

Solihull SEND Newsletter

July 2024

#SENDSpotlight

61 children and young people from Solihull's primary, secondary and special schools came together for a Let's Talk SEND event to talk about their lives and experiences and help services make improvements needed. One parent reported they could see their child had "increased in confidence" knowing that their "voice had been heard"

Local Offer Accessibility

Did you know you could change how the [Local Offer](#) looks to suit you by clicking on the Accessibility tools and translation button?



You can:

- Use the play button to click on text and have it read to you



- Change the language used



- Change the colour and size of the text used



- Or even use the ruler to help guide your reading



If you know of others who would benefit from this please let them know - and help us to make sure everyone gets the information they need.

SEND Community Event

Many of you will remember the event back in March where many parent carers and services came together to talk about what was going well and the changes needed in Solihull. SPCV very helpfully provided a summary report following this event which they published.

We are now pleased to be able to share the local SEND partnerships response to this report (which can be found on the [You said, we did](#) pages of the SEND Engagement Hub) which outlines work already underway and new ideas to be taken forward.

Additional Needs Strategy

A reminder for parent carers and children and young people to let us know what you think about extending the current [Additional Needs Strategy](#) for another year. Please share your thoughts on our short survey [Additional Needs Strategy - Consultation with Parents, Carers and young people](#) – and encourage others to do so.

Successful School Transitions

Solihull school leaders have updated the [Transition Guidance for schools and parents for 2024](#). This covers how to support a successful transition between year groups, key stages and schools. There will be a wider revision of this document for 2025 which will include the voice of children, young people and parents.

We are also planning a co-production workshop for parents and children who are currently EHE children with EHCPs on Friday 26th June from 12:20 – 2:30 . Families will receive an invitation to this event.

Educational Psychology Service

As well as finishing our work with schools this term, we are busily planning for the new academic year and have sent out our service offer to all local schools so that they can place their orders for 24-25. If your school has not received this for any reason, please email

edpsych@solihull.gov.uk

In terms of statutory work, as we near the Summer break and staff begin to take their family holidays, we are beginning to see a small waiting list grow for statutory assessments. This is usual for this time of year and although it means we will miss some of our internal deadlines, the twenty week deadline will not be affected because timings will be adjusted to take the summer break into account. The situation should then naturally resolve itself once our new staff start in September.

Wishing everyone a lovely Summer and let's hope the sunshine puts in more of an appearance!

Family Information Service - Summer Activities 2024

There are a wide variety of activities and events taking place in Solihull and its neighbouring boroughs to keep families entertained over the summer break. Please visit our [Summer Activities pages](#) for more information on camps, clubs, activities, events, HAF, childcare and days out. This website will be added to over the summer holiday so please do check regularly for new opportunities.

The Family Information Service is available over the summer so if you require information or advice relating to childcare, activities or support services, early education funded places (including the new childcare expansion scheme for working families) or free school meals, please visit www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo for further details or contact the Family Information Service helpline on 0800 389 8667 or email familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

CYP Annual Health Checks Uptake

- NHSE reported that **75.8%** of all eligible people in Solihull aged 14 years and above received their Learning Disability Annual Health Check (LD AHC) in 2023-24. This was a fall from 2022-23 of 5%.

- **59%** of eligible 14 – 17-year-olds in Solihull received their LD AHC in 2023-24. This was a fall from 2022-23 and represents 10 less annual health checks completed.
 - Commissioners and GP Practices will be working together to understand why performance decreased this year and to address any issues found.
 - LDA Commissioners are working with experts by experience to co-produce an animation to encourage young people to have an Annual Health Check, and a video to provide parents and carers with more information about Annual Health Checks. These should be available in the next few months.
 - If you have an eligible child or young person with a diagnosed Learning Disability who has not yet had their Annual Health Check then please contact your GP surgery to request one.
 - Helpful resources around LD AHCs for people with a Learning Disability, their families and professionals can be found on the ICBs [Learning Disability AHC resource page](#).
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News from the Early Years Team

Local Government Association report recommendations for Early Years - action taken

The LGA completed a mini peer review for the early years services in Solihull. Listed below are some of the recommendations and the work done so far to support these areas.

Consider the terminology of “school readiness”. – in May a collection of Solihull health and education advisers came together to answer questions raised by school reception teachers.

Solihull Super Starts - Reception focused upon sharing our [Solihull co-produced school readiness definition](#) and highlighting the support available during reception. It was recorded to access after the live event. Our thanks to all those that attended the morning; to speak during the presentations or to answer live questions. We hope that those who attended, or watch the recording, will feed back to us through our survey. The information [shared can be found here](#). We hope to create a readiness video soon.

Help families to negotiate online support - SPCV leaflets for every child in Reception. As part of the reception event, with the help of Solihull Parent Carer Voice, we pulled together some key websites and information that parents said they would like to know ahead of starting Reception. There are a wide variety of website with useful information for the parents of early years children.

We had recommended some to try first including the new Solihull [Family Hubs website](#) and [Start for Life](#).

Continue the positive messaging - request from Reception staff was advice about supporting self-care. Castle Bromwich Infant and Nursery School, a large Infant school in Solihull, helped [share their successful approach through a case study](#).

Continue the conversations with families to further understand need, (especially families where a child has SEND) – The Early Years Team are working with Family Hubs to enable families who are working with Early Years Inclusion Support Practitioners, and are not yet accessing any groups, to come together in the Hubs. We hope this new opportunity helps families to find a safe place to come together to support children's play and interaction and to give families the opportunity to participate in out-of-home experiences...see below

Build on and further develop the excellent data analysis- 2 recent findings from data analysis have given us confirmation that, in early years, we are supporting early identification and inclusion. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 with an EHCP were tracked back to see if they had accessed early education. Except for a small number of children who had engaged with the Solihull SEND support services (identified through Health Visitors and referred for support) but who had not chosen to attend a setting, all children accessed an early education place. We also sampled children working with Area SENCo's in settings to see if they were accessing their early years entitlement. 92% were taking up their full-early education entitlement in a Solihull setting. Continued analysis will help us see how well we are supporting early years children in Solihull and target support where it is needed.

[International Day of Play](#) was on 11th June- Play makes the world a better place.

It's not just fun – it's fundamental to your child's development.

Have a go at engaging in some of the ideas on the [BBC Tiny Happy People website](#)

Family Hub - Early Years Team play meet-up

This month was our first play event at Elmwood Children Centre. Families that we work with sometimes feel nervous about attending stay-and-play sessions. Children that we support in their home joined us in the Hub and it was lovely to see the families relaxing and sharing experiences together. Jane and Kelly from the team were on hand to join in the fun. Parents said they felt safe and more comfortable knowing that their children's unique play choices were recognised and supported. It is great to see the Family Hub sensory play spaces put to such good use. Family Hubs are a key part of our action being taken linked to the LGA review around supporting parents and parent confidence.

Dingley's Promise Training

Don't forget to register and log on to complete the [Dingley's training](#) you may have started. Training won't be registered as completed unless you have finalised training and completed a simple check. The project code to register is Comic Relief.

There is also a series of shorter videos available to all settings through the [Childcare Works Hub](#).

[Enjoy your summer activities](#)

How does a Supported Internship work?

Designed for young people aged 16-24 with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP), Supported Internships are 1-year structured study programmes to help them gain essential skills for work through workplace experience and training. On site job coaching will be offered to the intern.

Nathan has just completed his placement with a team in Solihull Council and shared his experience on [this webpage](#). The Employment and Skills Team is working with him to start the next chapter of his career. The next cohort will start in September. Find out more about the scheme from [this webpage](#) and register your interest.

Solihull Parent Carer Voice and Our Voices Heard

Solihull Parent Carer Voice and Our Voices Heard currently have two surveys live: The results from this both of these surveys feed reports which will go to the Children's Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board and to local authority, health and social care.

[link to the survey for PARENT CARERS](#)

[This is the link to the survey for CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE](#)

It is important we hear the separate views of children and young people and of adults!

Our Healthy Parent Carer Course, which is all about supporting parent carers with their own emotional wellbeing, is running again from September, to book or for further information, please contact us at enquiries@spcv.org.uk

Our Voices Heard

Many of you will know Damian King who has been leading Our Voices Heard since it started. After 3 years of dedication to developing this fantastic forum for our children and young people with SEND, he has decided to step down. OVH has moved from strength to strength over the years and have supported many children and young people to share their thoughts and feelings so we can all work with them to improve their experiences.

Kelly Talbot will be continuing to support this forum and a recruitment is underway. If you would like to contact OVH please use their generic email address ourvoicesheardsolihull@outlook.com



UNBOUNDED THEATRE

DRAMA | GAMES | CONNECTION



We are looking for **young people with disabilities** aged **11-19** to be part of our **weekly evening drama workshops**. We will be using physical non-verbal drama activities to unlock our creativity, confidence and fun!

Date: Every Tuesday, 4.30PM - 6.30PM

Location: The Core Theatre, Solihull, B91 3RG

Price: £3 per session (weekly)

For more information or to book, please contact:

lynnebarton@entrustcarepartnership.org.uk

This service is funded by the Short Breaks Grant Scheme.

COST OF LIVING HUB

Support for
those with
disabilities
struggling with
the costs of
living

OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

- BASIC FOOD
- WARM HATS
- GLOVES, SCARVES, BLANKETS
- TOILETRIES, SANITARY GOODS
- AND SOME BASIC INTERVIEW CLOTHES



Contact Us

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If you think other people you know would be interested in this newsletter please encourage them to [sign up on the Council website here.](#)

If you have any feedback on the newsletter, or suggestions for future items please email and let us know: jand@solihull.gov.uk

Charlotte Jones

Head of Strategy - SEND & Additional Needs

