

Newsletter – Autumn 2017

...providing Information, advice and support in Central Bedfordshire

Delivering
**independent
support**



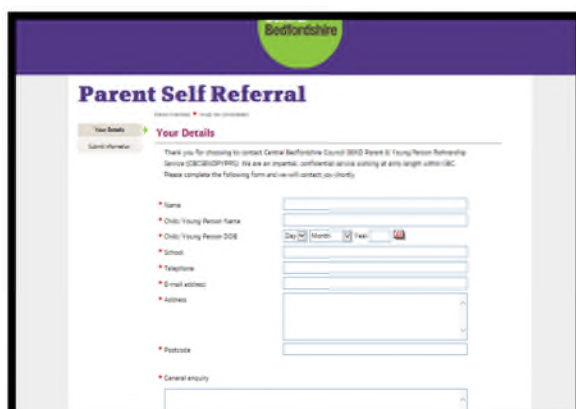
Staff Changes

Angela Davey, Participation Officer left the service in March to pursue a career in teaching yoga. Angela was a valuable and experienced member of staff who provided SEND information, advice and support to many parents/carers and schools during her 7 years with Central Bedfordshire. We hear she is doing very well in her new venture.

We are pleased to announce that Emily Claydon, our Youth Participation Officer was successful in her application for the role and will be taking on Angela's caseload moving forward. Youth Participation is still key to the work that we do and Emily will endeavour to continue this work as part of her role.

New Online Referral Form

We now have a new way for parents/carers to get in touch with us. Fill out the online form and a member of the team will make contact with you. As an independent and impartial service we have an obligation to seek consent from parents/carers before making any contact with external organisations, or adding details to our secure database. Our new online form takes all of that into account. You can find the new form [here](#).



Feedback online

We really appreciate the feedback we receive on the SEND Parent & Young Person Partnership Service. Please take a moment to complete a quick questionnaire so that we can evaluate the service provided to parents/carers.

You can complete an anonymous online questionnaire which can be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council website on our page within the link 'Related Information' www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership We can also email or post a form to you if you prefer.

We do not share or disclose personal data without permission. When supporting parents/carers, children and young people, we will always request your signed consent to allow us to access information on your behalf.

*Please note we are a separate service to the **CBC SEND Support Team**.*

QR Code



Keep your eyes peeled for our brand new QR code. This should make it easier and quicker for you to find information on our service. You will start to see them on our printed documents from Newsletters to leaflets.

Simply download a FREE QR reader onto your phone or tablet. These are available from the app store on an Android or iPhone.



Scan the code just like a barcode and you should be taken straight to our webpage. Why not try it now!

It should be much quicker than typing this into your browser;

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/children/sen-disability/send-partnership/overview.aspx>

Mediation, Appeal, Tribunal support

KIDS Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Mediation services help parents and young people resolve disputes about Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) and EHC Plans, as well as other SEND related issues.

Disagreements are usually with the local authority (LA) and sometimes with the school or college. Health and Social Services can also be involved.

Parents/carers and young people can use KIDS mediation services before making an appeal to the SEND Tribunal. Mediation can be very successful and means you may not have to go to Tribunal; if you are not happy with the outcome of mediation, you can still make an appeal.

The service is free of charge. It is for children and young people with SEND (or who may have SEND) age 0 to 25 and their families. KIDS have a big team of specialist SEND mediators who are very experienced and have nationally recognised mediator accreditations.

For more information telephone **03330 062 835** (this is a local rate number) or email senmediation@kids.org.uk



Information for Schools and SENCOs

EHCNA requests

When identifying a child or young persons educational need and/or considering a request for an Educational, Health, Care and Needs Assessment (EHCNA) there is a lot to consider before submitting a request. We are more than happy to talk things through with parents/carers and you as SENCOs and go through any paperwork and questions about how to use the existing evidence to put together the best request possible. We can advise about processes, timescales and the legal right of appeal.

We would also be grateful if you could add/update the link to us on your school website so that more parents/carers and young people can read about how we provide support: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership.

A useful resource for Teachers has been recently published by ADDitude. This is a fantastic poster that can help all staff to better understand the hidden behaviours of young people with ADHD. You can download the poster and many others from: www.additudemag.com/download/

School coffee mornings and workshops for parents/carers

We have recently been asked to attend coffee mornings and workshops at schools for parents/carers of children with SEND. These have proven to be beneficial for all parties.

Let us know if you have a coffee morning coming up and we will be happy to come along with resources and provide information, advice and support.

Information leaflets

- Understanding the jargon (glossary)
- Looking at schools
- Starting school
- The Send Support Plan
- EHC Needs Assessment for children in early years settings or at school
- EHC Needs Assessment for Young People aged 16-25
- Annual reviews
- Getting the most out of meetings
- Personal budgets
- Transition Journal (16-25 year old) **NEW RESOURCE AVAILABLE NOW**



All leaflets are available in hard copy and PDF/word format. Just give us a call if you would like a copy to be sent to you. They can also be downloaded from the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

Our volunteers

Many parents need, or would just like to talk to someone who understands about their child's SEND. We have trained volunteers who can do just that. Many of them have already gone through similar issues as they have a child or children with SEND. Our volunteers can support you in meetings, filling out forms or can talk you through the assessment process. If you wish to be put in touch with a volunteer, or if you would like to join our valuable group of volunteers to support other parents, please contact us.

Independent Support

The role of an Independent Supporter is to provide help, advice and support to any family or young person going through an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCA) and those who are transitioning over to the new Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Independent Supporters receive specific training for this role. Independent Support is also available via Core Assets.

Central Bedfordshire SEND Parent & Young Person Partnership Service and Core Assets Children's Services are jointly delivering the 'Independent Support Service' in Central Bedfordshire.

We are here to provide confidential, impartial and independent information and support. Our service helps parents/carers and young people (aged 0 to 25 years) to find their way through the changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system, in particular we can support you through the new EHCA process and the transfer from Statements to EHCP. This is a FREE service and we are here to help and support children, young people and their families. We can provide you with information and support in a variety of ways:

Individual face to face

We can provide support in a place and at a time to suit you.

Telephone Helpline

To speak to someone about getting help from an Independent Supporter you can telephone **0300 300 8088** for CBC SEND PYPPS or **0800 028 8455** for CORE ASSETS. If for any reason you are unable to speak to someone, please leave a message and we will respond to you as quickly as we can.

Via the internet


www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership
www.coreassets.com/what-we-do/independent-support-service

Email support

cbcsendpypps@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
ISreferrals@coreassets.com

Both services are independent organisations that have been working with children and families for many years.

We are passionate about working together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.





✂...Cut out & keep

Drop in sessions

We hold FREE, monthly drop in sessions for parents/carers, children and young people regarding SEND in an educational setting for residents in Central Bedfordshire. Our sessions are located in Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Shefford and Sandy. They are all held in Children's Centres – *note that Leighton Buzzard has a new venue. Come along and meet a volunteer or an officer to discuss any issues that may be concerning you. More details can be found on the flyers in schools and on our website.

Please contact us for 2018 dates as these will be provided in our spring term newsletter.



✂...Cut out & keep

One page profiles for children & young people

A one page profile is a short introduction to a person that captures important and relevant information on a single page which will give carers, staff and people involved with a child/young person an understanding of what they feel and an idea about how best to support them. These are really useful when a child is moving to a new setting, having a different teacher or because it is a new relationship that is about to be built. It should allow important information to be gained by the reader quickly and easily.

A One Page Profile typically consists of a photo and three questions, but there are also other formats depending on the purpose of the profile.

The questions are:

What is important to me...?

What is 'important to' the person and embraces the important people, places, possessions, rituals, routines, faith culture, interests, hobbies, work etc. which makes the person who they are.

What others like and admire about me and what I like about myself...

What do other people like and admire about the person? Having positives recorded is important

How to best support me...


It is very important to collect specific statements on how to best support the person. What kind of support is really helpful for the person? What does the person want and need? What kind of support does the person enjoy? What does not work well – what makes them feel uncomfortable.

The profile should be completed by someone that knows the child/young person well, and in all cases, if appropriate, with the child/ young person themselves.





Here are some examples of layouts that could be used – these can be themed to the preferences of the child. There are lots of *free* templates to choose from online that you can download.






Useful support contacts

 <p>Flitwick Children's Centre</p>	<p>The Children's Centre and local venues have a variety of baby and young children sessions including Baby Weigh & Play, Baby Brasserie-Breastfeeding group, Baby Massage, First Aid etc. Contact details:</p> <p>Email: flitwick.cc@oneymca.org Web: www.flitwickchildrenscentre.org Tel: 01525 714008</p>
	<p>The Avenue is a positive, friendly organisation that understands the highs and lows of living with autism. It holds three relaxed, informal support groups each month at The Pentecostal Church, Crab Lane, Biggleswade, SG18 0LN. The groups run on the 1st Friday (am), 3rd Tuesday (pm) and 4th Monday (evening) of each month. Children are welcome at all groups.</p> <p>Please find below details of a workshop and talk The Avenue are holding this autumn. To book a place on either of these events, please email theavenuesupport@outlook.com for a booking form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls and Autism Workshop: Monday 16th October – 10am – 1pm <p>With increasing numbers of girls being diagnosed, this unique workshop has been designed to address the challenges of parenting/caring for girls on the Autistic Spectrum. We will discuss difficulties such as friendships and low self-esteem and identify strategies to address them. There will be a £10 charge for this workshop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Bonello, Autistic Not Weird: Monday 23rd October – 7pm - £5 per family <p>Chris Bonello, former primary teacher, autism speaker and published author, will be discussing life lessons he has gained through his experiences of growing up with Asperger Syndrome. The talk is aimed at teenagers growing up on the Autistic Spectrum, who may benefit from the insight of an autistic adult who can empathise with them. There will be a £5 charge per family to attend this talk.</p> <p>For more information on the services that The Avenue offers, please look at their website www.theavenuesupport.co.uk</p>
 <p>SPECIAL NEEDS ACTION PANEL CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE</p>	<p>SNAP has now become independent from Families United Network who previously hosted us. We are now a not-for-profit Community Interest Company.</p> <p>To be added to our membership database please contact admin@snappcf.org.uk with your name and your child's primary need.</p> <p>Max Cards You are now able to purchase a discount card at a cost of £3.70 which is available for families of children & young people with additional needs. Families simply show their Max Card upon entry to a venue to obtain free or discounted admission.</p> <p>Web: www.snappcf.org.uk Tel: 07984 545 044 Facebook: snappcf.org.uk</p>

CBC SEND Parent and Young Person Partnership Service

	<p>Youth Club - Monday night (term time only) 6.30pm – 8.30pm</p> <p>For young people aged from 10 to 17 years with additional needs/ disabilities</p> <p>We have a range of activities on offer every week, including computer games, arts & crafts, drama sessions & much more.</p> <p>Saturday Club - 10am-4pm</p> <p>Full support is provided to allow the young people to attend the club without their family carers.</p> <p>This is a great opportunity for young people to make and maintain friendships, improve confidence and increase self-esteem.</p> <p>Britannia Trading Estate, Unit 5, Leagrave Road, Luton, Beds LU3 1RJ</p> <p>For more information look on our website: www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk Tel: 01582 420800</p>
	<p>Do you care for a child who has a disability or additional needs? Monthly drop-in for parents/carers on Thursdays 10am – 12pm at:</p> <p>The Hub, Ivel Valley School The Baulk Biggleswade SG18 0PT</p> <p>Arden House West Street Leighton Buzzard LU7 1DD</p> <p>Free refreshments, information, advice & support, an opportunity to meet other parents/carers, bite size training, pampering and relaxation therapy.</p> <p>Darran Tel: 0300 111 1919</p>
	<p>This is an independent charity providing Information & advice Monday – Friday.</p> <p>A bi-monthly newsletter, 'Pathway', is sent to members and professional organisations in the county.</p> <p>Tel: 01234 350704 enquiries@autismbeds.org www.autismbeds.org</p>
	<p>Groundwork Luton & Bedfordshire is the commissioned service delivering evening youth provision across the whole of Central Bedfordshire. We also deliver a busy youth café and youth action programme in Houghton Regis. Each youth centre is a free, fun and vibrant area for 12 – 18 year olds to access a variety of different activities including some targeted support around key issues such as mental health, sex education and relationships.</p> <p>For more information please visit the Groundwork website at: http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/east/pages/youth-clubs-herts-beds-and-camb</p> <p>Groundwork also provides 1 to 1 mentoring to 10-18 year olds across the whole of Central Bedfordshire. The mentoring project is for those who have low to medium needs, including issues with attainment, behaviour and attendance at school. They are supported by an experienced volunteer mentor over a 12 week period to help improve in these areas.</p> <p>If you would like further information about any of the projects led by Groundwork Luton & Bedfordshire please contact: diana.hedley@groundwork.org.uk or M: 07736 132295</p>

	<p>If you are aged 13–19 (or under 25 with additional needs) join us at Youth Action and get the most out of your volunteering experience.</p> <p>Your volunteering counts because you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gain new skills and knowledge • gain work based experience • meet new people and discover new interests • help other people, your community and your environment • gain a nationally recognised accreditation after just 10 hours • enhance your CV, course or job application <p>Youth Action will link you to opportunities in volunteering: at local events, conservation work, retail, sports, fund raising and much more. All of our opportunities are fun and free. Youth Action will support you right through your volunteering experience with information, advice, encouragement and guidance.</p> <p>Email: info@youthactioncentral.org Tel: 01234 213100 or 07508 113009 Website: www.youthactioncentral.org Facebook: youthactioncentral Twitter: @youthactionnow</p>
	<p>Outside-iN is a community interest company dedicated to supporting and educating families, adults and professionals living with or working with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and associated conditions.</p> <p>ADHD and ASC are complex, often hidden, spectrum conditions. Our specialist team of professionals are unique in that they all also have first-hand knowledge through living with, or being closely related to, someone with ADHD and/or ASC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Courses available starting October 2017</p> <p>The Breaking Down Barriers course is ideal for parent/carers and relatives, who have either recently received a diagnosis or who would like to learn more about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and/or Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). This training course is most suited to parent/carers of children with High Functioning Autism, formerly known as Asperger’s Syndrome and ADHD.</p>
	<p>Mentmore Road Under Fives Preschool</p> <p>We are based in the Pavilion in Mentmore Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard and graded GOOD by OFSTED for its excellent ethos in supporting families and involving parents. Our aim is to provide a high quality inclusive, safe nurturing preschool for children aged 2 to 5 years, encouraging them to learn through play.</p> <p>We provide an environment in which children with additional needs are supported, this starts with working with parents and outside agencies to ensure your child has a smooth transition into preschool.</p> <p>We are very flexible and offer between 1 to 5 mornings of care per week.</p> <p>We currently have places for new starters; to arrange a visit please call 07845 971542 or email - mentmoreunderfives@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>www.mentmoreroadunderfives.co.uk www.facebook.com/MRU5s</p>

For a full list of support groups, useful contacts and events,
 visit our Facebook and Twitter pages

Further Information

Central Bedfordshire Council Special Education Needs & Disability
Parent & Young Person Partnership Service (CBC SEND PYPPS)

The team: Wanda Chappell Emily Claydon Corrina Durcan

There are many ways to get in contact with us:



0300 300 8088



cbcsendpypps@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership



CBCSENDPYPPS



@SENDPartnership



New Online Form
Available!