

This is the second of our series of newsletters for SENCOs and Headteachers written jointly by ELS and the Inclusion and Behaviour Support Service teams. It includes information from the Education Continuity Newsletter and additional information for SENCOs.



EHCP Needs Assessments Update

The 0-25 service, Educational Psychology and other services are working together to ensure the statutory processes for children with SEND continue. We will continue to run the weekly statutory panel, although we anticipate that the number of requests for new assessments will reduce significantly as a consequence of school closures.

We are still awaiting further DfE guidance and clarification on the statutory timelines of the assessment process during the COVID emergency.

In the meantime, for the EHC Needs assessments already received we continue to seek advice reports. Where possible we will use the current legislation (9.47 SEND Code of Practice) to ensure that the assessments are completed. In some cases the assessment process will have to be delayed (9.42 SEND code of Practice). We currently have about 100 EHC needs assessments in process.

We would like to stress that any new requests for EHC needs assessments are very likely to be **significantly delayed**. Even if assessments are agreed we are not able to secure the necessary advice. This is because most children are not in schools and many professionals have been redeployed to respond to the COVID emergency or are unavailable for other reasons including self-isolation. In view of these practical issues we would like to ask all SENCOs to consider such requests very carefully.

We strongly suggest to contact your school EP or 0-25 case coordinators to discuss such cases.

EHCP Annual reviews

As you may be aware the COVID national legislation relaxed schools and local authorities' responsibility to comply with the Children and Families Act in relation to the precise delivery of provision as set out in the EHCP.

This is a temporary measure which helps us in taking 'reasonable endeavours' to support children with plans. We are still awaiting further instructions related to annual reviews and the assessment process. We will keep you updated.

In the meantime we have been contacted by a number of SENCOs wanting to know whether they should proceed with EHCP annual reviews planned for this term.

We would suggest that these decisions are taken on case by case basis:

- if you have good, up to date information including professional reports and contributions and can carry out a thorough review gaining the input of the child and parent then please do go ahead. You may need to communicate virtually to hold the review, but the key thing here is the quality of the information.
- If the review requires input from other professionals and they can make that contribution available, again go ahead with the review.
- If the review is going to require information or professional involvement and advice that currently cannot be easily obtained, or the review is likely to be very complex, then please consider postponing. This decision should be discussed with parents and carers. If necessary please contact your case officer from 0-25 SEND team to discuss particular circumstances.

Integra Home Learning for SEND

We are pleased to be able to inform you that Integra are producing home learning resources specifically to support pupils with SEND.

We know that this is a time of adjustment for families and we hope to give parents advice and support through this site. Parents can find the home learning site at <https://www.integra.co.uk/home-learning/>

This includes learning activities, but also on how parents can support their child's wellbeing and manage the situation at home. We have included a special area called SENSational learning to help parents support the needs of their child at home.

This includes sections on

- Skill Builders – so parents can develop their skills to support their child
- Calm and Happy
- Be Creative
- Stay Active

The direct link to this site is [here](#) and content will be regularly added to the site so that parents will be able to access new ideas and information.

We are sharing our SENSational learning ideas with parents through a regular parent newsletter and I have attached the first of these which we hope you will circulate to parents. The other resource that is available is through the South Glos. Parents and Carers forum and can be accessed [here](#). There are a range of resources and links that you can signpost.



SEND EHCP Parent & Carer Helpline

We are pleased to be able to share details of our SEND EHCP COVID-19 parent and carer helpline for those parents who have queries or require support if their child is at home.

Parents/carers have received this information via our Local Offer website, our council Twitter and Facebook pages and via South Glos Parents and Carers network. We would be grateful if you could also promote this.

If you have parents and carers who are struggling to support their child or meet their needs at home, they can email SENDCovidEnquiry@southglos.gov.uk or phone 01454 866123. The helpline is manned Monday to Friday from 9 until 1 by Integra's Inclusion and

Behaviour Support teams who will be on hand to offer advice and guidance to parents and carers of pupils with an EHCP and to access information from other services if this is required in order to respond.

0-25 Team contact (EHCP enquiries)
0-25ServiceEducationDuty@southglos.gov.uk
0-25 Duty Line (EHCP enquiries) 01454 865137

South Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum has worked with South Gloucestershire Local Authority to answer some of the most common questions parents and carers of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities have been asking. We have developed a frequently asked questions sheet which will be updated regularly to reflect the common questions that parents & carers of pupils with SEND are asking. This information can be accessed [here](#).

Supportive Parents

Supportive parents have been providing information, advice and support about SEND to children, young people and their parents and carers for thirty years. Supportive Parents was originally set up as a charity in Avon in 1989 by local parents and professionals who realised that better outcomes could be achieved for children and young people with SEND by working together.

Supportive Parents now delivers the 'SENDIAS' (Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Advice & Support) service for three local authorities; Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Our office is in Bristol. They can help to support parents through the statutory processes.
<https://www.supportiveparents.org.uk/contact>

Educational Psychology Updates

SENCOs are still welcome to contact their link Educational Psychologists. We are anticipating that these queries will predominantly relate to children still in school and to statutory casework, including the Ready Reckoner. Given the challenges of completing other systemic work and SEN Support work under the current circumstances, please contact your link EP to discuss how this could be taken forward in the future, or what might be helpful for you currently. Hub Business Support is still operational should you wish a member of that team to make contact with the link EP on your behalf.

North Locality EP Contact	01454 863363
South Locality EP Contact	01454 868591

Educational Psychology email contact
educational.psychology@southglos.gov.uk

Education Endowment Fund (EEF) New Resources

EEF have produced new SEND Guidance

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/tools/guidance-reports/special-educational-needs-disabilities/>

There are also copies of refreshed Whole School SEND Guides.

New condition specific videos are also available – these include videos on:

- ADHD,
- Acquired Brain Injury,
- Autism,
- Down's Syndrome,
- Dyscalculia,
- Dyslexia,
- Dyspraxia,
- Hearing Impairment,
- Physical Disability,
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health,
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs and
- Visual Impairment.

The clips are really engaging and would be useful prompts for any SENCOs and informative for all teachers.

<https://www.sendgateway.org.uk/whole-school-send/find-wss-resources/>

There are also two new documents.

Demonstrating Inclusion Tool



This guide can be used by Senior Leadership Teams to consider inclusion within their setting, and explores how inclusion is communicated through policies, enacted in practice and experienced by stakeholders.

Each section can be taken alone, or all five combined together. The guide has been designed with self-reflection in mind, but can also be used as part of a professional dialogue across settings. Jo Chambers, an Integra part-time Consultant and employee of Emerson's Green was involved in producing this.

SENCO Deployment Guide



This guide has been designed for SENCOs and their line managers. It covers how key operational and strategic elements of the role can be structured and enacted, and offers frameworks for determining areas of priority to develop.

This guide can also be used in conjunction with the SENCO Induction Pack.

Bereavement Support

During this challenging time, we are aware that Headteachers and school staff may experience the loss of a pupil's family member or member of their school community. Whilst we hope that no schools have to experience this, we would like to ensure all school leaders have the information and support they need should this event happen.

Our Educational Psychology team are highly experienced in supporting schools, should a critical incident occur, including supporting school communities if a loss of life occurs.

Please keep this information safe and accessible. In the event of a critical incident.

During Office Hours – Business Support:

- CAH at Badminton Road 01454 868970
- Patchway Hub 01454 863363
- Kingswood Hub 01454 865891

They will contact the relevant lead in Directorate and the Educational Psychology Service.

Ensure that the Council's Media team is contacted: 01454 863200 or email StrategicCommunications@southglos.gov.uk

Out of Office Hours - the duty emergency team will notify the Strategic Communications team where necessary. Contact them on 01454 615165.

Sarah Godsell has identified some bereavement links to direct parents to which are in the attached resource list.

SENCOs keeping in touch

The Inclusion and Behaviour support teams continue to be available to support you in your role as SENCo and in meeting the needs of individual children. Please feel free to contact the teams in the usual way. We are considering running catch up and CPD via skype.

Options include ...

- Hub catch up meetings
- Teaching at arm's length - setting work for children at home
- SENCO Book Club – to catch up on the reading you keep putting off and discuss this with colleagues
- Living in a virtual world – Skype and other communication packages, how these can be used to maintain your role.

- CPD on specific school identified needs

If you would like to access any of these options or have ideas for others please could you contact Jackie Muggleton on Jackie.muggleton@southglos.gov.uk

Keeping in touch with the children you teach

Schools are keeping in touch with children and parents in a wide variety of ways and you will all be making arrangements on the basis of your individual situations. Here are some of the ideas we have heard about.

For parents

- closed FB groups
- open twitter feeds
- WhatsApp groups
- Individual emails and messages
- Resource packs – some parents do not have access to paper, colours etc.

For children

- Emails and video messages
- Work packs especially if these are individual.
- Resource packs reflecting the child's interests.
- Setting work online

If you have a successful strategy to share with colleagues please email Jackie.

Contact the Inclusion and Behaviour Teams

Email contacts for inclusion and behaviour support. Contact your usual support person or if urgent ring Julie Cole who can ask them to ring you back.

Jackie Muggleton	Jackie.muggleton@southglos.gov.uk
Claire Phillips	Claire.phillips@southglos.gov.uk
Sara Tanner	Sara.tanner@southglos.gov.uk
Linda Boyce	Linda.boyce@southglos.gov.uk
Louise O'Rourke	Louise.ORourke@southglos.gov.uk
Alison Little	Alison.little@southglos.gov.uk
Eleri Sears	Eleri.sears@southglos.gov.uk

Bereavement Links for Parents

Childhood Bereavement UK - <http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/help-around-a-death/covid-19.aspx>
Young Minds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-grief-and-loss/>
Winston's Wish - <https://www.winstonswish.org/>
The Rainbow Centre - <https://rainbowcentre.org.uk/supporting-you/>
The South Gloucestershire Mind You site is another source of information for SENCos.
<http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/mind-you/>

Podcast for Parents- Coronavirus helping children with autism

We have just listened to this podcast – it is outstanding and one of the most helpful things we have listened to.
<https://soundcloud.com/user-664361280/coronavirus-helping-children-with-autism>

Links for SENCos and Online Reading Resources

Skills Builders



Nessy is a subscription web site, many of your schools will already subscribe to this and you can encourage parents to log in at home to access the games and learning resources [nessy](https://www.nessy.co.uk/).



FREE Teach your monster to read – This free App takes parents through all the basic early phonics and is strangely compelling, especially the opportunity to select various changes of outfits for your monster. [Teach your monster to read](https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.co.uk/)

Something a bit different



FREE National Geographic National Geographic for Kids contains articles, videos, games and more to help kids learn about different places and animals around the world. Content is free, and students wanting to create an account can earn badges for viewing and interacting with content. [national geographic](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/)
This is a good link to circulate to parents to encourage home learning.

Links to support parents reading with their child



Nosy Crow – this is a children's book publisher, but they also do audio books and produce resources to go with the books too. They have produced some free resources too. [Nosy crow](https://www.nosycrow.co.uk/)



Match of the Day Magazine Subscription – this is on special offer at £1 per issue for 4 issues and may get footie mad children to contemplate reading [match of the day](https://www.matchoftheday.co.uk/)



Gorgeous picture books that parents can enjoy with their family.
[book trust](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/)

In South Gloucestershire, we are keen to share innovative ideas for supporting SENCos.

We will disseminate these ideas to all schools.

Please email your ideas to our School Improvement Team at:

Faye.bertham@southglos.gov.uk

and our Inclusion Team at

Jackie.muggleton@southglos.gov.uk