

# PVI NEWSLETTER

Summer Term

# WELCOME BACK!



Dear Managers, SENCo's and practitioners,

We have now entered the final term of the nursery / school year. As always, the year seems to have flown by so quickly and it's time to start thinking about children who will be transitioning into Primary School.

Please continue to contact your link Area SENCo if you have any SEND related queries or children you have concerns about that you would like to discuss.



## Early Years Inclusion Team– update

The team is currently going through a re-organisation which will see a new name and a number of other changes to the way the team works– more information to follow in due course.....

### CONTENTS:

Page 1:

Welcome Back and dates for your diary

Page 2 :

Update Area SEND Inspection

Page 3-7:

Practitioner Support

Page 8:

Training and CPD

Page 9-12:

RBG SEND Local Offer

Page 13:

Support for Families

Page 14-15

SEND Funding

Diary Dates

Summer Term 2023

Early Years Consultation Forum:

Join Sarah Wright on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 10.00-11.30am

Join on your computer or mobile app [Click here to join the meeting](#)



**with the**

**Care Quality Commission (CQC)& Ofsted**



We have been notified of our SEND Local Area Inspection is starting on 11<sup>th</sup> May and finishing on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

You will be aware that Ofsted have been developing a new framework for Local Area SEND review inspections which started in January 2023. The framework has now been published

[Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook](#)

As you will see it is very different from the last time ...to enable inspectors to evaluate specific children and young people's experiences and journeys through the SEND system it will be much more based on 'deep dives' which will affect front line staff who can be expected to attend meetings etc.

Inspectors may discuss children and young people's records with practitioners and the focus is on current practice with some historical information for context



We need to be ready to release such staff when called upon... to this end visits to PVI settings may be postponed at short notice.

Please reach out to your Area SENCo if you want to discuss this further.

Further information can be found on the Local Offer

[LOCAL AREA SEND INSPECTION](#)



# Practitioner support

## Early Years Consultation Forum

Run by The Early Years Inclusion Team-Area SENCo's

### What is the consultation forum?

An opportunity to *share issues* and concerns with colleagues to find appropriate ways forward



### Who are they for?

Any *practitioner, teacher, manager or SENCo* working within a maintained or PVI early years or foundation stage setting in Greenwich.

### How does it work?

The group is welcomed. We choose one of the issues you may want to discuss. We use a problem-solving framework to explore the issue.

Term	Date	Microsoft Teams link	Date	Microsoft Teams link
Autumn Term 2022	Join Libby Eastman on <b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b> <b>10.00-11.30am</b>	<b>Join on your computer or mobile app</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>	Join Alison Rabicano on <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b> <b>10.00-11.30am</b>	<b>Join on your computer or mobile app</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
Spring Term 2023	Join Lauren Randell on <b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b> <b>1.30-3.00pm</b>	<b>Join on your computer or mobile app</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>	Join Nicola Hunt on <b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023</b> <b>1.30-3.00pm</b>	<b>Join on your computer or mobile app</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
Summer Term 2023	Join Sarah Wright on <b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b> <b>10.00-11.30am</b>	<b>Join on your computer or mobile app</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>	Join Heather Truluck on <b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b> <b>10.00-11.30am</b>	<b>Join on your computer or mobile app</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>

## INFORMATION GATHERING/ ASSESSMENTS

### REMINDER TO ALL STAFF:



As all providers will be aware Development Matters, the revised non-statutory curriculum guidance for the early years' foundation stage was implemented from September 2021.

Development Matters is for all early year's practitioners, for childminders and staff in nurseries, nursery schools, and nursery and reception classes in school.

The guidance sets out the pathways of children's development in broad ages and stages. As we all know, the actual learning of young children is not so neat and orderly.

For that reason, accurate and proportionate assessment is vital. It helps us to make informed decisions about what a child, particularly those who have emerging, or complex SEND need to learn and what they may be able to do next.

This is designed not to create unnecessary workload but be part of the statutory assess plan do review paperwork. The overarching focus is on clarity regarding how the child is developing/ learning and how their differing needs/abilities impact on progress.

To that end those providers who will be making an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment request for a child in their setting this information will be vital and will be required by the SEN panel.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other part of this process, please direct them in the first instance to your allocated Area SENCo

Please speak to your allocated Area SENCO if you would find it useful to use the template the Early Years Inclusion Team has developed- this can then be sent to you.

# PVI early years settings statutory responsibilities for children with SEND.



GOV.UK

Statutory  
Responsibilities

Just a reminder regarding PVI early years settings statutory responsibilities for children with SEND.

There have been changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory requirements including changes to how settings are developmentally tracking children, carrying out observation and planning etc.

However there has been no change to the SEND Code of Practice so continue to remind yourselves of the content of this so you can ensure you are meeting the statutory duties outlined. See link below.

All early year's providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors that are funded by the local authority must have regard to the Special educational needs and disability code of practice which provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations and applies to England. It relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people.

[Special educational needs and disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years](#)

All children are entitled to an education that enables them to:

- ◆ achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.
- ◆ become confident young children with a growing ability to communicate their own views and ready to make the transition into compulsory education.



All early years providers are required to have arrangements in place to identify and support children with SEN (Special Educational Needs) or disabilities and to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care. These requirements are set out in the EYFS framework.

Support for children with SEND also includes ensuring that you have sort appropriate advice and support in a timely manner and can include appropriate referrals and applying for (if appropriate and reviewing Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF)



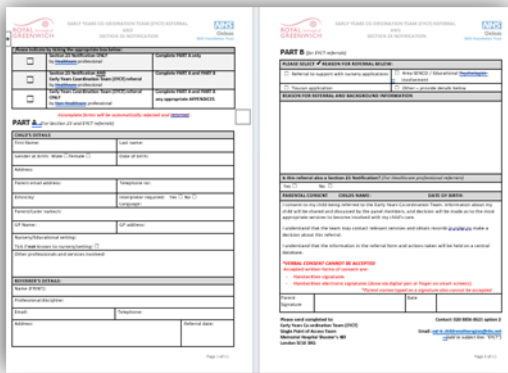
MAY 2023

# Early Years Coordination Team (EYCT) referrals

\*Children need to be referred into this team in a timely manner if they are already known to 3 or more supporting services across education and health or are likely to require the support from 3 or more of the services connected to the EYCT.

**Please find attached a slight updated and amended EYCT referral form.**

Due to the statutory requirement of health service providers to make a Section 23 Notification to the Local Authority if they believe a child under school age has or is likely to have, special educational needs or a disability (SEND) the EYCT form had to be updated to reflect this.



If you want to find out more about Section 23 notifications, please see link [Section 23 Notification](#)

Please read the new form carefully so you notice the changes.

At the top of the form you will see below.

Early Years settings tick the last box highlighted (indicated by the arrow). You then fill in part A and B and any appropriate appendices.

		EARLY YEARS CO-ORDINATION TEAM (EYCT) REFERRAL AND SECTION 23 NOTIFICATION	
Please indicate by ticking the appropriate box below:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 23 Notification ONLY by Healthcare professional	Complete PART A only	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 23 Notification AND Early Years Coordination Team (EYCT) referral by Healthcare professional	Complete PART A and PART B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Years Coordination Team (EYCT) referral ONLY by Non-Healthcare professional	Complete PART A and PART B any appropriate APPENDICES	

*Incomplete forms will be automatically rejected and returned*

At the monthly EYCT meeting panel members will ensure all the appropriate information is attached to the referral so that the relevant service triage team can make the decision based on their own acceptance criteria.

This should mean that any child that you believe meets the criteria\* for an EYCT referral will not require you to make additional single referrals to the services listed below- it should just be the one EYCT form

**Please also note:**

In each appendices section it will ask you if you have a concerns regarding this area , if you do not it suggests you move onto the next section. If you do have concerns, then you would obviously fill that section in. e.g. see below

No significant Sensory Skills concern / already supported – please move on to [Gross Motor Skills Section](#)  
The Easy Read regarding the EYCT has also been updated - also attached

Any questions or queries do contact your link Area SENCo.

Start to use this new form now. **But** if you have recently just filled in the old form or have nearly finished filling out the old form then do finish them and send them in. **For any new referrals you should now use the new form.**

## SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS TO PRIMARY

This is the term to prepare for all children transitioning into primary school.



It is an exciting but sometimes challenging step for all our children moving from nursery into 'big' school. It is important for all children including those with a special educational need and or disability (SEND) to have their transition well supported.

Children with more complex SEND who are generally accessing support from an Area SENCo and other services e.g. Speech Therapy, ASD Outreach, Educational Psychologist etc will normally have a transition meeting organised. This should always include their parent(s) as well as nursery Key Person/ SENCo and any other key professionals involved. During the meeting the child's strengths, interests and needs can be discussed and planned for, to enable a smooth transition for them into school.

Key reports and information are usually, with parental permission, circulated before the meeting takes place with the SENCo of the Primary School so they can be prepared with some initial information and able to clarify any points they need to.

Meetings may be taking place either virtually or face to face.

Other children in your setting and those with less complex SEND would also benefit from information being shared through the Early Years Transfer form (attached with the Early Years Transfer guidance sheet) and shared with the receiving primary school... again, with parental permission (your nursery policies may already outline procedures in relation to sharing information at transition times).

SUPPORT FOR TRANSITION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL document also attached



## TRAINING– continued professional development

Please see information below regarding a training opportunity via Speech and Language UK

Speech and  
Language UK   
Changing young lives.

We're excited to be working with [Education Development Trust](#) to deliver Phase 3 of the [Early Years Professional Development Programme \(EYPDP\)](#) funded by the Department for Education. This programme will help you to support more of the 1.7 million children who struggle with talking and understanding words.



Cohort two starts this September. The programme has been designed to fit flexibly around busy lifestyles and will be delivered through a blended mix of online eLearning and facilitated webinars. It will take approximately 60 hours and 8 months to complete and is **free to access**.

Early years practitioners will be trained across three modules:

- Communication and Language
- Early Mathematics
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

[I want to find out more](#)

**Early years settings and childminders across all participating Local Authorities in England who currently work with 2-4 year-olds are invited to register now.\***

\*Subject to eligibility

Don't wait! Register your interest for the FREE to access Early Years Professional Development Programme starting this September.

[Register your interest](#)



**Find out what's available for families in Royal Greenwich– click for more information on the Royal Borough of Greenwich [SEND Local Offer](#)**

Last term we offered all practitioners the opportunity to attend a meeting with Nicola Hunt (Area SENCo) to share updates on the Local Offer website.

As a team though we are constantly looking at ways to improve ways information about the Local Offer can be shared with parents and families and also for the whole setting to be aware and know what is available in terms of information, signposting and intervention advice.

This meeting took place as planned on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 led by Area SENCO Nicola Hunt. Thanks to all the settings/ practitioners that attended.

Congratulations to **Brightsparks Day Nursery** in Eltham for winning the quiz.





## New Video Recourse

As a local area partnership, we have created this series of videos to provide information, strategies and support for families with autism as well as those with a child on the autism assessment pathway.



Families have told us that they need more support whilst they wait for a diagnosis and immediately after. The purpose of the video series is to provide families accessible information to help parents/ carers understand autism and develop tools and strategies to support their children at home. We are ambitious for our families and want to ensure they have access to the right information, at the right time.

Coming soon in the series

- Video introducing the Local Offer
- Communication
- Interaction
- Changes and Transitions
- Sensory Issues
- Physical bodies
- Adolescents and neurodiversity
- Special interests

The videos are produced with Royal Borough of Greenwich, the Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum, SEL ICB Greenwich, Oxleas NHS Trust and CAMHS.

All the current videos can be seen on the Local Offer:

[Children & Young people and Autism: a video series for families](#)



## New Short Breaks Offer



The service is available to any one aged 4-25 who lives in Greenwich and has an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

Short Breaks are a fantastic experience for children and young people with disabilities in Greenwich to take part in exciting activities, make friends and have fun, all in a safe and supported environment with experienced organisations.

We are pleased to confirm our updated Short Breaks offer from 1st April 2023. The new guide has been attached to this bulletin. Please do share as widely as possible with staff and most importantly with families!

Through our coproduction with children, young people and families, we have extended the provision to those aged 18-25, are in the process of developing an offer for those aged 0-4, and children and young people aged 5-17 continue to have access to up to 100 hours per year of activities.

We have been able to increase the provision across all cohorts, including age range and levels of need. Please see attached for a **You Said, We Did** document with further information on the work that has been done in the last few months!

We are in the process of updating our Local Offer as we speak. In the interim information on the Short Break Core Offer can be found on the Short Break page.

### Short Breaks - Exciting new programmes available with the Short Breaks offer



# LOCAL OFFER WEBSITE –continued

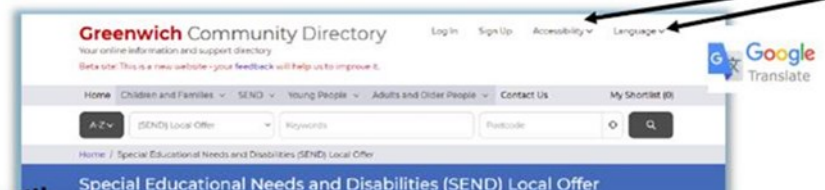
Please continue to promote The Royal Greenwich Local Offer website to parents/ carers and to all practitioners.

## [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Local Offer](#)



**ALSO**

Did you know that you can change the language displayed or accessibility options with a click of a button?



This will change the language etc on all the page and may be helpful to some of our families that have differing needs... it's all very clever and might help families understand the services available to them better

Continue to look at The Early Years Inclusion Team pages on the Local Offer.

## [Early Years Inclusion Team - Children's Services](#)



### [Early Years SEND – Information](#)

Early Years SEND - Information



### [Early Years SEND -Resources for PVI SENCo's and practitioners](#)

Early Years SEND – Resources for PVI SENCo's and practitioners

There are drop down headings for various documents, resources, forms and templates.



### [Early Years SEND -Interventions and Strategies](#)

Early Years SEND - Interventions and strategies



### [Early Years SEND – Childminders](#)



## SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

### Support Service (SENDIASS)



Our statutory duty is to provide factual and unbiased Special Educational Needs and Disability information; advice and support to Young People, children and Parents aged 0-25. SENDIASS provides a free all year-round service on the full range of education, health and social care issues as defined in the 2015 Special Educational needs Code of Practice and the National IASP set of Quality Standards. Our goal is to provide a high quality, bespoke, impartial and confidential service to ensure that our service users are at the heart of decision-making processes and are fully informed of their options and rights that affect their lives. For more information, click on link below.

For further information please click on the following link [SENDIASS](#)

### GREENWICH PARENT CARER FORUM



#### What do we do?

We bring together parents/carers of children and young adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), up to the age of 25 living in Royal Greenwich.

- Provide opportunities to meet with other parents and share lived experiences
- Support to access information, services and support
- Run information and consultation events
- Parent led and independent
- Official strategy voice – critical friend

Do nothing without us – working in partnership

For further details telephone 0785 210 1492 or email [admin@greenwichpcpf.org](mailto:admin@greenwichpcpf.org)

# FUNDING

## SEN Inclusion Fund



Please note before applying for Inclusion Funding:

All early years' settings are expected to meet the needs of most children from within their own nursery resources, with appropriately differentiated planning (this includes providing support within the normal setting ratio of staff)

The SEN Inclusion Fund welcomes settings applying when they feel they are able to clearly demonstrate that existing provision /resources have been effectively implemented and other non-financial support including specialist advice has been sought.

As such applications should reflect that despite taking relevant and purposeful action to identify, access and meet need the expected progress has not been made.

(More details in documents that you can find in the links below)

For further information on eligibility and claiming please click on the following link:

[SEN Inclusion Fund](#)



Just a friendly reminder...

Please note that the SEN Inclusion Fund will not accept any future late reviews (or back date payments) that have not been authorized by the SEN Inclusion Fund before the review date and an email sent to the setting agreeing a new extended review date

We would also like to welcome a new member to the team...

**Jessica Meyers** who is the administer for the SEN Inclusion Fund



## FUNDING



### Disability Access Fund

PLEASE NOTE: Disability Access Fund increased in April 2023 to an annual payment of **£828**



#### What is the Disability Access Fund (DAF)?

From April 2017 providers will be able to access additional funding (separate to Inclusion Funding) to support children with disabilities or SEN. The DAF aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity (be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children as a whole attending the setting).

The Disability Access Fund is for all three- four-year-olds who are taking up their free funding entitlement and who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

**Note:** Four-year olds in primary school reception classes are NOT eligible for DAF funding - Children become eligible for free early education at different points in the year depending on when they turn 3.

Early years providers are ultimately responsible for identifying eligible children.

For further information on eligibility and claiming please click on the following link

[Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#)



**THANK YOU**  
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK