

SENDCo Newsletter - Autumn 2021

THE NEWSLETTER FOR COORDINATORS WHO WORK IN SETTINGS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (0-25) WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND).



Introduction by Anne Hayward, City SEND Consultant

Welcome to my second editorial for the City's SENDCo newsletter.

I am reviewing City SEND Panel processes to ensure that we are effective and efficient as we can be. I am reviewing school and other professionals' contribution to the process as well as the operation of the SEND Panel.

I would like to have your views on whether you would find it useful to attend panel meetings. In a previous Local Authority, I chaired the SEND Panel and had attendance by a wide range of SENDCo's who considered the experience as the best CPD they have had!

The Aldgate School, being our only City school, attends but I would like to extend this to other SENDCo's from the City of London Academy Trust and Family of Schools. If you are interested and would like a discussion, please email me: anne.hayward@thecityoflondon.gov.uk

Best wishes -

Anne x

Overview of visits to schools and colleges

During June and July 2021, my colleague Kay Charles (Executive Headteacher of The Village and Woodfield Schools) and I undertook visits to all schools (mainstream, special and independent specialist) and colleges who are educating City of London Children and Young People (CYP) with EHCP's. The purpose of these visits was to:

- Share best practice in SEND both nationally and locally
- Look at new and creative ways of partnership working
- Understand the range and level of support required for our CYP with EHCP

- Look at ways of identifying those City CYP who are on SEND Support.
- Look at other areas of development that the school requires.

Each setting received a short report on the visit with resources, helpful tips and ideas to support future developments. Staff welcomed the visit and the opportunity for professional debate and the sharing of ideas.

Relationships with the City SEND Team were excellent and the City know their CYP with EHCP CYP well. SENDCO's did highlight the challenges that they face having to collaborate with different Local Authorities (LAs) and the time that it does take to access numerous services such as Health and particularly some therapy. Work needs to be done in improving transition between primary, secondary school and Colleges to ensure that the information is shared, and the pupil/young person's voice is heard. There is some excellent practice in this area, but this needs to be shared more widely. The importance of having Post-19 clear pathways in the local community was raised by the Colleges and this is being addressed through our Transitions Group for the City. Many SENDCO's were surprised at how small the City SEND Team are and the variety of roles that they must perform!

There are fantastic opportunities for sharing and developing practice; the following areas are of particular interest and will be addressed through our SENDCO Network Meetings:

- Lists of effective interventions for reference and access
- Common assessment processes cross phase
- Training opportunities for all staff but particularly SEND support staff
- The development of Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) four outcomes 0-25 and embedded in a personalised curriculum
- Eliciting pupil voice in everything that we do
- Consistent approach to provision mapping and costed outcomes
- Effective work with parents and innovative ways of co-production
- Support for Ofsted.

There are amazing opportunities for Peer-to-Peer work and moderation across all of our schools.

The City does need information on their CYP on SEND Support so that they can future proof their services. The City will send out a very simple grid for schools to fill in which referrers without names to City children accessing this support. This information will be so useful in helping us to plan future support.

SEND Network Panel Meeting | A review

Our first SENDCO face-to-face meeting was held at The Guildhall on 14 October with over 20 in attendance and a few remotely. Sadly, our IT was problematic but everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Gary Nelson, Headteacher Wapping High, gave an interesting and thought-provoking presentation on the role of Action Research in improving the quality of teaching and learning. Extensive discussion took place about the opportunities that we could offer Teaching and Support Assistants to gain accreditation and qualifications through action research and access to higher education. Victoria Colley, Deputy SENDCo, City of London Academy (Southwark), gave a fascinating and relevant presentation on Trauma Awareness (Taster Session). This was extremely relevant to all in the room with the impact of Post Covid on our most vulnerable children and young people.

Sarah Hopp, Head of Additional Learning Support, and Ross Thomas, Saint Francis Xavier Sixth Form College, presented their innovative SEMH curriculum which they have been developing and has proved to be very successful in helping students to develop communication skills and generalisation of skills learnt in SALT sessions. They won an award from the Association of Colleges (AoC) for this work.

All presentations and extra resources were sent out after the event.

The next meeting is on Thursday 9 December, 3.30pm to 5pm, and it will be held at the City of London School.

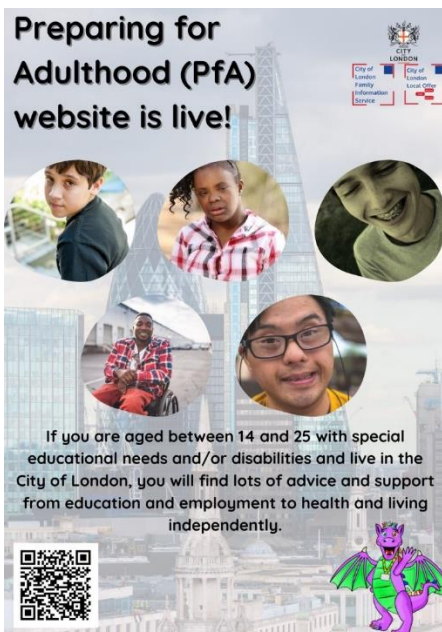
We are delighted to be in the City of London School for this session. It's great to see practice and the educational environment! Here is an outline of the agenda:

- Simone De Juan (Prior Weston School) presentation on the work of her school as a 'Trauma Informed School'. This will be a great follow on from our last session by Vicky with lots of practical ideas that we can learn from.
- Sarah Hopp and I have been discussing the ways in which we can get more effective accredited routes for teaching assistants and she will give us a presentation on her ideas and ways forward for discussion by the group.
- Martha Hillier and Jacqueline Wye from the City Parent Carer Forum will highlight some of their ideas in getting greater support for parents and some of the training ideas and events that they have planned.
- We will have a discussion on the Transition between primary and secondary checklist for parents and would welcome your comments on this.

I will lead a whole school discussion on Whole School SEND issues and practical tips to 'Make it Happen.' I will include some useful information on 'Deep Dives' with a template that you can use in school. Also, I want to pursue the opportunity of some peer to peer work so that we can share our specialisms and ideas more freely.

If you would like to bring agenda items to the meeting please let me know. It will be available remotely and the school have an excellent IT team on hand and will send out the link to the meeting prior to the event.

If you can it would be good to see you in person!



City of London's Education and Early Years Team updates

Preparing for Adulthood (Transitions)

Sarah Moore, City SEND Case Worker, is leading a multi-disciplinary task and finish group, which includes parents, on Transition. The group is developing, based on best practice nationally, a detailed booklet for parents and professionals on the process of transition 0-25 with helpful tips, hints and resources for parents to help them through this process. This document should be ready in the Spring Term for all to use.

Additionally, Sarah has developed a useful checklist for parents to help them through the primary/secondary transition process with useful questions to ask schools.

SENCO's will find this helpful during the transition process so that parental concerns can be alleviated. You can view the checklist on the [City's Local Offer](#).

If you would like to provide feedback about the checklist, please contact Sarah with your comments.

Afghan Refugee Family Settlement Programme

The City of London is currently supporting the Afghan refugee families, there are 210 school aged children that are now attending school and early years settings. We are continuing to support the families and have been working with Winchmore Tutors in supporting children, initially in a Learning Centre and then supporting the transition into school. There will be a tutor attached to the school if you need to contact them. It is likely that many families will be moved elsewhere in the country at some point in the coming months. If you have a concern about a child's needs please go through the Graduated Approach usual process and then to the SEND Panel.



COLTALE Conference 2021

On Saturday 23 October the Education and Early Years' Team held their annual Early Years event. The event was called the 'COLTALE Conference 2021'. Why? Because COLTALE (City of London Talks and Listens Enthusiastically) aims to support all children to develop their speech, language and communication skills, and further develop close partnerships between

parents and early years practitioners/teachers.

Approximately 40 early years practitioners, advisors, providers and SENCOs gathered at the Guildhall to hear inspiring speakers from OFSTED, early years professionals and authors talk about the importance of communication in children aged 0 to 5; including the impact of the pandemic on under 5s.

We've developed many resources about the programme. Watch this video and search #ColtalesTopTips online. If you would like to know more about the Coltale Programme, or can share COLTALE with families you work with, get in touch with

Ofsted visit? Here's what you need to know as a SENDCo



Colleagues who work in schools who have recently been inspected by Ofsted have given us these top tips!

- Know your school
- Back up development areas with evidence of why
- Use a variety of case studies as examples
- Make sure all staff know how to match books (and previous books) to levels
- Use RWI
- Phonics sounds to be found in the environment
- Be ready for any foundation subject to be the focus of a Deep Dive
- Get subject Leads to Practice Conversations
- All staff and Governors must know vision, values and intent
- Link personal development and safeguarding into assemblies to reach wider audiences
- Be specific with all that you do so it links in with vision and intent.

Suggested areas of focus for Ofsted inspections

- Focus on the SENDC being able to talk about the RSE/PHSE/safeguarding curriculum (based on Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2021) and how children and young people with SEND can access this aspect of the curriculum. Particular focus on Peer to Peer abuse and risk of sexual harm/harassment, gaming, off rolling, bullying, crime, behaviour, attendance and mobility.
- How does the school elicit the voice of the children and young people with SEND?
- Data around SEND/EAL – different cohorts outcomes and progress. How are the lowest 20% achieving and what strategies have been put in place and their impact? Base line assessment on entry – evidence? How are we narrowing the huge gaps as a leftover from the lockdowns despite the virtual learning offer?
- Focus on Deep Dives of the core curriculum, reading, literacy, phonics and sequencing and progression in the curriculum.

- How the budget is used to purchase SALT,OT, Dyslexia training etc.? What is the support/challenge look like from the LA, CAMHS etc.?
- Staff well-being and workload of staff with strategies in place...effective not effective?

We hope you find these tips and areas of focus useful to your school and in your role as a SENDCo!



Funding for SEND sports at Golden Lane Leisure Centre

Working in Partnership, Fusion Lifestyle and The City of London, City Parent Carer Forum have successfully secured funding to provide free sports and leisure provision for SEND children, parents and carers in the City of London and surrounding boroughs until March 2022.

Activities on offer at Golden Lane Sports Centre, in the heart of the Barbican Estate, will be dedicated SEND swimming lessons, SEND football for ages 7-12 and SEND teen gym for ages 15-25.

The swimming lessons will take place in the 20m pool at the centre led by Fusion's specialist swim coaches. The funding will allow these lessons to be offered to SEND children at no cost

and at a reduced ratio of maximum 1:3 in each lesson to help facilitate learning.

The centre team is working in partnership with London's Exceptional Warriors to provide the football classes and teen gym sessions.

Hannah Bennett, the Sports Development Manager for Fusion Lifestyle in the City of London commented:

"We are so excited to be working with City Parent Carer Forum starting this SEND Sports Project. It's a fantastic and worthwhile project that aims to engage the children with SEND in the City and provide some 'Me Time' for the parents and carers.

We aim to engage as many children with SEND as possible, to help them feel healthier and fitter, and to gain confidence to participate in a wider range of activities for the future."

Fusion understands how important it is for parents and carers to be more connected to their community and will be providing wellbeing classes and support sessions. These sessions will aim to help carers feel empowered by having the opportunity to make choices and have control of both their wellbeing and fitness and that of the children they care for.

For more information about the scheme please contact SCD-CoL@fusion-lifestyle.com.

About Fusion Lifestyle

- Established in 2000, Fusion Lifestyle is a registered charity created to promote the benefits of healthy lifestyles and encourage participation in sport and physical activity
- Fusion works in partnership with local authorities and other public sector organisations, to deliver choice and value for customers, helping them to live healthier and more active lives.

About City Parent Carer Forum

- We are a group of parents and carers who have children of various ages and needs who live, work or have children at schools in or around the city. As a group we work in partnership with the Local Authority and NHS to ensure that parent's views influence decisions that are made about all our families. To hear more about the forum or to join us call: 07840 570311.

City Parent and Carer Forum | About the forum



CITY PARENT CARER FORUM

Every local authority in England has a Parent Carer Forum and the City of London is no exception. The City Parent Carer Forum (CPCF) provides support and advocacy for families who have children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They are committed to giving families in the Square Mile a voice via a range of activities and consultations and you may have been involved in some of these.

The City have a Parent Carer Forum is currently being coordinated by Jacqueline Wye from 'Contact.' The group meets on a regular basis and members do contribute and co-produce City of London policies/strategies such as the SEND Strategy, the Carers Strategy and other developments that support children and their families. The CPCF, Contact, SENDIASS and the City (Anne Hayward) meet on a monthly basis to share issues, needs of families, training and events and just share what is going on.

Get involved

Martha Hillier is an active member of the CPCF and would like to offer schools/groups of school coffee morning for parents who have children with additional needs. She is particularly interested in contacting those parents from the City who have children on SEND Support as they can 'get lost' in the system. If you would like to take up the offer from Martha please contact her on marthabarbican@gmail.com. We are sure SENDCO's would find this a really useful exercise for all.

City of London SEND Art Competition - Your Chance to Shine!

Who can enter?

The competition is open to any child or young person (aged 3 to 25) with SEND who lives in the City of London or Tower Hamlets or attends a school or setting in the City of London (Square

Mile) or a City of London Academy. We are extending the competition this year to parents and carers so now's the time to show off your artistic skills.

In order to be eligible, children and young people must:..

- have a special educational need or disability that has been identified by their setting, school or college as requiring SEN Support, or..
- have a current Education, Health and Care Plan...
- Adults must be the parent or carer of a SEND child or young person.

Parents/Carers should contact [Jacqueline Wye](#) for more information and to submit entries.



Upcoming events, activities and consultations

Health and Fitness Consultation

The City of London Corporation are reviewing a range of services they commission to support the health and fitness of the resident, student and worker populations, including the management of Golden Lane Leisure Centre.

Please share the below messages with your contacts:

'If you are aged 18 or over and are a resident or worker in the City of London, you can help us design the health and fitness services that we commission, from 2023 onwards, by [completing a quick 13-minute survey](#).'

'If you are aged 17 or under and are a resident or student in the City of London, you can help us decide how to design our health and fitness services in the Square Mile by completing [this five-minute survey](#).'

If you have any questions or would like to talk about any of the details in the survey, please [visit our Keeping Active web page](#) or [email the Commissioning Team](#).

Squish Space at the Barbican

Squish Space, our sensory play sessions for families, is now online as a Facebook Group to keep you inspired with fun, creative activities for you to enjoy at home.

In this group you will find resources to get you exploring and playing as a family using things you have around the house. You can let us know how you're joining in – and share any other tips and activities with the group.

There is no cost to the [join the Facebook group](#).

Squish Space is produced by artists India Harvey and Lisa Marie Bengtsson in collaboration with Barbican Creative Learning.

Please like share and join families at the [Barbican Centre](#).



Newsletters from other organisations

The **Whole School SEND Member Community newsletter** is designed to give you monthly updates on the work of Whole School SEND, showcase new resources available both from WSS and externally, provide updates from the Department for Education, and opportunities to get involved and contribute to our work.

[Click here for more information.](#)

This month's newsletter with an open letter from the newly appointed Minister for Children and Families, Will Quince, to parents and carers of

children and young people with SEND, their families and those who support them.

The National Children's Bureau newsletter, **Making Ourselves Heard!**, is out now. [Click here to view the newsletter](#) or visit the [NCB website](#).

Partnership for Young London's weekly policy update is a collection of policy news, opportunities, and an update on events and work in London's youth sector. [Sign up using this link.](#)

Partnership for Young London believes in a future where every young person's right to wellbeing is recognised and fulfilled. With young people making up a quarter of London's population, we have to respect that they are crucial to its future.



Contact us

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W: www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/send-local-offer