

SEND Weekly Newsletter 5 September 2018



Issue 7

New SEND Inclusion Audit for schools - Training and Support are available now!

Schools should be aware from recent presentations at SASH, SAPHTO and SEN.se briefings about embedding the Children and Families Act for pupils with SEND and their families.

Following requests for helpful tools a Somerset Inclusion Audit has been developed based on similar audits used by schools in other local areas. It is a simple self-evaluation tool which will support Headteachers, Governors and SENCOs.

It isn't a statutory audit but will help evidence how your school is meeting statutory duties for children and young people with SEND.

As this is the first year this tool is available, training opportunities have been planned during the autumn term for Headteachers, SENCOs and SEND Governors.



NEW SEND Duty Desk

The SEND Casework Team are operating a new duty system which went live on Monday 3rd September. Anyone who has a general query or needs some advice can now call **01823 359720** from 8:30am - 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30am - 4:30pm on Fridays.

For existing cases this will be a messaging service and the allocated Caseworker will return the call within 3 to 5 working days.

Please feel free to share this information and the number with your contacts.





Somerset Children and Young People's Plan lift-off!

As we move into the final year of the current [CYPP](#) we are now looking beyond 2019 towards creating a **new, innovative vision** for the next plan.

During May and early August we held two events where around 50 young people from all over Somerset came together alongside our partnership leaders and decision makers. The aim of the events was to focus on what priorities should be built into the next CYPP for 2019 to 2022.

Both young people and adults alike participated in a treasure hunt, arty mural making, a cotton bud debate and even modelling on a 'cat walk'! Health and education were ranked by young people as their top priorities and were

considered in more detail to create [wider consultation session plans](#). Check out our film of all the fun [here](#).

“The young people were fully engaged and entered into the activities with spirit and enthusiasm. It was entirely productive and completely uplifting. I felt privileged to be part of it.” *Vicky Hayter, SCC Strategic Manager*

There's a final event planned for young people aged 8 to 18 (25 with **SEND**) on **Wednesday 31st October** so if you are a service, school, charity or youth group and have up to 3 young people interested in attending please **email SomersetChildrensTrust@somerset.gov.uk**

New team members

A warm welcome to Jenny Pearce Riddy, the new Principal Educational Psychologist for Somerset and North Somerset and SEND Consultant Lisa Savage who have joined the team.

Jenny will lead the Educational Psychology Service, helping to improve the lives of children, young people and their families.

She has held the role at two other large authorities leading a number of teams including Educational Psychology, specialist teaching, SEND and parenting teams, as well as working on SEND Improvement strategies.

Lisa has 30 years' experience in SEND and Inclusion. She has been a SEND Consultant for four years and supported two Local Authorities within the South West.

She initially joined in the role of Interim SEND Casework Manager about five weeks ago and her team has been finding ways to improve the way it works which should become evident in the coming weeks. Both are looking forward to meeting you in the coming months.

Consultation dates

Parent carers have been contacted recently regarding the Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment or Physical Impairment and Medical Support services. We'd really like you to have a say on the design of these services so please [contact Gayle Smith](#) to book a place on one of these meetings:

- Wed 12/9 – Westlands, Yeovil
- Thurs 13/9 – Minehead Social Club
- Thurs 20/9 – Junction 24, Bridgwater
- Fri 21/9 – The Wyvem Club, Taunton
- Fri 05/10 – Draycott Memorial Hall, Cheddar

