

Newsletter – Summer 2017

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



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 wish her much success in her new venture.



In the meantime, our existing staff will be covering Angela's caseload and providing additional support so please bear with us in the interim period while we prepare to recruit a replacement. You can leave a voice message which we will respond to or email us. How to contact us is on the back page of this newsletter.

Feedback

What you have said...

"My son now has an EHC Plan and this would not have been possible without the professional and emotional support from Parent Partnership of which we are truly grateful. Also I am now recommending other parents to the service who are going through similar issues."

"Just wish I had been aware of your service five years ago. I would like to thank the team so much for their support and direction."

"A valuable service with a wealth of useful information. Thank you for explaining the process and guiding us through the educational mine field."

"A calming voice at the end of the phone followed up by great information and support. Leaflets emailed and my confidence raised."

"I have always received an excellent service and the advice/support provided has greatly helped both my daughter and myself. Thank you!"


"Fabulous team. So helpful and polite. They were a real help to us. Thank you."

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

We really appreciate the feedback we receive from 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 within the link 'Related Information' at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership a form is also available as a PDF/word document which can be emailed to you.

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.



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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 are trying to make links with parents as early as we can so that they can be prepared and well informed about processes around SEND. If you know there is likelihood that you will be requesting an EHCNA for a child, could you please put the parent in touch with us or give them one of our leaflets so we can provide the earliest support possible for them? In doing this we could hopefully 'lighten your load' too, whether this is supporting with the parental sections of a SEND Support Plan or just talking parents through the process for you.

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

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.

Drop in sessions at schools and colleges

The drop in sessions happen once a term and are open to young people aged 14 and above; these sessions offer a chance for young people to prepare for adulthood, make decisions about their future education or training and have their voice heard.

If you feel like it would be useful to give young people in education a chance to speak to our Youth Participation Officer and get some impartial advice and support about their SEND, you can get in touch directly:

Emily Claydon
Youth Participation Officer
Email: emily.claydon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Tel: 0300 300 4896

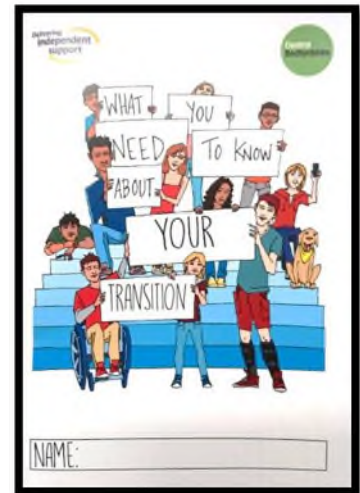
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Information leaflets

- 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.



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 FREE from an app store on 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>

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 new 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 Supporter

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 (EHCNA) and those who are transitioning over to the new Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Our supporter has received specific training for this role. You can also access an Independent Supporter via Core Assets.

Central Bedfordshire SEND Parent & Young Person Partnership Service and Core Assets Children's Services are jointly delivering the new '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 EHCNA process and the transfer from Statements to Education, Health and Care Plans. This is a FREE service and we are here to help and support 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 from a dedicated Independent Supporter 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.



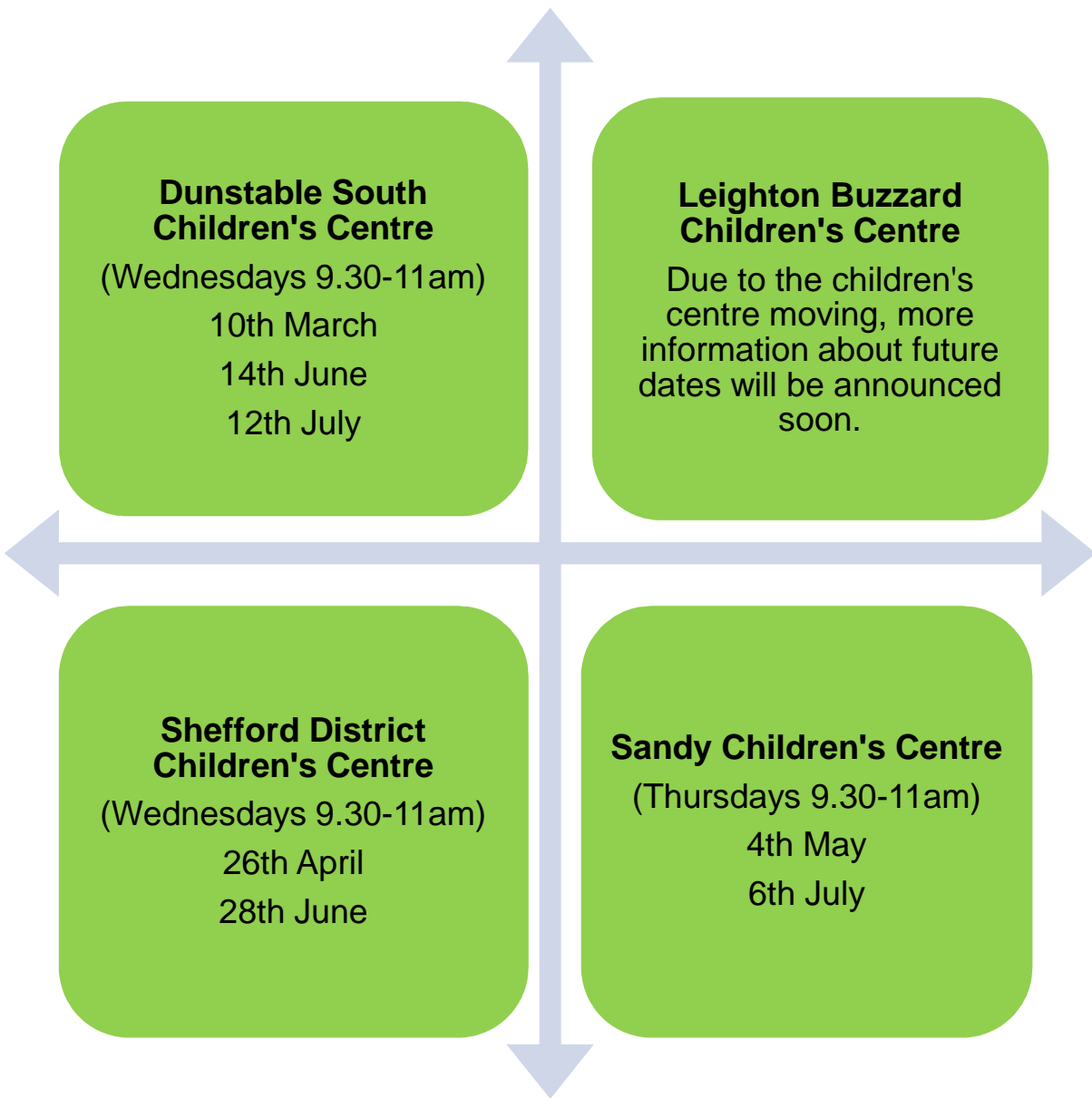


✂...Cut out & keep

Drop in sessions

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

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership



✂...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>HENRY Health Exercise Nutrition for the Really Young.</p> <p>For parents/carers with children 0-5 in Bedford Borough & Central Bedfordshire.</p> <p>An 8 week programme covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parenting Skills• Eating patterns & behaviours• Healthy eating• Physical activity• Emotional wellbeing <p>FREE refreshments & crèche</p> <p>Contact www.beezeebodies.com Tel: 01234 363774 http://oneymca.org/what-we-do/children-families/flitwick-children-s-centre</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 and if a group falls in the school holidays, the groups change to a holiday group for the children.</p> <p>Three holiday groups will be running during the summer months. Please email The Avenue directly theavenuesupport@outlook.com if you would like a booking form for one of these free events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday 2 June 9.30 – 11.30am – Magic Martin family comedy magic show• Friday 4 August 9.30 – 11.30am – Sensory Fun where the children will make lots of sensory play goodies to take home.• Tuesday 15 August 12.30 – 2.30pm – Drumming Workshop <p>During May, Core Assets will be visiting the support group for informal 1:1 chats on the morning of Friday 5 May and in the evening on Monday 22 May. Each appointment will last approximately 15 minutes. If you would like to make an appointment please contact The Avenue.</p> <p>For more information on the services that The Avenue offers, please look at their website www.theavenuesupport.co.uk</p>

CBC SEND Parent and Young Person Partnership Service

 <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>We will be running further Speech and Language (SALT) Focus Meetings this term; this is where you have an opportunity to ask SALT therapist those questions you never get time to discuss at appointments. It is also an opportunity to SEPT who runs the service to find out your thoughts how they could improve. We will shortly advertise the date and venue to our membership, on our website and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/snappcf.org.uk</p> <p>To be added to our membership database please contact admin@snappcf.org.uk with your name and your child's primary need or Tel: 07984 545 044</p> <p>Please see our new website www.snappcf.org.uk for further information about the work the forum does.</p>
	<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?</p> <p>Monthly drop-in for parents/carers on Thursdays 10am – 12pm</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>

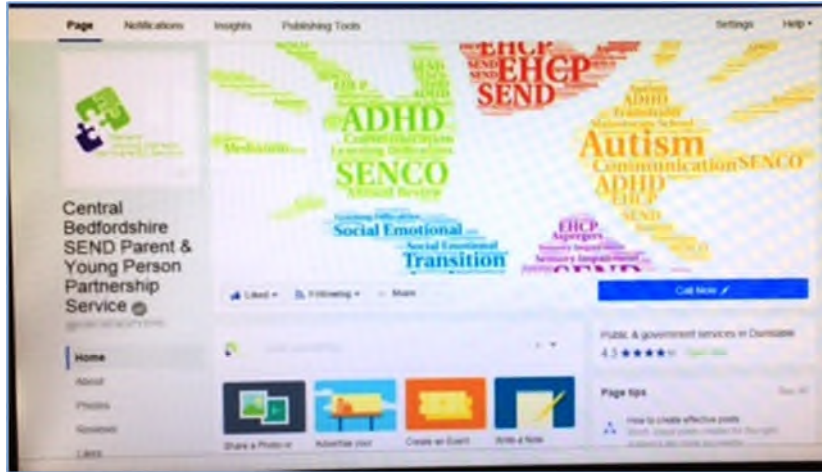
CBC SEND Parent and Young Person Partnership Service

	<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-cambs</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 (<i>or under 25 with additional needs</i>) 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">• <i>gain new skills and knowledge</i>• <i>gain work based experience</i>• <i>meet new people and discover new interests</i>• <i>help other people, your community and your environment</i>• <i>gain a nationally recognised accreditation after just 10 hours</i>• <i>enhance your CV, course or job application</i> <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>Find out more: Email: info@youthactioncentral.org Tel: 01234 213100 or 07508 113009 Website: www.youthactioncentral.org Facebook: youthactioncentral Twitter: @youthactionnow</p>

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

Social Media

You can now follow us on social media via Facebook and Twitter for useful contacts, news, events and resources. This is a screen shot of our Facebook page if you are not sure where to find us.



CBCSENDPYPPS

@SENDPartnership








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