



# SEND Local Area Newsletter

Issue 2

May 2017

**Your local special educational needs and disability information bulletin**

## News and updates

### **Building a strong, financially stable future for children and families**

Buckinghamshire County Council has a Change for Children programme that is looking at new ways of delivering services for children and families. The population is growing meaning more children and families need our support. We therefore need to be smarter with how we deliver good, quality services for the most vulnerable children in Buckinghamshire and enhance experiences and outcomes for children. Our priority will always be to ensure we educate, protect and improve the life chances of children in Buckinghamshire.

We need to develop a better understanding of the current and future needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Buckinghamshire.



We will be asking you what you think works well for you and your family, and the areas where you believe there is room for improvement. We want to ensure that children and families receive (the most appropriate) support at the earliest stage, (from the most appropriate teams), and your input is essential to this.

During the next few months we will be providing a number of opportunities for you to tell us how we can better support you to achieve positive outcomes for your children and will keep you updated through this newsletter.

# Local Area Inspection

## Focus of the inspections

Under a new SEND inspection framework Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will examine how effectively the **local area** (Buckinghamshire) is fulfilling its duties under the Children and Families Act 2014.

The inspection will focus on:

1. How effectively we are identifying children and young people with SEND.
2. How effectively we assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.
3. How effectively we improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

## The inspection visit and notification

The inspection team will consist of a lead HMI inspector, a CQC inspector and a local authority Ofsted trained inspector. The inspection will take place over five working days.

The local area will be notified on the Monday of the previous week with phone calls to the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executives of the Clinical Commissioning Groups. The DCS will ensure that all relevant parties are notified as soon as the 'inspection call' is received.

During their visit the inspectors will choose a range of education providers to visit, including a number of early years settings, schools and colleges. They will also want to speak to professionals working within the field of SEND.



During the inspection there will be a strong emphasis on gathering the views of children, young people and their parents/carers and inspectors will want to find out what has changed since the SEND reforms were introduced. Engagement and participation of children and young people, parents and carers through FACT Bucks and SEND IAS in service improvement, planning and commissioning has been a real strength for Bucks and this will be key to the success of the inspection.

**Continued over page . . . .**

## Local Area SEND Inspection continued

### After the inspection

Following the inspection Ofsted and CQC will publish a report in the form of an outcome letter that will be sent to the Local Authority and CCGs for the local area. The report will outline what inspectors looked at, the summary of their findings including key strengths and areas requiring further development. Given the breadth and complexity of the aspects of the area's accountability there will not be an overall graded judgement. The report will include recommendations, including any priority areas for action.

All inspection outcome letters are published on the website below;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-outcome-letters>

Further information can be found on the Local Offer website: <https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/advice.page?id=GIVSsf4UkOg>

### **New Children and Young People Therapies Service unveiled**

The new Children and Young People (CYP) Therapies team will bring together staff from Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy to provide services for children and young people aged 0-19 across the County.

From April 1st 2017 Buckinghamshire Speech and Language Therapy will be joining Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust as part of the Division of Women, Children & Sexual Health Services.

CYP Therapies will continue to provide support, resources and advice to parents, early years settings and schools, as well as continuing to develop the Graduated Approach for early intervention and support of children's needs.

CYP therapists will be joining Educational Psychologists and BCC staff at SENDCo liaison meetings this term, and can provide updates on our new single point of access and other future developments. Meanwhile, if you have any queries take a look at our website <http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/Children-and-young-people/> or talk to your Link therapist.

Regular updates on developments including telephone numbers, email addresses and the new referral form will also be provided during the summer term via our website, BFIS, BHT social media and school bulletins.

## **Developing Buckinghamshire's Graduated Approach—summer update**

Buckinghamshire's Graduated Approach sets out the different ways all children and young people with Special Educational Needs can receive support and help to meet their needs; not just those children with statements of special educational need or Education, Health and Care Plans. In line with the SEN Code of Practice (2015) and the principle of 'Early Support', the Graduated Approach aims to ensure all children and young people receive an appropriate education that meets their needs, promotes high standards and fulfils their of potential.

### **The purpose of the Graduated Approach is:**

- To outline requirements and expectations for all support and education for children and young people with a SEN.
- To describe how the requirements and expectations can support a child or young person with SEN where additional resources are requested.

Documents outlining the Graduated Approach are now available to all on the Buckinghamshire Family Information Website (BFIS) and on School's Web.

<https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/advice.page?id=Du-BvTHZMMI>

### **Next Steps - Toolkits**

We want to make sure as much helpful information and advice is available to everyone working with children and young people with special educational needs. In order to do this we would like groups of people to come together to develop toolkits focused on a specific area of need where information and advice may not be fully available.

The toolkits will aim to share strategies and good practice, links to further training, advice and support as well as local and national guidance and legislation where relevant.

From the beginning of the summer term, two example toolkits will be available; one on social, emotional and mental health needs and one on successful transitions into school.

There will be a chance to get involved in the further development of these and other toolkits.

Further information on all aspects of the Graduated Approach, as well as opportunities to support toolkit development, are available on the [Graduated Approach webpages](#) on Buckinghamshire Family Information Service website and linked to via School's Web.

If you would like to comment further on the Graduated Approach we'd love to hear from you, please get in touch via email: [gradapproachconsult@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:gradapproachconsult@buckscc.gov.uk).

## Bucks SEND IAS Service update

Buckinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support (SEND IAS) Service (formerly Parent Partnership) is available for children and young people up to the age of 25 with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents/carers. We work alongside Independent Support provided by Adviza. Together we can help you through a whole range of issues relating to special educational needs and disabilities. Our service is free, impartial and confidential.

Contact us via our shared helpline 01296 383754 and mailbox: [sendias@bucksc.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@bucksc.gov.uk) If you need help in contacting or using our service, please ask a friend to contact us on your behalf as a first step – we will then adapt our approach to suit your needs.

### Forthcoming Parent Training Courses

#### ***Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments and Outcomes.***

For you if you or your school are requesting an EHC assessment or your child is about to go through a transfer review. This session is provided in partnership with FACT Bucks and developed by Olga Hamer:

- Wednesday 17 May 2017
- Saturday 20 May 2017
- Saturday 1 July 2017

#### ***Preparing for Adulthood***

For you if your child is at or about to go to secondary school - led by Sharon Forgan:

- Wednesday 24 May 2017



For further details and to book a place on our courses, please follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--aylesbury/sendias-buckinghamshire/?crt=regular&sort=best> We will be adding new courses shortly.

We provide an informative email update of relevant national and local developments in the field of SEND. Please email [sendias@bucksc.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@bucksc.gov.uk) if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

# Information for Parents

## Parent Voice in Service Delivery

At the end of March a third Parent Advisory Group was initiated, this time for CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service) alongside those already established for Short Breaks and for the Local Offer. The aim of these groups is to give parents whose children and young people are currently benefiting from these services the chance to meet with the service leaders to discuss challenges and opportunities to ensure that the service is meeting the needs of those children and young people.

Every meeting is a mix of issues brought by staff and parents as well as ongoing reviews of elements of the service. The first CAMHS meeting discussed the service one year into its new contract, along with waiting times for ASD assessments, parental contact with clinicians and parking at the Sue Nicholls centre! The most recent Short Breaks meeting discussed the impact of potential funding cuts as well as ways of reducing no shows and on line bookings, whereas the Local Offer group considered the findings of the recent review of our Local Offer by staff and parents from Hampshire.



All those involved accept that we cannot discuss individuals nor can we bring our individual issues to the meeting but instead we represent all parents and through them the children and young people being assisted by the service. If you are interested in being involved in any of these termly meetings please email: [admin@factbucks.org.uk](mailto:admin@factbucks.org.uk)

## Understanding Social Care

In early March, 45 parents indulged in bacon butties and pastries at the Green Park Centre before spending a morning increasing our understanding of social care.

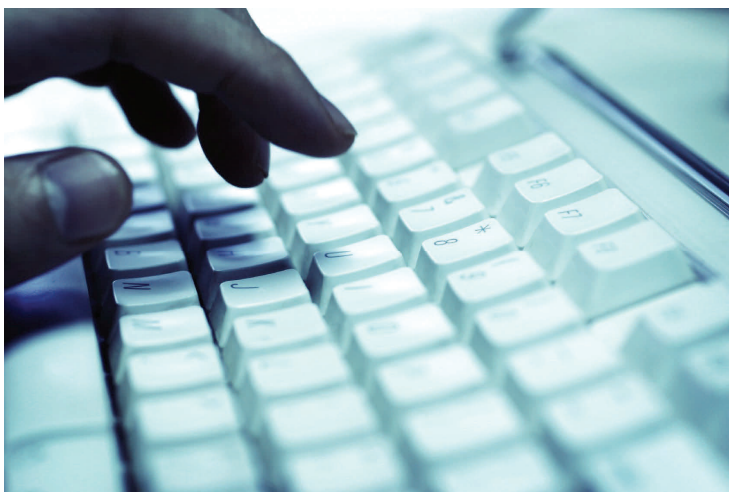
There were insights from parents on the experience of involvement with social care; a presentation from two Council colleagues on the current social care and short breaks provisions; and a frank discussion of the issues currently being experienced by families in particular in the area of transition to adulthood.

A summary of the information is being prepared and will shortly be available on the website ([www.factbucks.org.uk](http://www.factbucks.org.uk)). The issues raised are being pursued with Council colleagues including the new lead on Transitions and FACT Bucks have been invited to join the new Transitions Board to ensure the parent voice is heard in ongoing planning in this very critical area.

## Children's Social Care Direct Payments

The support a family has to manage their Direct Payment is changing. This is because the Council's contract with POhWER (Direct Payment Advisory Service) ended on 31 March 2017 and the Direct Payments service has moved over to Buckinghamshire County Council's new online Direct Payments Service.

Current recipients of Direct Payments are being directly communicated with by the Council to make sure this causes as little disruption as possible whilst they are being moved to the new system in phases from April through to September 2017.



New recipients of Children's Social Care Direct Payments will be managed through Buckinghamshire County Council's new online Direct Payments Service. Your Social Worker will support you through this process once the award of a Direct Payment has been agreed.

### **Buckinghamshire County Council's online Direct Payments Service:**

- The new system makes some changes to the way care providers are paid (including Personal Assistants).
- There are no cash payments or the need for a bank account.
- The care provider does not need to post invoices. This is replaced by a simple online process for them to confirm what care has been delivered. The system creates invoices on the provider's behalf, processes and pays them directly into their bank account.
- There is no need to provide the Council with regular financial information, as the relevant people will be able to view the information on the Direct Payments recipient's account online.
- The Direct Payments recipients can also view their account online too if they wish, but it is not necessary for a recipient to have a computer or access to the internet for the new system to work.

**Continued over page . . . .**

## Direct Payments continued

When a Direct Payment is awarded, the recipient will get information and advice from the Buckinghamshire County Council Direct Payments Service who can be contacted on 01296 387 904. There is an answer phone service and you will receive a call back within three working days.

Your social worker will review the Direct Payments package and the outcomes on a regular basis.

## Help for new mums and mums to be

Baby Buddy is a unique, free smartphone app which sets out to be your personal baby expert who will help guide you through your pregnancy and the first six months of your baby's life.

It has been created with mums, midwives and doctors so you can be sure the information – both local and national - is reliable, accurate, and is available 24 hours a day. The app Baby Buddy is designed to support all parents, but in particular younger parents, in making positive lifestyle and behavioural changes during pregnancy and post-birth to improve their physical health, mental health and wellbeing and lead to the best possible health outcomes for their child.

Commissioned by NHS Aylesbury Vale & NHS Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group and Buckinghamshire County Council, Baby Buddy is free and is endorsed by the Department of Health and the Royal College of Midwives. It has been designed to help you give your baby the best start in life and support your health and wellbeing.



Download Baby Buddy to receive daily information to support you and to help you look after your baby. Any mother-to-be or new parent can download it free from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). There's more information on [the CCGs' website](#). For those who don't have access to a smartphone there is also a web version of the app at <https://web.bestbeginnings.org.uk/web/lets-get-started>

## Spotlight on . . . . Horizon Sports Club



Horizon Sports Club is a registered charity which provides a unique after-school sports club for children and young people with disabilities, living in South Buckinghamshire. Horizon are dedicated to encouraging their members to express themselves through sport and recreation by offering specialist coaching, with a high ratio of support through their volunteer network in a small group environment. Their aim is to help members discover the pleasures of sport, from the enjoyment of learning new skills, to developing their confidence, self-esteem, social skills and friendship.

The sessions currently offered through Horizon Sports Club are:

**Horizon Minis**      Tuesday 4.00pm and 5.00pm Wycombe Leisure Centre

These classes are aimed at members aged between 4 and 8 years old. It will give our members the opportunity to experience, learn and develop a wide range of skills and take part in a number of games with a specific focus on exercises to support their individual needs.

**Tennis**      Wednesday 5.15pm Wycombe Leisure Centre

During these classes our members will work to further develop their hand eye coordination whilst establishing and developing the skills and rules of the game. Classes will also encourage members to cooperate and work with others to enjoy the game to its fullest. These classes are for ages 7+.

**Junior Swimming**      Wednesday 6.30pm Wycombe Leisure Centre

Horizon junior swimming classes present our members with the valuable opportunity to become confident and most importantly safe in the water. Our swimming teachers will work each week to develop the knowledge and skills required to achieve the ultimate outcome of independent swimming. This class is for age 7-13 years old.

**Youth Swimming**      Wednesday 7.15pm Wycombe Leisure Centre, Thursday 5.30pm Wycombe Abbey School

Classes are open to age 13+ and present our members with the valuable opportunity to become confident and most importantly safe in the water. Our swimming teachers will work each week to develop the knowledge and skills required to achieve the ultimate outcome of independent swimming.

## Spotlight on Horizon Sports Club continued

### Junior Ball Skills

Thursday 6.00pm Highcrest Academy

This class is designed to allow our members the opportunity to further develop all skills associated with ball-based games. Each week will have a specific sports focus ranging from football to cricket and everything in between. It will not just be the skills of the game but also the rules that will be taught. Each session will conclude with small-sides games to encourage team work and introduce members to more competitive situations. This class is aimed at ages 7-13.

### Youth Football

Thursday 6.45pm Highcrest Academy

Our youth football classes give our members age 13 years + the opportunity to further develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of the great game. There will be a short warm up and stretching period, followed by a 15 minute training session where we will focus on a different area of the game each week. Classes will conclude with a game, allowing members to apply the skills they have been practicing.

If you would like more information about Horizon please contact them at [info@horizonsportsclub.org.uk](mailto:info@horizonsportsclub.org.uk) or call them on 0149434900

[www.horizonsportsclub.org.uk](http://www.horizonsportsclub.org.uk)

## Information for Young People

### SEND Youth Forum

Following February's activity day the young people have decided on the themes to explore for the coming year. To start the year the forum have decided to campaign bullying of vulnerable young adults, in particular adding disability awareness to schools curriculum. The forum will be supporting the MASKS (make a special kid smile) awareness project with their feedback. Unfortunately this is an area that forum members have experienced themselves, they feel that they would like to help others that are bullied or have been bullied in the past.

We are always looking for new members for the SEND forum, we meet after school in Aylesbury on the first Monday of every month. If you know anyone aged 12-25 who has a disability or a specific need that would like to have their voice heard then please get in touch with Emily Dover, Disability Participation [edover@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:edover@buckscc.gov.uk)

## Disability Participation update for SEND Local Area

Last month we completed 6 short information films about the SEND post 16 provision. The films include a young person's tour of College, therapies available on site, community provision by Macintyre and Talkback and residential placement with Aster Lodge. To have the films in one place on the local offer can show the fantastic SEND post 16 provision we currently offer. The films also help young people and their families understand how it all works and how the different services support each other to put the young person first. They are all success stories in different ways which provides encouragement for young people and their families embarking on their post 16 journey.

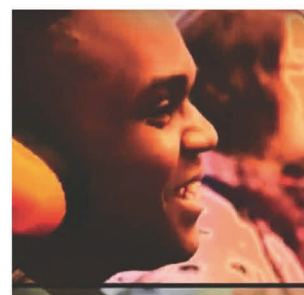
Link to the videos can be found here - <https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/advice.page?id=VRiOGgJAAXM>

Or come along to our video showcase event on 11 May to see the new films for yourselves. Details here:

### SEND Information session and video showcase

Come along to a free information session on 11 May 2017 and find great information on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities from local companies and services

- Meet other parents and carers of children with SEND
- See the young people involved in our new local offer video rewarded for their hard work
- Refreshments available from the school café



The Buckinghamshire Local Offer: a free, accessible hub bringing together information from social care, health, education and more around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

We have recently worked with young people to create a video showcasing local activities for young people with SEND and the positive impact on young peoples' lives by getting out there and having fun.

Find out more at: [BucksFamilyInfo.org/localoffer](https://BucksFamilyInfo.org/localoffer)

#### When and Where



9:30 AM  
to 11 AM

Chiltern Wood School  
(Downley Site)  
Faulkner Way  
High Wycombe HP13 5HB

A Buckinghamshire  
**Youth**  
Provider

Buckinghamshire  
Family Information Service



# Support and Advice

## Local Offer South East Peer Review

[The Buckinghamshire Local Offer](#) has been developed with lots of input from parents, carers, professionals and young people. We are always looking for ways to make it better. In January, our Local Offer was reviewed by a Council Officer, a parent and two young people from Hampshire. They used a set of questions that measure how well our Local Offer meets the criteria set out in the Code of Practice. They told us that some things were really good, such as our BrowseAloud feature, the layout of information using headings and the videos. They also told us that some things need improving, like being able to find certain documents and explaining how parents, carers and young people have been involved with the Local Offer. We now have an [action plan](#) to make sure we address all the feedback and you can read what we have done or are planning to do as a result.

### Your feedback

We are always looking for feedback on the Local Offer and anyone can let us know what they think by:

Filling out our [online form](#)

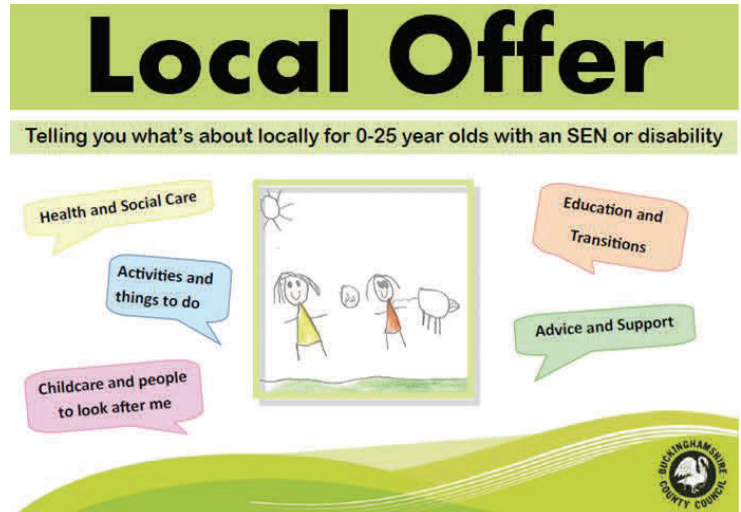
Emailing: [familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk)

Sending us a message via facebook:

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/BucksLocalOffer/)

[BucksLocalOffer](#) or

Calling us on 01296 383065.



**If you would like to receive regular copies of this newsletter please send your name and email address to: [ampoulton@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:ampoulton@buckscc.gov.uk)**