

Safeguarding children and young people with SEND

Did you know that children and young people with SEND are three times more likely to suffer abuse than children who don't have special educational needs and disabilities? The Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board has developed an awareness-raising poster which can be downloaded at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Safeguarding/NSCBvulnerableposter.pdf>. In addition, a short presentation is available which can be used with professionals to supplement their safeguarding knowledge. This can be accessed by emailing the NSCB manager, robin.harper-coulson@northumberland.gov.uk.

SENCO conference

More than 120 SEN co-ordinators from nurseries, first, primary, middle and high schools attended a one day conference hosted by Northumberland Education Service on 1st November at Woodhorn Colliery Museum. The focus of the day was social, emotional and mental health needs and featured international behaviour consultant, Fintan O'Regan. Other workshops and sessions focused on helping SENCOs to prepare for Ofsted inspection, how to safeguard disabled children and an opportunity for SENCOs to hear more about some of the services on offer to support children and young people. The event was well-received and evaluated by attendees.

Preparation for Adulthood – workstream update

Our local area self-evaluation identified the issue that we aren't doing well enough with some aspects of preparing children and young people with SEND for adulthood. In particular, some of our young people at SEN support level are not achieving well at post-16 and the proportion of adults with learning difficulties/disabilities in paid employment, although improving, is not good enough yet. The SEND strategic board have commissioned a working group to explore this issue. Dave Cookson, our Commissioner for Secondary Schools, is chairing the group and it involves professionals from our Adult Learning Service, the Employability and IAG (information, advice and guidance) team and the Disabled Children's Team. If you are interested in getting involved, please just email Dave on dave.cookson@northumberland.gov.uk

Specific Learning Difficulties including dyslexia – workstream update

We have had a very positive reception from schools and families to the new materials which have been developed to support schools with the identification of specific literacy difficulties/dyslexia. These were issued to schools at the end of September and around 80 schools attended training with our specialist literacy team in October. If you missed out on the training or would like to have a look at the materials, they can be accessed at: <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/spld/>.

Pathways on a Page

We have developed a simple one page document which outlines how health and care professionals can advise parents/carers if they have concerns about the education their child with SEND is receiving. The 'Pathways on a Page' document can be accessed by emailing our Designated Clinical Officer, Dr Paula Batsford pbatsford@nhs.net.

SENCO handbook

Northumberland's education SEND teams have developed a handbook for school SEN co-ordinators which can help schools to develop strategies to meet children's needs in school and which gives guidance on when schools should seek external support for children. All professionals working with children are welcome to access the handbook which can be found at <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Northumberland-SENCO-handbook-2016-17.pdf>

SEND roadshows

At the time of printing, our first SEND roadshow has taken place in Hexham. Involving dozens of professionals from education, health and social care, along with charities and voluntary organisations, the event provided an opportunity for families to meet the services on offer to them in Northumberland. Jointly delivered by the Northumberland Parent/Carer Forum and Northumberland County Council, families also had the chance to participate in seminars on key topics such as Social, Emotional and Mental Health. Two further events are scheduled at Alwick Willowburn Leisure Centre (10th November) and Ashington Leisure Centre (15th November). If you would like further information about the events, please contact Alison.bravey@northumberland.gov.uk or our parent/carer forum via elizi_elizi@hotmail.com.

How can you get involved? Make your views known!

If you have a SEND issue you're struggling to resolve, information that would help with commissioning decisions, an idea to improve our local area provision or would simply like more information, you can contact your representative on the SEND strategic group.

From mid-November, Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills, will be taking over the chair of the group and will be the local area nominated officer for SEND inspection matters.

Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills andy.johnson@northumberland.gov.uk

Representing	Name	Title/Role	Contact
Health professionals	Dr Paula Batsford	Designated Clinical Officer	pbatsford@nhs.net
Clinical commissioning (children)	Rachel Mitcheson	Head of commissioning (children)	r.mitcheson@nhs.net
Clinical commissioning (mental health)	Kate Brundle	Head of commissioning (mental health)	k.brundle@nhs.net
Clinical commissioning (public health)	Karen Hearne	Commissioner for public health/Public health service manager	Karen.Herne@northumberland.gov.uk
LA education service	Alan Carrick	SEND schools' commissioner	Alan.Carrick@northumberland.gov.uk
Mainstream schools	Andrew Day	Executive Director, Northumberland Church of England Academy	andrew.day@ncea.org.uk
Mainstream schools	Nichola Irving	Headteacher, Horton Grange Primary School	Nichola.irving@northumberland.gov.uk
Special schools	Michael Thompson	Headteacher, Hexham Priory School	Michael.Thompson@northumberland.gov.uk
Northumberland parent/carer forum	Elizabeth Johnston/ Jackie Simpson	Chair and Vice-chair, Northumberland Parent/Carer Forum: <i>In It Together</i>	elizi_elizi@hotmail.com
Social care (adult)	John Young	Head of Service Care Management	John.Young@northumberland.gov.uk
Social care (children)	Cath McEvoy	Service Director: Children's Services	cath.mcevoy@northumberland.gov.uk
Joint Commissioning	Lynn Bryden	Children's Commissioner	Lynn.bryden@northumberland.gov.uk