



SEND Newsletter.....encouraging everyone to raise their expectations for children and young people with SEND

Welcome to the Spring SEND newsletter - an opportunity to share how we are all working together to improve outcomes for the children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire and celebrate success.

Good News about Education, Care and Health Plans (EHCP)

People across the county and in particular the SEN Casework team have worked very hard to ensure that all children transferring from primary to secondary school had their EHCP completed by the February 15th statutory deadline. This will help the children, parents and staff plan for an important change in these children's lives.

Over 2,700 statements have been transferred to EHCP's over the last three and half years. Oxfordshire completed the transfer of nearly all statements to EHCP's by March 31st, just 2 remaining!

Parents, children and young people can give feedback on their experiences of the Education, Health and Care needs assessment and plan, as well as annual reviews.

- a [short online survey](#) for parents to give feedback
- young People and children's can [give feedback](#)
- an [evaluation form](#) of the annual review for parents
- an [evaluation form](#) of the annual for children and young people to complete.

Written Statement of Action (WSOA)

The Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection took place between 25 and 27 September 2017. Read about the [inspection process](#), the [final inspection report \(pdf format\)](#), our [written statement of action \(WSOA\) \(pdf format, 949Kb\)](#) and [Ofsted's letter of response](#).

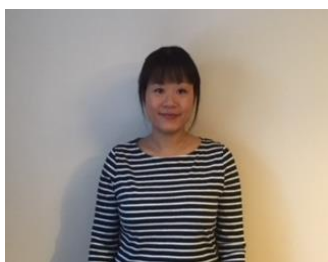
Lucy Butler, Director for Children's Services, Oxfordshire County Council and Sula Wiltshire Director of Quality & Nursing, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group have said

As local leaders we are committed to pursuing improvements for children and young with special educational needs in order to improve their lives and life chances. Our driving ambition is to provide support to children and families earlier to ensure better outcomes and to prevent escalation of their needs where possible. We want children and young people with SEND and their families to feel supported by all services and to

receive high quality education, care and health provision. The Written Statement of Action outlines how Oxfordshire plans to do this.

What we are doing to address issues highlighted by the Inspection

- A quality assurance forum involving Education, Health and Social Care has been established to support development of a shared understanding of good quality plans and the identification of quality assurance markers which can be used to further improve the quality of plans. Weekly quality assurance of EHC plans being written is taking place
- A number of ICT companies are developing systems to support EHC needs assessments and plans that support greater transparency for parents and professionals about the progress of individual plans. Oxfordshire is exploring which one would best improve our practice.
- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has completed a baseline audit using the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) audit tool for CCGs. The baseline audit was reported to the OCCG Quality Committee in February 2018 and an action plan agreed. A new Health SEND task group has been established ensure that the actions are being implemented and monitored.
- A new Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) has been appointed and introduces herself here.



Hello, I am Adeline Gibbs and would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) role.

What is the role of the designated clinical officer?

The designated clinical officer for children and young people 0-25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) supports the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) across Oxfordshire in meeting their statutory responsibilities for children and young people with SEND by supporting the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014. The designated clinical officer provides the point of contact for local authorities, early years, schools and colleges seeking health advice on children and young people who may have SEND. The role also provides a point of contact for clinical commissioning groups and health providers so that processes are in place to ensure that appropriate notification can be given to the local authority of children who they think may have SEND. The designated clinical officer is the key point of contact between the local NHS and the Local Authority, and should help facilitate the Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) process and navigate the local health systems.

I am committed in ensuring that services are working together to deliver good quality care and achieve person centered outcomes for children and young people with SEND. I am looking forward to engaging with children, young people, families and services to hear your views. Email: OxfordshireDesignated.ClinicalOfficer@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

- Guidance on good practice for Social Care in the Education, Health and Care plan process has been shared across both Adult and Children's Care teams. Systems have been developed to track timely assessment and contributions to the EHCP process. E-learning about EHCP's is having a positive impact on work.
- An eLearning package has been developed to ensure that staff across education, health and care gain a basic understanding of EHC plans. It includes sections on the family focused principles underpinning the process, the local offer, the EHC needs assessment process, plans and reviews. It is helping staff understand how to contribute effectively and emphasising the need to focus on preparation for adulthood earlier in the child's life.
- Oxfordshire Local area is planning multi-agency training in May led by the Council for Disabled Children which will focus on improving the quality of EHC Plans through person centred assessments which demonstrate an understanding of the whole child or young person and a clear understanding of aspirations and how these inform outcomes which all agencies contribute to achieving
- Visits to 10 secondary schools are taking place to explore practical ways for reducing the number of fixed term exclusions of young people at SEN Support with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.

Learner Engagement

Oxfordshire wants all children and young people to be successful and also to be safe. Regular attendance at school is a key element for both of these aims. However, data shows that there is an increase in the number of children and young people who are not attending school regularly for a variety of reasons. Under a focus on learner engagement 3 strands of work have been identified.

Attendance - Aim: to bring all the improvement activity together for attendance. This will detail and monitor all the relevant initiatives with schools and partners to improve attendance from the earliest years of education.

Exclusions - Aim: to work with schools and families to prevent exclusion from education and support earlier intervention for those at risk.

Reduce Children missing out on education - Aim: to gather more accurate data on children missing out, including those on part-time timetables. This work will improve the guidance and data monitoring from schools regarding children not in full-time education. The information will lead to multi-agency support to ensure entitlement to education and improve provision.

Briefing meetings have taken place with Headteachers to raise awareness of the issues and seek their views about reducing the numbers in each of the categories of concern.

Local Offer

The [Local Offer](#) provides access to comprehensive information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.

The recent inspection report said the Local Offer 'contains much useful information,' but that the navigation and searchability of the Local Offer was not effective. The Local Offer Steering Group had also identified this prior to the inspection and were already following up with the OCC web team.

A review of the Local Offer is now underway involving parents, carers and professionals to ensure the Local Offer has information which is clear and easy to understand and can be found easily.

Families can also contact Pauline MacKinnon, Disability Information Officer based in the [Family Information Service](#) who can help families navigate the Local Offer. She can also broker support for families wanting to access out of school activities for disabled children and will help working parents find accessible childcare. A Short Breaks newsletter is sent out monthly to interested families and professionals who support them. This contains information about a wide range of accessible activities which children may enjoy. If you would like to be sent this, please contact pauline.mackinnon@oxfordshire.gov.uk.
