



## **SEND update.**

Key information for SENCOs  
in MK settings and schools

This year has seen us working in co-production across many projects and areas of development as we brought to a close our SEND Strategy 2021–2025. I would like to sincerely thank you for your involvement and dedication in shaping and delivering key initiatives that have made a real difference to children and young people across Milton Keynes.

I'm writing this as my final SEND Updates newsletter, as I prepare to move on to a new opportunity within the Autism Education Trust. This was not an easy decision, as it means stepping away from a truly wonderful and dedicated team of SEND professionals.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the privilege of working for the past ten years alongside our amazing settings, schools, and staff. A special thank you goes to our SENCOs across Milton Keynes, whose passion and commitment continue to bring inclusion to life every single day.

We would like to wish all our SEND colleagues a restful summer break and the team look forward to welcoming you back in the autumn term.

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### **Team updates**

The SEND Team wanted to share an update on our Specialist Teaching Team as we have three of our long standing colleagues moving on to new ventures at the end of the academic year.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank Nina Broderick, Paula Vulpio, moving to Slated Row School; and Kerry Reynolds, who will be taking up a new role at Hanslope Pre-school, for their dedication to our children and young people with SEND and the positive impact they have had.

We wish them all the best as they move on to exciting new opportunities in this next chapter.

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## SEND Information Day

We were so pleased to welcome families to the Chambers in Civic on 04 July for our SEND Information Day and the launch of our new SEND Strategy Priorities. It was a fantastic opportunity to chat in person, share useful information, and help families connect with the right teams from the council and local organisations.

Thank you to all the families who came along and to the organisations who gave their time to support the day—it was lovely to see so many people there!



## Improving Annual Reviews

Recently, our SEND Team hosted a “Courageous Conversation” session, bringing together representatives from local authorities across the South East region, schools, and the Parent and Carer Alliance MK (PACAMK) to explore the Annual Review process for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

This session was a structured, open, and honest discussion, held as part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening SEND partnerships. It provided an opportunity to reflect on how the current Annual Review process captures the full picture of a child’s needs across education, health, and social care and to consider how it might evolve to better recognise and celebrate each child’s progress and

achievements.

This was a positive and productive session, offering space for honest reflection, peer challenge, and shared learning. It supported our preparation for future engagement and inspections and helped us identify practical ways to strengthen outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

We'll continue working closely with families and professionals to build on this momentum and make the Annual Review process more inclusive, transparent, and effective.

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## SENCo Quadrant Meetings

SENCo Quadrant meeting dates and arrangements of meetings are currently being reviewed. On our return from the Summer holiday period, we hope to share with you considerations around proposed changes to these meetings and dates. Updates will be shared on our [Local Offer webpages](#).

Recent SEND meetings across Milton Keynes shared updates on EHCPs, phase transfers (with a 99.4% success rate), and the 2025–2028 SEND Strategy focused on thriving, belonging, and child-centred planning. A pause in Specialist Teaching Team support was noted to prioritise drafting of EHCPs, while positive feedback was given for initiatives like the PINS Project, Making Connections, and the Ordinarily Available Document. SENCOs discussed training, communication, and collaboration challenges, and were warmly thanked for their commitment and contributions.

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## Centralised Training Offer

Our Centralised training offer for the new academic year 2025/26 is currently under review. The new SEND Strategy will be driving forward areas of focus and we anticipate being able to share more of the offer with you from October 2025. The training offer will be available here on the Local Offer webpages.

### New from nasen

Their training offer now includes a [calendar of free SEND CPD events](#), making it easier than ever to find and book sessions that suit your needs. It is all delivered online and free to access.

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## Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

40 primary schools in Milton Keynes took part in the national PINS initiative led by NHSE and DfE from September 2024 – March 2025, supported by our parent carer forum PACA. The initiative focused on staff training, whole-school SEND provision,

early intervention and stronger collaboration with families. We are awaiting the feedback from the surveys from NHSE/DfE to understand the full impact of this work, however, initial indications are this this has been an extremely positive experience for our schools and families. More information regarding impact of the work will be shared as it is received.

However, there has been an exciting development moving into the new academic year with further funding having been allocated to MK to support the embedding of practice. The focus of this funding will be to hold three 'community of practice' meetings in the new academic year to share learning of effective whole school inclusive practices. More information will be shared directly with the 40 PINS schools before the end of term and wider invites to all schools for how you can become involved will follow in September.

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## **Review of refreshed EBSA Guidance - Survey to all schools.**

Following the launch of the refreshed EBSA guidance for schools in January 2025, we are looking to understand how this is working to support identification and meeting of EBSA needs.

We previously undertook this survey in Spring term 2024, in relation to the previous guidance. We need your views to further support our understanding of the impact of the refreshed EBSA guidance.

This survey can be completed by anyone in your setting, both strategically and operationally, who support children/young people with an EBSA need. It should take 2 - 5 minutes to complete.

The [survey](#) will remain open until September 12<sup>th</sup>. We would like to encourage as many colleagues as possible to take part. Please also share with your pastoral and attendance leads.

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## ***Phase Transfers – Action Required from Schools and Settings***

Following the recent briefing note on Phase Transfers shared with SENCos prior to the quadrant meeting, we kindly ask all schools and settings to complete the following actions:

- Please respond to consultations within dates shared. If there is a problem with meeting the deadline please write to [EHCP@Milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:EHCP@Milton-keynes.gov.uk) to advise when responses will be shared
- Complete all annual reviews, for children who meet the criteria set out above, by October 1 2025 to ensure the EHCP can be finalised by the 15 February 2026 deadline



## Early Years update.

As we come to the end of another busy year for us all, we would like to thank you for all your hard work and dedication with our early years families this year. We have enjoyed working with you all in many ways- linking up with providers as part of our Ordinarily Available Provision launch, our Role of the Early Years Senco training, your attendance at forum to advocate for the children in your care and also your positive work to support transition. Please remember that referrals from early years providers remain open over the summer break- these will be triaged when we return in September.

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### Updates from SENCOs

We're inviting SENCOs to share any updates or information they wish to contribute to the SEND Update newsletter. We aim to provide regular updates from SENCOs to be shared among colleagues in different schools. Please feel free to reach out to us via [email](#).