



# PVI SENCO Newsletter

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Dear Managers, SENCo's and Practitioners.**

Thanks for all your support over the last term, and for bearing with us here as we try to respond to requests for information and advice.

The council **IT systems are** not easy for us to access in the day, as there are limited users able to get on at any one time remotely, so sometimes we are having to save queries and go on and look in the evenings. We hope that there may be some resolution to this over the coming weeks but hope this helps you to understand why some responses are inevitably delayed.

The most important thing that has happened this week, is that the Government produced additional guidance for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak on what should be in place, and how this should be monitored for children described as "vulnerable". Clearly a significant number of this group are children with SEND, and many at SEN support with a high level of need.

This latter group are particularly key in the Early Years where the children **are most likely to** be supported via the SEN Inclusion Fund at Bands 3 & 4.

The guidance (link below) states that particular care will be needed in planning for children with SEND to return to their settings. And that re-adjustment to the routines in a setting may prove more challenging for some children with SEND than others, and consideration and planning will need to be given as to how support children to settle back into their setting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#safeguarding-and-welfare>

**Settings will need to ensure they have the staffing needed to support children with SEND at safe ratios and that they have a member of staff designated as a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), interim SENCO or a named individual with oversight of special educational needs provision for children with SEND.**

**The Government has temporarily modified the duty on local authorities and health commissioning bodies to secure or arrange the special educational or health provision specified in EHC plans. However, the duty on early years' providers to work with the local authority in the delivery of its SEND duties remains in place during this period.**

**For children that fall into the cohort above i.e. with an EHCP OR receiving SEN Inclusion funding at band 3/4, I have attached a Risk Assessment proforma that must be completed for each child.**

**Please ensure that whilst completing the risk assessment you have worked with the parents and the professionals involved with the child across education/ health. If the setting is closed or a parent has chosen not to send their child into your setting please detail what you have put / will put into place to support the child's home learning i.e. sending home visual support, invention activities etc.**

**Please complete the Risk Assessment and send it to the child's allocated Area SENCo by 26th June 2020 who will quality assure them, liaising with you if required.**

**Once completed the setting should continue to send in weekly updates on the attached weekly monitoring sheet**

**For further advice and support, particularly around completing the Risk Assessments please contact:**

<b>Area SENCo</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Mobile number</b>
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**Thank you again for the work you are putting in continuing to support children and their families.**

*Anita Smith*

**Early Years Inclusion Team Leader**