to the amount (compared to 56% nationally); 40% good and very good when responding about choice (compared to 39% nationally).
- The final questions in the survey were about the difference the support has made. The difference that the additional support makes to parents was better in Knowsley in respect of positive relationships with the professionals working with families.
- Overall, parents were happy and satisfied with the process and support in Knowsley, and we plan to build on these positive responses in all aspects of how we engage and work with children, young people and their families.
- The survey reports can be found on the Local Offer website, in the information and advice section - www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/localoffer

NEURODEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT SERVICE

We are currently experiencing long waiting times for assessments but the council and Knowsley CCG have reviewed the service and a number of improvements have been implemented in the short-term including additional staff brought into the assessment part of the service in September 2018. Longer-term, we are looking to introduce an improved assessment process from April 2019. It is important that we get this new process right and staff teams have recently held events with the Knowsley Parent Carer Voice and have received invaluable feedback. We are listening to and working with parents / carers to co-produce the new pathway. We will keep you updated of developments.

We are going to use the survey again this year - we would like responses to be made electronically (online) and can arrange help for those without access to the internet. There is a set of questions for parents, another for children and young people and a third set of questions for practitioners. We are aiming for as many responses as possible and would appreciate your contribution. The feedback will help us focus our improvement work.



HAVE YOU TRIED THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Have you tried the exciting range of out-of-school activities available for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities?

Sessions are available in a number of locations in Huyton, Halewood and Kirkby for children from Reception class (age 4) up to 19 years old after school, at weekends and during the school holidays.

The sessions provide a great opportunity to learn new skills, meet new friends and try out new experiences such as drama, sports, art and dance and they also offer great value for money, thanks to a significant subsidy from Knowsley Council. It means the cost to parents / carers is just £1 per hour for activities, or £5 (£3 for those with a 'Passport to Leisure') for structured swimming sessions.

Feedback from children and young people who have attended the sessions has been extremely positive and we will continue to build on the feedback we receive to ensure the sessions are aligned to what our children and young people need and want.

For more information about the out of school activities and the Knowsley Short Breaks offer, contact the Early Help Children with Disabilities Team on **0151 443 2677** or email **shortbreaks@knowsley.gov.uk**



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**

LOCAL OFFER

Remember Knowsley's Local Offer is your one-stop-shop of information, advice and support.

It includes a range of information about education, health and social care as well as support to help young people move into adulthood.

There's also a range of activities and events taking place across the borough.

If you can't find something, tell us and we'll look into it. If there's an event taking place near you, let us know and we'll include it on the Local Offer.

Email us any questions, feedback or suggestions for content to **send@knowsley.gov.uk**

YOUR FEEDBACK

Your feedback about the services you receive is really important to us - it helps us to identify what is working well and what needs to be improved.

Have you had support from an agency that you feel has gone 'above and beyond' what you expected? Is there a particular person that you feel deserves recognition?

If so, please tell us so that we can ensure your feedback is shared and importantly, we can also learn from your experiences - please email **send@knowsley.gov.uk**

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