

Transforming SEND Newsletter

Summer term 2024



Feedback from you

We were delighted to see so many school leaders and staff at the Transforming SEND conferences in November

The Local Authority (LA) was provided with some helpful feedback following the events:

School leaders and staff said...	We have...
It was useful to hear more about Transforming SEND and being signposted to available services.	Established this termly newsletter to keep schools and partners informed about the work we are doing. Please circulate this to your school staff, governors and partners.
More opportunities to network with colleagues would be helpful.	The LA facilitates several opportunities to network, including SENCO Circles and Resourced Provision networks. We will raise this at the Executive Heads meeting to explore other potential opportunities. District provision across different areas of Hampshire also provides an opportunity for headteachers and SENCOs to come together to discuss topics of interest. Find out more on the SEN Moodle .
The new Government funded training 'Supporting Complex Learners in mainstream schools' launched at the conference is a positive addition.	Modules 1-5 are now available, and you can access them on the SEN Moodle . If you need a reminder of your logon details, email TSEND@hants.gov.uk .

Feedback from you

School leaders and staff said...	We have...
<p>Further opportunities to work with Kit Messenger, following her keynote speech at the conference would be welcome.</p>	<p>Kit is the co-founder of Changing Chances, a community interest company on a mission to improve the life chances of every child and young person. To find out more about 'The Empowerment Approach' and the wider Changing Chances offer, please visit her website www.changingchances.co.uk.</p> <p>A flyer and document containing detailed information about the offer to schools is available alongside the conference resources on the SEN Moodle.</p> <p>Kit is happy to work with Hampshire schools and has some great things to say about the Hampshire schools that she has been in contact with since the TSEND launch. Her email address is kit@changingchances.co.uk if you would like to talk to her about how she can support your school.</p>
<p>Honest conversations with the LA about the current pressures on schools and local authority services would be welcomed.</p>	<p>The LA understands the challenges that schools are currently facing and is keen to work closely with school leaders on initiatives that help schools manage the pressures caused by increased demand. For example, we have recently held workshops with schools to establish the new inclusion and educational engagement sub-programme (see page 5). We have regular, honest conversations with schools at district and executive head meetings and encourage all schools to approach the LA if you have specific issues that you would like to discuss.</p>

Feedback from you

School leaders and staff said...	We have...
More access to free training and resources would be useful.	<p>Through the TSEND programme, we have provided free access to training modules on supporting complex children and free places on Person Centred Planning training (see page 8 for details about how to access these courses).</p> <p>We are planning a training needs assessment as part of our work on inclusion and educational engagement, which we will use to identify and respond to the areas of greatest need across Hampshire.</p> <p>More broadly, the LA offers a range of district provision opportunities, co-constructed with headteachers working on particular areas of SEN. This includes a new project to promote parental engagement.</p>
Schools need increased access to therapists.	We are currently piloting access to therapists without the need for an EHCP.
More information for parents / carers.	The Parent Guide to Special Educational Needs (SEN) is ready for schools to download and share with parents / carers. It has been developed in response to feedback from headteachers and we hope it helps schools with a common language and approach.

Inclusion and Educational Engagement

The LA recently held a series of workshops with schools, designed to establish a new Inclusion and Educational Engagement Board and supporting workstreams.

The first Inclusion and Educational Engagement Board was held in March and membership includes headteacher representatives, social care, health, police and youth justice. Feedforward and back will be through area HT meetings at which every headteacher will have a seat. The Board will meet every two months and a series of workstreams are being scoped and established. The sub-programme will be part of Transforming SEND and is being co-designed with Hampshire schools and partners to respond to the challenges of educational engagement and to support longer term inclusion.

This is an exciting piece of work which draws together our collective knowledge and expertise to tackle one of the most pressing issues we currently face in education.

Early intervention services and pilots

The SEN Support Line was launched in September, alongside a comprehensive SEN Support Toolkit

Both resources are free to access for all school staff across Hampshire. If you would like to receive a call back from an SEN Adviser, please fill in [this form](#).

Staff working on the support line have responded to over 250 enquiries, providing advice, support, and signposting. The feedback to date is very positive:

“This is a fantastic service” – Primary School SENCO

*“It was clear that X was very knowledgeable in areas of SEN”
– Primary School Teacher*

“Super speedy response and great advice” – Infant School SENCO

“Such a refreshing a supportive experience.... A brilliant service that is much needed for schools!” – Primary School Headteacher

“I was impressed by how quickly my query was answered with helpful advice” – Secondary School Teacher

Meet the team - SEN Advisers

Marie was a successful Lead Practitioner, Key Stage Leader, and SENCO. She has taught in both special and mainstream schools since 1998 and has delivered outreach support, training, and coaching to a range of schools and staff. Marie specialises in all aspects of SEND from EYFS and to Year 6. Her specialisms include autism, behaviour, physical disabilities, embedding IEPs into the learning and language and communication. Her experience in specialist settings means she is adept at designing innovative strategies to navigate learning differences to embed inclusive practise. Marie is really looking forward to sharing her wealth of expertise and would relish the opportunity to problem solve to enable everyone to reach their full potential.

Before taking up her current role, **Lisa** had numerous roles within education, including a successful classroom teacher and SENCO, a year leader in a primary setting with responsibility for promoting SEND across the school and a member of Portsmouth's Inclusion Outreach Service, helping to build expertise in mainstream schools to support pupils with SEND. Lisa has a wide-ranging knowledge of supporting SEND in mainstream settings and successful experience in mentoring and developing teachers to become more confident and proficient in all aspects of their teaching and supporting SEND in the classroom in delivering quality first teaching. At a strategic level, she has coached SENCOs across Portsmouth. She is excited to share her expertise across Hampshire.



Di has taught since 1996 in primary, secondary and a specialist independent Autism setting within Hampshire and Southampton. Di was a SENCO for over 17 years in an area of significant deprivation and held the roles of designated teacher, head of year, DSL, and a member of SLT. She has worked extensively with SEN in Southampton, social care, EP service, health and CAMHS. Di works with everyone and her strength is multi agency partnership. Di is passionate about achieving the best for young people and their families.

Training for schools

Modular eLearning to support CYP with complex needs.



At the Transforming SEND conferences, the Local Authority showcased a new [modular training course](#) that has been designed by service experts across Hampshire. It is available free of charge to all staff across Hampshire schools and the course aims to provide a CPD programme to schools that is flexible, high quality, evidence based, accessible and neurodiversity affirming.

The course consists of five online modules which are all now live on the [SEN Moodle](#):

- **Neurodevelopmental approach to learning**
- **Inclusive teaching**
- **Inclusive curriculum**
- **Inclusive environment**
- **Inclusive behaviour**

Every school has received a generic username and password enabling access to the training and 420 staff across Hampshire have already completed the first module. Feedback has been very positive so far with people reporting that it has *“helped them understand the topics in more depth”* and enabled them to have *“a greater understanding of the complex needs of children in school”* You can find the eLearning [here](#).

Please send any questions about the eLearning to TSEND@hants.gov.uk

Training for schools

Person centred planning training

Person centred planning training is available free of charge to all Hampshire schools' staff and Local Authority staff.

To date 205 delegates have been trained with a further 123 booked with one participant describing it as “better than my SENCO accreditation”. Round up words following the course have included:

- Thought provoking
- Positive
- Exciting
- Useful
- Empowering

To book a place on this course please contact your local [Educational Psychology office](#).

Post 16 – Preparing for Adulthood

We have recently completed the three-year evaluation of the SEND Employability Hubs, Post-16 pathways to employment

Outcomes show that the core elements impacting on effective pathways included early vocational profiling, goal driven and long-term work experience from day one and the delivery of preparing for adulthood principles in the classroom and in the workplace. For those learners engaged in 2020, 70% have had their EHC plans ceased within three years, with 18% of the whole cohort having confirmed transitions into paid employment outcomes during this time.

Our [Independence Hubs](#) continue to grow with three GFE's now providing an education offer for SLD and complex needs learners from Year 12 that focuses on independence living skills in safe and engaging spaces.

HSDC (Alton Campus) opened its doors in September 2022, and you can find out more about [it in this new video](#).

We continue to work across the Post-16 sector to ensure we have quality offers of Supported Internships, across a range of geographies and settings, to ensure they are accessible for all young people who need one. This includes a pilot during 2024/25 to deliver supported internships to young people with SEN support needs or disabilities, but no EHC plan.

For more information about these workstreams email SEND.Emp@hants.gov.uk

SEND Participation

Hampshire County Council are committed to ensuring the voices of young people with SEND are central to our development and delivery of services across the sector.

As part of this commitment, we are pleased to introduce the SEND Youth Forum, a participation platform to be co-designed with young people aged 14 to 25. This exciting initiative aims to empower and engage young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by providing them with a space to voice their opinions, share experiences, and drive positive change in Hampshire. Please encourage young people to register their interest online at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/hQNNCY1nau>

The first role of the forum will be to co-produce Hampshire's first SEND Participation Strategy, ensuring that young people have equal opportunities to meaningfully participate in decisions that affect them at the individual, operational and strategic levels. We aim to embed the voices of young people and support them to develop the skills and knowledge to be decision-makers in their own lives. As this dynamic strategy evolves with the input of young people, we will be able to embed a collaborative approach across services.

And finally....

Quality of EHC assessment practitioner advice

Local Authority (LA) services have worked with other agencies to produce guidance for LA practitioners who provide advice as part of a statutory assessment of a request for an Education Health and Care plan.

It has been written to help LA advice givers provide high quality advice and covers the statutory requirements that advice givers must adhere to, along with good practice. It covers the child or young person's aspirations, a description of a child or young person's needs, the outcomes sought, provision and examples.

Clearing of overdue annual reviews

The Local Authority is prioritising clearance of overdue annual review processing. The aim is to ensure that everyone can easily access annual review paperwork on the EHC hub. The team that has been established are making great progress on this, clearing 86% of the ringfenced backlog between September 2023 and April 2024.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter or the TSEND programme, email TSEND@hants.gov.uk

