



## SEND newsletter

Special Educational Needs  
and Disability

### Welcome from Susan Akhtar

As some of you may be aware I am the current Chair of your Independent Parent Carer Forum here in MK also known as [PACA MK](#).

We have been working on a parental survey recently and am very pleased to share we have a few hundred responses, we do however have 7000 children in MK with SEND, so please keep sharing the survey. We will be able to share the results of the survey with you in July. Last year we were able to share your concerns with SENDIAS, Education and Health and will continue to do so.



We would also like to invite you to join us at an event to influence "MK's plans for the next 12 months to improve the experiences and outcomes of Children and Young people with SEND" on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Please get in touch on [pacamk@gmail.com](mailto:pacamk@gmail.com)

---

### SEND Lead Update

We are pleased to announce that Vic Courtis has been appointed as our permanent SEND Lead.

Vic has been in post as interim lead since December but we are very happy to secure a permanent appointment and congratulate her on the promotion.

Vic will be leading our important work in improving outcomes for our children with SEND.



## Transitions

As we have moved into the summer term, children, young people, parents and professionals are starting to prepare for the transitions ahead, this could be starting school for the first time, moving to secondary school, moving into a different year group or transitioning from children to adult services, and we are all looking to support our children and young people as much as possible for the changes ahead.

Starting or moving school can sometimes seem a daunting step if your child has SEND, or you have concerns about their development.

We can support you and your child to make that transition and have lots of resources for you to use with your child as well as a helpful [parent guide](#).

Please find information on the SEND Local Offer to support with:

- Choosing a school
- Preparing your child with SEND for school
- Transitions including phase transfers
- Early years to primary, primary to secondary and post 16

If you would like further advice and support about transitions, please speak to your child's SENCo at their current school / setting to share what strategies are successful and what information can be passed on to the child / young person's next setting.

If your child has a SEN Support plan share this with the new school / setting.

If you would like further advice and support, please contact our SEND Support Line 01908 657 825 / [SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk)



---

## Preparing for adulthood

Preparing for adulthood and the transitions that come with it is an exciting time when a young person moves from childhood into the world of adulthood.

This transition is now often called preparing for adulthood and takes place between the ages of 14 to 25. To make this as smooth and as successful as possible, we recommend early planning. If you are a parent or carer looking for support with preparing your child for adulthood and transitions please see [PACA's preparing for adulthood guide](#).

Although this is an exciting time, some young people may find preparing for adulthood worrying or overwhelming.

Some key things to focus on when preparing for adulthood are:

- education, training or employment
- independent living
- being part of the community
- having good physical and emotional health

Please find further information on preparing for adulthood on the [SEND Local Offer](#).

---

## Phase Transfer Pilot

Following a successful phase transfer period with 98% of placements named on EHC Plans for children and young people starting or moving school in September 2023, the Local Authority have begun a small pilot with six primary school for phase transfer September 2024.

The aim of the pilot is to explore:

- Starting the transition process earlier, particularly for those children moving into secondary.
- Having parent's preferences for schools earlier, whilst enabling them to visit and attend school open days/evenings.
- To support children, young people, families, and schools at these key transition points.

Families of year 5 children within the six pilot schools have been asked to complete their secondary preferences by 23 June.

---

## Children and young people SEND survey



MK Local area want to hear from all children and young people with SEND to find out what we are doing well and what we need to do better. Could we please ask that you share this with your child or young person and ask them to complete it, or support them in doing this so we can work together to improve outcomes and implement change. The closing date for this survey is Friday 26th May 2023.

Please complete the [children and young people SEND survey](#)

Thank you for taking the time to support us with this.

[Guidance](#) for adults supporting children and young people to complete the SEND survey

---

## PACA Updates



### Milton Keynes SEND Survey 2023

This survey is open to all parents and carers of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Milton Keynes. It is being conducted by PACA MK and includes questions co-produced with the SEND Team and Health colleagues. Anonymised results will be shared with the SEND team and Health Colleagues to create action plans for the future.

If you know of any other families that have children/young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, we would be very grateful if you could please support this feedback by sharing it with them. We want to know what is working well and what could be improved.

Please complete the [PACA SEND Survey](#)

Following last years PACA SEND Survey and the request for the SEND Support Line hours to be increased, parents have appreciated the SEND Support Line hours being extended and open all year round

SEND Support Line 01908 657 825 / [SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

### **PACA MK Events**

We enjoyed meeting many of you at our recent events, Thomley over the Easter break and at our Coffee mornings focusing on Transport and EBSA. We look forward to hearing your views at our forthcoming events, please see our [calendar here](#) including a Coffee morning on Short Breaks in June.

---

## **Mental Health Awareness Week 15 -21 May 2023**

The week beginning 15 May was Mental Health Awareness week and we want to share information and support we have available on our [SEND Local Offer](#) for anyone that may need it!

We recognise that mental health is so important and we want to make sure our families have access to the advice and support they need.

The BLMK Suicide Prevention Campaign group has produced a [communication toolkit](#) which we hope you will find useful.

The theme for this year is 'anxiety'. The toolkit aims to increase people's awareness and understanding of anxiety, along with how and when to access support.

Please also find additional advice and support available on our [Mental Health and wellbeing hub](#) as well as the following websites:

- [Young Minds](#)
- [Yis](#)
- [Service Six](#)

Please find a range of support services available on the [website!](#)



---

## Transport

The Home to School transport team are currently arranging various transport packages for September 2023. Thank you to all those who have completed their transport renewal or have applied for the first time. Many parents/carers would have received their confirmation already and the others who have applied will be processed in the transport panel meetings in May, June and July.

All applications will need to go through the panels for approval so please ensure you have applied before the **end of May** to ensure transport is agreed for September. Any applications received after this date will not have guaranteed transport for the start of the new academic year.

For all transport queries regarding eligibility, transport options and the correct application forms please visit the [home to school transport website](#). or [contact the team](#).

[SENDIAS](#) are able to support parents and carers with applications!



---

## Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2023 (HAF)

### Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2023 (HAF)

#### Free School Meals families during the Summer holidays

We are pleased to announce that our Summer Activities and Food programme will be taking place over 4 weeks of the summer school holidays from Monday 31 July – Thursday 24 August 2023

#### What is the Summer Activities and Food programme?

A range of free activities and food sessions for children, young people and their families who are in **receipt of benefit related Free School Meals**.

All activities will take place **31 July – 24 August** at locations across MK. From football to film making, multi sports clubs and even ninja clubs, we hope there is something for everyone.

Holiday activities are all inclusive and we will have additional places offering a range of fun activities with specific SEN support for those eligible for benefit related free school meals.

The programme will be live from **3 July** via the new [online booking system here](#). More information can be found via the [HAF webpage](#).

If you have any questions, not answered on our webpage, then please do contact the HAF team: [HAF@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

We will provide updates on the HAF offer in our next SEND newsletter!

---

## Short Break Vouchers

### Are you eligible for Short Break Vouchers?

Short Break Vouchers are only given to children and families with a finalised [EHCP](#) produced by Milton Keynes Council - if you are currently going through the process of getting a plan put in place you can only apply for vouchers after you receive the final version.

To apply for your vouchers please visit our [SEND Local Offer](#).

We have updated our [Short Break Voucher Booklet](#) which is available on our SEND Local Offer and we continue to work with providers to share the most up to date information!

We have a working group in progress who are working together to improve and update the Short Break offer- we will continue to keep our families updated.



---

## Meet the team - Leanne Chapman

Hi there, I'm Leanne, I have worked in Education for just over 10 years, following a career change after my first daughter was born. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Primary Schools and Managing Early Years settings in Hertfordshire & Northamptonshire, I have a real passion for Inclusion; improving the lives and outcomes for children and young people who have Special Educational needs and Disabilities. As a qualified SENCo I have had the honour and pleasure of working with the most amazing children, some of which have profound, complex medical and learning needs, as well





as working alongside amazing professionals and real champions of SEND.

I have worked for the SEND team here at Milton Keynes City Council for just over a year now, in my role of Senior SEND Assessment officer. My role is within the assessment team, I support families and schools that have children going through the EHCP Assessment process, write EHC plans, attend reviews, co-ordinate SEND Inclusion forum and support mediation and tribunal processes.

Outside of work, I love to spend time with my family and friends, be outdoors with my 3 children and dog – Rupert, see live music and eating great food!

---

## Annual review survey

Annual Reviews- [Parent and Carer Feedback Form](#) If you have had an annual review for your child's EHCP from September 2022 we would like to gather your feedback, please complete this short[survey](#) to help our processes.

---

## SENDIAS Parent / Carer Workshops

We are delivering virtual information workshops for parents and carers including Education, Health and Care Plan process, SEN support in schools, EHCP Annual Review and Exclusions. With more topics to follow.

Upcoming workshop:

These workshops are for families living in Milton Keynes.

- [Exclusion from School](#) - Thu 25 May 2023, 10am - 11:30am
- [Education Health Care Plan](#) - Tue 06 June 2023, 10am - 11:30am
- [Annual Review of EHCP](#) - Thu 15 June 2023, 10am - 11:30am

If you have suggestions for other topics, please get in touch [contact@mksendias.org.uk](mailto:contact@mksendias.org.uk)

## Parent programmes:

We will continue to work on our offer for the autumn term, we still have sessions available on the following programmes!

We also have our [SEND video resources](#) that are available on the SEND Local Offer!

### [Autism in the Early Years](#)

Parent training sessions for parents/carers who have a child aged 2-5 years with Autism/social communication needs. Sessions are held remotely using Microsoft Teams- join one, or all:

### Autism in the Primary Years

Parent programme for parents and carers who have a child aged 5-11 years with Autism or social communication needs.

## **NEW Face to face parent meet up**

**The SEND Team are hosting a parent meet up session with a variety of professionals to answer any questions you may have following the parent programmes. This takes place on 8 June 1:30pm - 2:30pm at the Rowans Family Centre!**

**To book your place please [email us!](#)**

### Autism in Teens

Autism in teenagers is a parent and carer programme with Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists. The programme consists of five sessions followed by an in person get together with the opportunity to ask Specialist Teachers questions and meet other parents and carers.

**We would love to hear your feedback if you have attended any of our parent and carer workshops or programmes. Please let us know your thoughts by [emailing us.](#)**

## Autism / Social Communication Needs in the Primary Years Parent Meet up

Have you attended our parent programmes?  
Would you like to meet up with other parents and professionals?

### Time and date:

Thursday 8th June 1.30-2.30pm at The Rowans Family Centre

We will be joined by Occupational therapists, Speech therapists, Specialist nurse, Specialist teachers, PACA, Carers MK and SENDIAS



What sorts of questions can I expect to find the answers to?

How do I support my child with their communication?

What support and activities can I access with my child in Milton Keynes?

My child struggles to sleep, what can I do?

How can I help my child's sensory needs and support their emotional regulation?



To book your place please email  
[SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

<https://www.mksendlocaloffer.co.uk/>

**SEND Drop In**

Please join us for the final SEND Drop in of the academic year, we look forward to seeing you at the Rowans Family Centre on June 8 2023 12:00 - 1:30!

## SEND Drop-In Session at the Rowans Family Centre



Need help with the special educational needs processes relating to education, health and social care? Find out what support there is for children with additional needs and how our services can support you.

\* Last session of this academic year \*

<b>Thursday 08 June 2023</b>	<b>12:00 – 1:30 pm</b>	<b>The Rowans Family Centre</b> 13A Moorfoot, Fullers Slade, MK11 2BD
------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------



A statutory service offering confidential and impartial information, advice and support. The service supports children, young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities as well as their parents/carers.

**T: 01908-254518 | E: [Contact@mksendias.org.uk](mailto:Contact@mksendias.org.uk)**



Parent Forum - An independent and voluntary group of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs.

**T: 01908-257828, 07852526057 | E: [pacamk@gmail.com](mailto:pacamk@gmail.com)**



Carers MK are dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of unpaid family carers in Milton Keynes.

**T: 01908-231703 | E: [mail@carersmiltonkeynes.org](mailto:mail@carersmiltonkeynes.org)**



An opportunity to find out more about the 'SEND Local Offer' and the SEND Team offer of support.

The SEND Team includes Educational Psychology Service; EHCP Specialist Teaching Team; EHCP Review Team; Inclusion Specialist Teaching Team; EHCP Assessment Team; Sensory Team; Children with Disabilities (CWD)

**T: 01908-657825 | E: [SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk)**

## Holiday Activities

### MK Gallery

[The Super Mario Bros. Movie](#) **Saturday 27 May**, 11am (Relaxed Screening) –  
[Download the Social Story](#)

### [Art Together SEND Family Workshop](#) **Thursday 1 June 11am and 2pm**

*Come and join us at Art Together this half term where we will be taking inspiration from MK Gallery's current exhibition Boyd & Evans: High Time! Together we will create a playful environment using projections, sounds, collage, junk sculpture and dress up. Drawing inspiration from Milton Keynes itself: its architecture, forms and shapes, we will make and inhabit a space in playful, open-ended ways. We'll play around with making scenes and spaces evocative of Boyd & Evans images.*

[Art Together: SEND Family Workshop - MK Gallery](#)

### [Climb Quest SEND Sessions](#) - **Sunday 28 May and Sunday 4 June**

**Additional dates for half term: 30 May 10am and 31 May 9am**

On every Sunday morning (apart from the 3rd Sunday of the month), Climb Quest run a special session for those climbers with special educational needs. We provide as calm an environment as possible for all members of the family to climb. We turn the music right down if needed, and there are plenty of instructors to help. We also restrict numbers in the session to 14.

Tickets can be [booked in advance through our booking site](#).

You can [download a leaflet here](#) to share with your school, group, charity, friends and family to remind them of when we run our Autism friendly and SEND sessions.

### **SEND Splash swim sessions at Bletchley Leisure Centre**

Our inclusive SEND splash swim session includes exclusive use of the whole pool with toys, free play and lowered music levels for one hour. With easy access to the pool, with both ladder and ramp access. These sessions are perfect for children and family or carers to attend.

Every Wednesday 10am – 11am and last Saturday of each month 4pm – 5pm

[Thomley](#) - **SEND Family days on 30.05.23, 31.05.23 and 03.06.23**

### [Disability Family Day 30 May 10:00 - 15:30](#)

**Theme:** Heroes & Villains

**10.30am** Car ramp building

**11am** Planting super veg

**1pm** Glitter Tattoos!

**2:00pm:** Villain Sensory Jars

**Art:** Hulk hands, Superhero masks, Super hero collaging

[Disability For All 31 May 10:00 - 15:30](#)

**Theme:** Heroes & Villains with activities

**11am** Hulk slime

**1pm Crocodiles of the World**

**1:30pm** Superveg planting

**2pm** Giant bubbles

**Art** Wonderwoman headband & cuffs, Hulk paper plate masks, Superhero painting, Junk modelling

[Disability Family Day 3 June 10:-- 15:30](#)

**Theme:** Heroes & Villains

**11am** Cooking- super hero biscuits.

**1:30pm** Football

**2pm** Glitter Tattoos

**Art** Super hands, Design your own Superhero, Handprint monsters.

## **Summer events!**

We will be creating a special edition newsletter which will be landing in your inboxes over the next few weeks. In the newsletter we hope to share as many SEND specific summer events as possible. If you know of any upcoming events in the community please email us to let us know.

*By sharing this information, we are not endorsing or quality checking any events or activities, and parent/carer/families remain responsible for their own research. We recommend contacting providers directly.*

---