

Working Together SEND Co-production Charter

Central
Bedfordshire

Co-production is...

Working together consistently as equal partners to design, develop, implement and review services, recognising the value of working together as a way of maximising the chances of getting the services right the first time.

'To make sure that agencies will work alongside families with SEND children. That they will go the extra mile to ensure that child gets the support it needs and support its family on how to support that child'

'If you have an idea that others see would be quite challenging reassure the group that it can be done and that we can work together in a effective, flexible and creative way to make it possible'

Effective communication

We communicate effectively by

- Being transparent and using jargon free language
- Listening and responding to feedback to improve services
- Holding meetings at a time convenient with families

Empowering people

We empower people by

- Seeking out and considering people's lived experiences
- Striving to provide people with the maximum amount of choice and control over their own lives
- Treating each other as equal partners from start to finish
- Ensuring everyone can have their say and feel like they are being heard and valued

Solution Focused

We are solution focused by

- Being open to change
- Freely acknowledging challenges and past failures
- Being willing to work flexibly and creatively with anyone in order to find the right solutions
- Welcoming constructive criticism to the way that we are currently doing things
- Staying focused on working together until things are better

Our shared vision for SEND is to ensure

- Everyone working with children and families are communicating and working together to achieve the same outcomes
- Everyone understands what we are trying to achieve and what families are asking for
- Families can see evidence of everyone communicating and working together for the benefit of their child and other families

'If there are bits in the conversation that you feel could make an impact, you could take them away and make them happen!'

'If you heard someone talking about something that you think is inspiring, you could look up to that person as your role model for advice on whatever you do'

SEND
Together
is better



SEND Parent Termly Update – Summer 2021

Introduction

As we settle into the Summer holidays, I am pleased to share with you our third SEND progress update. Over 7,000 families received a copied of the spring edition.

As you will see in this update, we have tried to capture a flavour of our shared achievements over recent months as part of our plans to address the areas of weaknesses identified by Ofsted and the CQC in November 2019.

I'm particularly pleased to announce a significant £6.5million capital investment for the creation of over 100 SEND specialist places over the next 3 years. Building work to accommodate extra pupils will start over the summer holidays. The new places will be available at the start of the new term – September 2021.

We recently had another positive monitoring visit with our advisors at the Department of Education and NHS England. While we are encouraged that we are continuing to move in the right direction by our expert advisors, we are aware there still remains lots more work to do. We remain focused on delivering great SEND services, and will not be satisfied with average.

Our SEND peer review also took place in early July. We shall be sharing our review letter with you in the coming weeks. Again, the initial feedback was positive, recognising that we know ourselves and that improvements are being made in line with our Written Statement of Action Plan. The lead reviewer noted our operational lag, in other words the time lag which occurs between the right strategic actions being taken and the difference being felt on the ground by our children and their families. I understand how frustrating this, and can assure you that we are working hard to develop a more consistent approach and fully expect a step change to be felt from September, as our new staff begin to support families and schools in their roles as EHCP co ordinators and SEND advisory teachers.

We remain determined and committed to improving the lives of children and young people with SEND needs in Central Bedfordshire and are continuing to work with our key stakeholders to ensure we are listening and engaging with everyone who accesses and uses our services. We were proud to launch our first co-production charter with the input from pupils, parents and school staff. The Chiltern School deserves a special mention as they have produced a brilliant video to share their commitment to co-production. In the words of the young people – together is better.

Working with SNAP Parent/Carer Forum, we have co-produced a Pathological Demand Avoidance Position statement (PDA) as a direct response to parental concerns around challenges accessing support and recognition for children with a PDA profile. The statement was endorsed by a young person with a PDA profile, it has also received national recognition from the PDA society itself.

We have been strengthening our relationships with schools, and regular meetings are in place with heads of special school and schools with additional resource provisions. There has been a strong focus on improving regular engagement with SENCOs, including setting up termly study sessions for them to network, share best practice, learn about the latest information from other SEND professionals, and provide direct feedback on SEND services and school improvement.

Elsewhere, we have produced our draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, this document essentially helps us to plan, commission and deliver the right services for our children and young people. We will produce a summary document for parents and young people.

Developing an EHCP process that is fit for purpose has always been priority of the Service, In September we look forward to implementing our new EHCP plans and assessments, welcoming over 20 new staff and rolling out a new training programme. Parents can also expect us to promote and celebrate our Parent Pledge another initiative that demonstrates our drive to improve the way we work together. We will also be launching our new Local Offer website, an initiative which has taken years to achieve and will enable a more interactive approach.

'Freedom Day' clearly brings with it a different set of challenges; however, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked with us throughout this pandemic to adjust and abide by the government regulations.

We have a rich programme of holiday activities for all as our Summer of Send begins and I'm sure you and your children will enjoy meeting up in a safe way to socialise and play together.

I hope you all have a great summer.

Sue Harrison
Director of Childrens Services

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We want to work with parents on the development of decisions that are made in **an equal and reciprocal relationship** (develop, decide, design and do together). Contact Olabisi Romeo send.feedback@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The council announces £6.5million capital investment in SEND schools over the next three years.

Pupils in Central Bedfordshire will benefit from a £6.5million capital funding in SEND schools provision over the next three years with most of the money (£3m) being spent in the coming academic school year 2021/22.

The capital funding will be spent on building new or improve existing space to accommodate the extra pupils.

The funds will create over 100 places, with 30 extra places at Ivel Valley (30 places), Chiltern (13 places), Weatherfield (10 places) and Lancot (6 places) schools planned this year.

We are working with two Multi Academy Trusts to increase Autistic Spectrum Disorder provision from September 2022 by a minimum of 30 places from Y1 to Y11 pupils in the academic year 2021/22.

The Council are pleased that the DfE also recognise the need for an investment in the authority and the £1.9m allocated, as part of the £6.5m million will support our plans to deliver new and improved services.

Early Help offers weekly support for parents

In response to parent requests that Children Centres are more accommodating to families who have children with SEND, regular coffee mornings for parents and carers with children with SEND are now in place.

The Early Years SEND team have recently started weekly groups for families with children with SEND who are still at home and will be starting preschool the next term.

The Home Start Peer Mentoring service is also offering support for families at an earlier stage of identification of need. The aim is for parents to feel supported emotionally and know how to get services to meet their child's needs and to access support groups etc including EPEC parenting course: 'Being a parent with ASD', run by parent volunteers.



SEND Summer 2021

Central Bedfordshire

SEND | Together is better

A great place to live and work.

Find us online www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk www.facebook.com/letstalkcentral [@letstalkcentral](https://twitter.com/letstalkcentral)

Holiday Activities and Food Programme SEND activities

Please note:

These activities are only available to children receiving free school meals and lunch will be provided.

To book a place please register: <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/249>

Please call Michelle if you are unable to register on **0300 300 5762**

For details of our **Summer of SEND** full programme visit: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/SEND



Families United Network (FUN)

at FUN, Unit 5, Britannia Estate, Leagrave Road, Luton LU1 3RJ (sat nav LU1 3RD) for 5-16 yrs

Activity session for children with additional needs and/or disabilities and their parent carers and siblings.

Including: softplay, bouncy castle, air hockey, table tennis, table football, cardio wall, sports activities, parachute games, assault course, Zumba sessions, arts & crafts, lego, home corner, dressing up, book corner, multi-media, sensory room.

The venue provides full disabled access and changing facilities.

Only two adults per family permitted. All adult parents and carers will be required to show an NHS Covid Pass on arrival at the session. Full details of how to do this is being sent to all families who have booked a place prior to their session(s).

Parents/carers attend with their children and remain onsite throughout the session. Support staff are provided to encourage and support the children to access all of the activities on offer.

Dates: Mondays 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd Aug.

Time: 10am – 4 pm.

To book: 01582 420800 or info@familiesunitednetwork.org.uk



Kids in Action

at 26, Apex Business Centre, Boscombe Rd, Dunstable LU5 4SB for 5 – 16 yrs

SEND Specialist youth club style Holiday Club.

Dance floor, table sports, sensory cottage, multimedia room, soft play, library corner, games consoles, musical instruments, light box colouring, lego play, arts and crafts, yoga, interactive games, disco & dancing. Food is provided.

Dates: Mondays 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd Aug. Fridays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th Aug.

To book: 0300 300 5762 or michelle.hart@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Bookings taken until 3 days before each session.



CREATIVE BUZZ

FREE SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND AGES 5-12 YEARS

AUGUST 2021

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO GET CREATIVE!

FULL HOUSE 20 YEARS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN CHILDREN'S THEATRE



CREATIVE BUZZ SENSORY ADVENTURES
AN ONLINE PROGRAMME OF INTERACTIVE, SENSORY WORKSHOPS - DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND.

EVERY CHILD WILL RECEIVE A FREE SENSORY RESOURCE PACK WITH EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO TAKE PART.

CREATIVE BUZZ SEND WEEK
HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS AND TAKE PART IN FUN AND EXCITING ACTIVITIES, SPECIFICALLY TAILORED FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND.

REDBORNE UPPER SCHOOL, AMPHILL
23RD TO 26TH AUGUST, 10AM – 3PM
EACH CHILD WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A FREE LUNCH.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR FREE SPACE GO TO: FULLHOUSE.ORG.UK/CREATIVEBUZZ OR EMAIL: INFO@FULLHOUSE.ORG.UK



Draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment published

The purpose of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is to identify evidence in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community and reduce inequalities.

The breadth and depth of the 87 page SEND JSNA in Central Bedfordshire reflects the local commitment to delivering what all children, young adults and families with SEND need.

The JSNA findings, in the form of evidence, analysis of needs and agreed areas for commissioning and service delivery focus, will be used to help to determine what actions local authorities, the local NHS and other partners need to take to meet health and social care needs, and to address the wider issues that impact on health and wellbeing.

The documents have been contributed to by all local partners including parent representatives with an interest in working with the authorities to improve services. The parent representatives involved gave up their time to understand and be involved in the process, every comment submitted, and every amendment requested by a parent was included in the statement.

A summary version of the SEND JSNA will be available in the coming weeks.



Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS



Bedfordshire SENDIASS

We provide FREE impartial and confidential information, advice and support around many areas in relation to SEND, including Education Health & Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) and Annual Reviews of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

We listen and work with you, the education setting and the practitioners around your child to help you make informed decisions and move towards positive outcomes through a telephone helpline, information leaflets, face to face support, support at meetings and signposting to other support groups and services.

No access referral or criteria required.

Find out more here:
<http://www.cbsendiass.org>

Apply for a school holiday activity grant to support children with SEND

The Council's Short Breaks Grant Fund is now open. The Council is inviting voluntary organisations that provide holiday activities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to apply for funding.

The Short Breaks Grant Fund is open to voluntary organisations who:

- will provide holiday activities for children and young people with SEND up to 1 April 2022
- already has access to a site, or sites, that they can deliver their activities from

Each organisation can apply for a grant of up to a maximum of £10,000, with around £70,000 set aside overall.

The fund aims to encourage organisations from across the area to apply for a grant so that families who have children with SEND will have more choice and locations for social, leisure and play activities during the school holidays across the year.

Application process

Organisations are invited to apply by filling out an application form on the council's website and submitting it by email before the closing date of 5pm on Sunday 8 August. Applications will be assessed by a panel that will include representatives from Central Bedfordshire Council, parents, carers and young people. Each organisation will be informed of the outcome by 16 August 2021.

To apply, visit our website to download and complete an application form and find out how to return it.

Revision of Education, Health and Care plans updates make good progress...

As part of our Written Statement of Action (WSOA), progress is underway to improve the quality of Education, Health and Care Plans across Central Bedfordshire. These changes and improvements are all co-produced with a group of professionals, schools, and SNAP parent/ carer forum.

New Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Training Offer – live from September 2021!

As part of our commitment to improve training for practitioners who work with children and young people with SEND, we are increasing and centralising our learning offer on a Central Bedfordshire Learning platform which will be accessible via our Local Offer. This training and a range of resources will also be accessible for parents/ carers.

This approach ensures consistency, continuity, and a one stop access point for those required to learn about SEND. Whilst still in development, a number of courses are already available. Sign up to our SEND e-bulletin [here](#) or keep an eye on our Local Offer for more information soon.

New Staff, New roles!

In Central Bedfordshire, families are at the heart of all we do and we want to ensure that all Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are of a consistent high quality and reflect the needs and aspirations of children and young people with SEND In Central Bedfordshire.

We also recognise the importance of high quality and timely Annual Reviews to make sure that children and young people's outcomes and progress is monitored, and their needs are responded to. As part of our response to this, we have increased our workforce and have some new dedicated roles across our SEND Teams starting in post between July and September 2021. We would like to share these new roles with you and the benefit these roles will bring for families with SEND and partners across Central Bedfordshire...

There is much more work underway to support the improvement of quality of EHCPs and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Watch out for more information to be shared soon including:

New EHCP Co-ordinators

We have 6 new EHCP co-ordinators joining us from July 2021, these co-ordinators will work closely with families and partners to co-produce a high quality EHCP for a child/ young person. The benefits of these roles include:

- Parents/ carers and young people will have a consistent point of contact who can explain what to expect, and keep families involved and informed of progress.
- There will be consistent and clear coordination of advice for professionals and services that need to input into a child or young person's EHCP.
- Parents/ carers will feel involved in their child's/ young person's plan and be satisfied that it reflects their needs before being finalised through co-production from start to finish.

- A new SEND Quality Assurance framework
- Improved quality monitoring arrangements
- Reviewed EHCP, Annual Review and advice report templates.
- Parent/ carer and young person information packs

New SEND Specialist Advisory Teachers (SSATs)

We have 3 new SEND Specialist Advisory Teachers (SSATs) joining our team from September 2021. These teachers have a key role and will work closely with schools and partners across Central Bedfordshire to:

- Support in monitoring outcomes for children and young people with EHCPs in schools and educational settings.
- Support the quality and timeliness of Annual Reviews.
- Identify areas of learning and support high quality practice across the area.

We have and continue to work closely with SNAP Parent Carer Forum to make these changes and improvements, for more information about SNAP Parent Carer Forum please visit: www.snappcf.org.uk

You asked & we did



Sensory Processing Workshop

Free for SNAP PCF Members

A workshop exploring the relationship between autism and sensory processing in autistic people of all ages.

Parents will explore and understand:

- the impact of sensory processing differences on the lives of autistic individuals
- resources and strategies to support health and wellbeing where there are sensory challenges
- when to ask for professional input

13th of September 10:00 - 13:00 via Zoom
Please email admin@snappcf.org.uk to book a place.



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Membership to Parent/carer forum

Membership is free and open to parents who live in Central Bedfordshire and have a child or young adult aged between 0-25 years of age with any Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

Further information about SNAP PCF can be found on their website www.snappcf.org.uk

Here is a link to our membership form <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MembershipformtojoinSNAP>



Weatherfield students strike the right beat in drum project

In the Spring half term pupils from Weatherfield Academy took part in an innovative drumming project which sets out to show improvements in physical ability and emotional behaviour among special school pupils following a period of drumming practice.

This novel research was undertaken was developed and overseen through the contributions by Prof Steve Draper (Hartpury University), Dr Ruth Lowry (University of Essex), Dr Marcus Smith (University of Chichester) and other colleagues at the Clem Burke Drumming Project (www.clemburkedrummingproject.org). Laura Park, Joint Commissioning Manager for Central Bedfordshire Children's Services & Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, took the lead in developing and securing the funds to support the project. The results from the research will be shared over the coming months.



Michael Dodson from Inspiring Music said, "I was inspired by the positivity and determination of all the students who took part in this intensive course. They all made exceptional progress."



Pathological Demand Avoidance
Part of the
Autism Spectrum

The Council's co-produced Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) Position Statement receives national recognition

Our Pathological Demand Avoidance position statement has been nationally recognised as a shining example of good practice by the PDA society.

PDA is to difficult to diagnose as PDA individuals share autistic characteristics and several other symptoms including:

- Resisting and avoiding the ordinary demands of life
- using social strategies as part of avoidance e.g., distracting, giving excuses
- appearing sociable but may lack understanding
- experiences excessive mood swings and impulsivity
- appearing more comfortable in imaginative and role play
- displays obsessive behaviour that is often focused on other people.

The position statement which was coproduced in collaboration with the SNAP Parent Carer forum (SNAP PCF) and professionals across the health and social care sector provides reassurance and recognises the need for extra support to children and families affected by PDA.

We are collaborating with SNAP PCF to develop a training programme for professionals across social care and education settings working with SEND children. The training programme will be available from the autumn term 2021.

Our statement and PDA Society introductory video are available here: [You said, we did - SEND / Local Offer feedback | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Transport update

The Council recently held a public consultation on the reviewed Home to School Travel Assistance policies and the new 19+ Travel Assistance Policy.

The feedback has been considered and adjustments made to the policies and the final versions are now going through governance to be considered by the Executive Committee early in August.

If they are approved by the Committee they will be implemented for new travel assistance applications received from September 2021. The new policies will not impact on the eligibility for travel assistance of any child who is currently receiving travel assistance. Further communications on the policies will be published from mid-August.



Test
yourself

Before
testing the
water this
summer

LET'S BEAT
COVID-19!

VISIT
[LETSBEATCOVID19.CO.UK](https://letsbeatcovid19.co.uk)
TO FIND OUT MORE

