



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021

UPDATE FROM THIS TERM

Inspection

OFSTED & CQC are back in action completing reviews of SEND provision in each local authority. A new framework has been announced but Bucks is still to be inspected under the existing framework. It must be done by Summer 2022. So, a series of preparation focus groups have been organised and we have represented you in each one to keep focus on the areas where families want to see improvement. The Steering Group and the Service Area Leads will form the parent group for the Inspection but there will be an online survey of all parents.

Education Strategy

The overarching strategy for Education in Bucks is to be updated. The initial step in the process was a request for partner organisations to offer their reflections on the current strategy and to offer a RAG rating on it. We made a response in areas where we could be SEND specific.

Co-Production Charter

The formal Charter committing the Local Area, especially the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group to regard co-production as the normal mode of operation for all matters relating to SEND which we drafted and promoted, has now been signed. It will be formally launched in November alongside an online Pledge by which individuals and organisations can indicate their commitment to the same.

Designated Clinical Officer

This is a key role which links the health sphere to SEND and has been instrumental in recent years in increasing health engagement in all matter relating to SEND as well as increasing awareness among health providers of their responsibilities. A vacancy arose in the summer and we were part of the process to recruit Caroline Hart.

Shout for SEND/Preparing for Adulthood

50 young people from across the County participated in this key event and FACT worked alongside the Council lead for Preparing for Adulthood to deliver a session for parents and carers on this key topic. To date, there has been too little emphasis placed upon Preparation for Adulthood and yet it is vital for all young people to have support and focus on areas like employment, housing and community engagement, as well as health and education. Our efforts ensured that the SEND strategy is based on the four pillars of Preparing for Adulthood; and we are working hard to ensure that the substantial changes that are needed continue.

Webinar on SEND Support

The second in our series of support webinars was delivered by our colleagues in SENDIASS during October about SEN Support. If you were not able to attend at the time, it is available to watch

<https://youtu.be/3hVdNJFtpjl>

Sufficiency of School & College Places

A report on the consultation on Sufficiency of Place has been published.

<https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/send-and-inclusion/sufficiency-for-send/>

We are involved in the drafting of the substantive plan to increase places. We are very aware that the lack of specialist school places and places with specialist provision within mainstream schools is a major cause of concern for parents.

NEW AREAS OF WORK

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis

This is a building block for all commissioning of services and capital resources. Unfortunately, our previous attempts to work with partners to make it fit for purpose have not been adopted. However, it has recently been accepted by the SEND Improvement Group that this is a priority for updating and we will provide as much assistance as we can to deliver an improvement.

Community Equipment

This is a very substantial commissioned service that impacts children, young people and adults as it covers all equipment provided to assist users like wheelchairs, nappies and frames. A new contract is to be awarded that will include a requirement for the provider to engage with users in developing the service and we will be representing families in this work.

Increasing Parent Participation

There is a need to increase our numbers of active parent representatives and to achieve more regular two-way communication with parents via all mediums. To deliver this, we are seeking an individual with the ability to commit up to 28 hours a month to this task for which an allowance for time spent at £12 per hour is available. Details will be placed on the website shortly. Expressions of interest to chair@factbucks.org.uk

Education Select Committee

The Chair attended this Committee at its meeting on **11th November** in relation to the SEND Improvement Plan and the Sufficiency Strategy.

THINGS PLANNED

Annual Meeting

This will take place via Zoom on **Monday 22nd November** starting at 10am. Your chance to hear about the work and plans for FACT. Also, Hero Slinn (Head of iSEND for Bucks) will join us to talk and answer questions about the service.

<https://www.factbucks.org.uk/latest-news/agm-20th-october-2021/>

Consultation on Specialist Teaching

A consultation on Specialist Teaching was launched on **8th November**. We were asked to ensure that the document is accessible for parents and carers, although we have not been involved in the development of the proposal contained in the consultation. However, as with Sufficiency we will be working to ensure that comments made during the consultation do influence any final proposals.

<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/schools/specialist-teaching-2021/>

Consultation on 16-25 SEND Transport

Whilst there has been little substantive change to the SEND post 16 Transport offer, we will keep a watch on the outcome of the consultation.

<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/integrated-transport/post16/>

Parent Dialogue Groups

This term's Groups (which work with the service providers to consider ways to improve service delivery) will be held on:-

Wednesday 1st December at 9.30am for Integrated Therapies (SaLT, OT & Physio) and

Friday 3rd December at 12noon for CAMHS.

These will be virtual and login details will be circulated in due course. If you would like to know more please email

admin@factbucks.org.uk

Webinar on *Making Your Voice Heard*

The next support webinar delivered by SENDIAS will be on **Tuesday 7th December** at 10.30am.

We will also be representing you at:-

SEND Improvement Group; Impact Groups for Preparing for Adulthood, Voluntary Sector; Local Offer, Statutory Ops, Quality Assurance, Commissioning, SEN Support, & ASC/SEMH; SEN Inspection Prep Groups; Health Passports; Adult Service Users; and Autism Partnership

VIEWS NEEDED

SEND Support Toolkit

A working party is currently developing a toolkit for parents whose children or young people receive SEN support in school. We need some volunteers to test the Toolkit as it develops. We have shopping vouchers to offer for time spent. If you could help email andrew@factbucks.org.uk

Early Help

A revised Early Help strategy (to make sure that children, young people and their families get the support they need, when they need it, to deal with any problems they may be facing before they get worse) is currently out for consultation. All parents are encouraged to read the proposal and offer their comments <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/schools/early-help-2021/>