

Welcome to the February issue of the SENDMatters Monthly Update

Our SENDMatters Monthly Update is designed to give you that latest news and update from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms happening across Bromley right now.

We have captured updates from across the borough as well as highlighting the celebrations from the Bromley Parent Voice Awards held in January.

Be sure to look out for our new monthly features of 'Who's who in SEND?' and 'SEND Mythbusters'.

This redesigned SENDMatters format is designed for you to read online.

We hope you enjoy it!



Ade Adetosoye OBE

Interim Chief Executive
London Borough of Bromley

SCHOOL LEVEL SUPPORT

Nurture Group Network Meeting

Does your school currently have a Nurture Group provision in place or is interested in setting one up? If yes, we would welcome your input to the Nurture Group Network.

The vision for the group is to:

- support schools to develop and maintain quality Nurture Group provision
- encourage schools working together to support each other
- focus on and share broader issues around what good practice looks like
- ensure good outcomes for the children

The next Nurture Group Network meeting will be held on **Tuesday 5th March from 4pm at Southborough Primary School.**

To reserve your place at this meeting (and to express your interest in being part of the Nurture Group Steering committee) please email liz.lake@bromley.gov.uk.



IMPACT

Measuring Impact Survey

The Spring Term Measuring Impact Survey closing date is **29th March 2019**

To monitor the impact of our collective actions on the experiences of children and their families, we are collecting each term the views of young people, parents and professionals using a set of questions derived from the success criteria in the one year SEND action plan.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/sendreforms

The survey responses will be reported to the SEND Governance Board, which is leading the implementation of the SEND reforms, and will also be available on the local offer website, www.bromley.gov.uk/localoffer.

SPECIALIST SERVICE

The Specialist Advisory Team have an updated referral form

The Specialist Advisory Team consists of a team of qualified specialist teachers who support children and young people aged 0-25 years with SEN and disabilities (SEND) both in mainstream and specialist educational provisions.

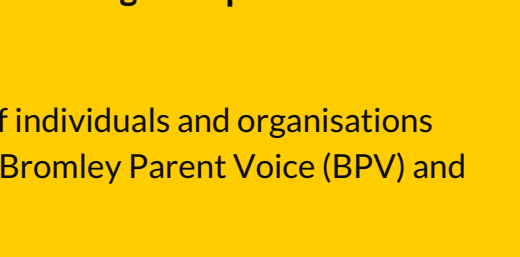
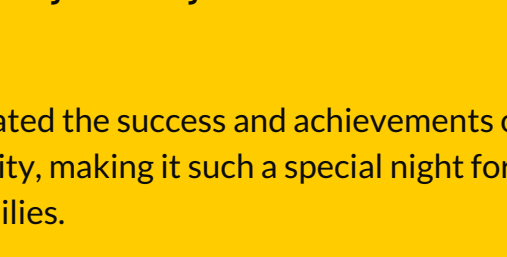
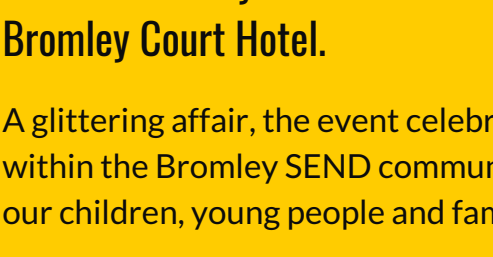
They are able to offer support, advice, training and intensive key working (when appropriate) mainly for children and young people who have an EHC Plan

When would it be appropriate for an education setting to make a referral to the Specialist Advisory Team?

- ✓ When the school or education setting can evidence that a child or young person with an EHC Plan is not making good progress towards their holistic outcomes on their Plan following a high level of support and intervention
- ✓ When a child or young person without an EHC Plan has a specific health need that may require advice, support or possibly extra funding to enable them to access school
- ✓ When the school have real concerns regarding attendance for a child or young person with an EHC Plan relating to the child's SEND
- ✓ When the school team struggle to manage the presenting behaviours of a child or young person with an EHC Plan and the child or young person may have difficulties engaging with learning/social interaction

Referrals can be made through the Education Setting using the updated form in the SEND and Inclusion Hub on Fronter and/or the local offer website, www.bromley.gov.uk/localoffer.

CELEBRATE



Bromley Parent Voice Awards

On 26th January 2019 the first ever Bromley Parent Voice Awards Evening took place at the Bromley Court Hotel.

A glittering affair, the event celebrated the success and achievements of individuals and organisations within the Bromley SEND community, making it such a special night for Bromley Parent Voice (BPV) and our children, young people and families.

You can see photos from the event on the BPV Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/bromleyparentvoice

For more information about BPV, please contact Pip Rastall, Operations Manager, by emailing Pip@bromleyparentvoice.org.uk.

SCHOOL LEVEL SUPPORT

BTA Schools Discussion Forum

The next meeting of the BTA Schools Discussion Forum will be held on **12th March from 1.30pm at BTA Midfield Campus.**

We are also hoping to hear from the Educational Psychology Service, and to share some work we have done with them using a different model from the more 'traditional' assessments and reports, and which we have found particularly helpful.

We should by now be able to draw some conclusions around what is needed to underpin an 'SEMH friendly' behaviour policy, so we will also be summarising and reflecting upon all that we have considered in our last few sessions.

You should come away from this session with a good idea about how you can review your own policy, or perhaps with a fresh appreciation of how great it is and why it works.

Liz Minas, Acting Head of Harris Primary Kent House, will be sharing some of the work they have done with our team's support, and she will also talk about the impact this has had.

This will be an excellent opportunity to explore whole school practices by looking at a specific case study.

For more information and/or to reserve your place, please contact:

Claire Muccio
Head of Service, SEMH Support for Schools
Bromley Trust Academy
claire.muccio@bromleytrustacademy.org.uk

BROMLEY TRUST ACADEMY

CELEBRATE

New Local Offer Film made by our young people for our young people

Nadal, a supported intern working in the Council, has been working on a project to make children and young people with SEND aware of the support that is available to them across Bromley.

Nadal found that some young people with SEND in Bromley had not heard of the Local Offer.

Working with the Children, Young Person and Parent SEND Lead, Nadal decided to make a film to raise awareness of the Local Offer and to explain its role.

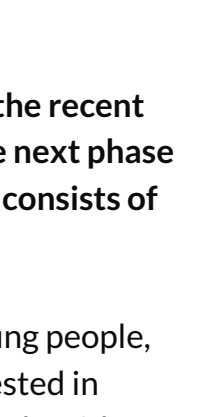
You can access the film by visiting:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjiukG2lrY

We would like to thank Nadal for all his hard work in making this film and the students at Bromley College who have taken part in this project.

Action for schools and settings:

- Please share this link with children and young people with SEND through student councils or forums, assemblies or social media channels.
- Please also add the link to your SEND Information reports.



ENGAGEMENT

Bromley SEND Autism Partnership Group Enquiry

Find out the dates of the next stage of the Enquiry - **Focus Groups**

With over 300 individuals taking part in the recent survey, which closed on 15 February, the next phase of the Bromley ASD partnership Enquiry consists of two focus groups.

These focus groups are for everyone - young people, families and practitioners - who are interested in driving change for children and young people with ASD in Bromley.

The sessions will be facilitated by an independent professional and will take place at Bromley Central Library on:

- **Monday 25th March from 7pm to 8:30pm**
- **Tuesday 2nd April from 10am to 11:30am**

To find out more and/or reserve your place please contact Liz Lake by emailing liz.lake@bromley.gov.uk.

SCHOOL LEVEL SUPPORT

SEN Statutory Assessment Team - changes to working practices

The SEN Service has been reviewing the way we work, through conversations with families, multi-agency professionals and partners.

As a result, we are making changes to the way we do things so that we always put children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families at the centre of everything we do. One of the changes we are making to reflect this commitment is the way we assign responsibilities within our SEN Statutory Assessment Team.

Until now, the co-ordination of the statutory assessment process for children and young people has been allocated to each team member according to the school a child or young person attends. Starting from 4th March 2019, we will start to allocate according to the surname of each child or young person.

This change will ensure children, young people and their families are at the centre of what we do because:

- There will be one consistent person working with child or young person and their family, throughout the statutory assessment and annual review processes. If there is more than one child or young person with an EHC Plan, the same EHCP Coordinator will work with the whole family
- There will be no change of EHCP Coordinator when a child or young person changes school or setting
- Families will only need to tell us their story once and the EHCP Coordinator will be able to work closely with them, guiding families through each stage of the process. They will be the families single point of contact as the child/young person transitions to different educational settings and will work with the families if their needs change over time

We will be making these changes over the next few months and have planned carefully in order to reduce any disruption as much as possible. Any EHC Needs Assessment that is currently in process and any annual reviews already underway will remain with the current EHCP Coordinator. Once those assessments and reviews are completed, we will reallocate according to the child/young person's surname.

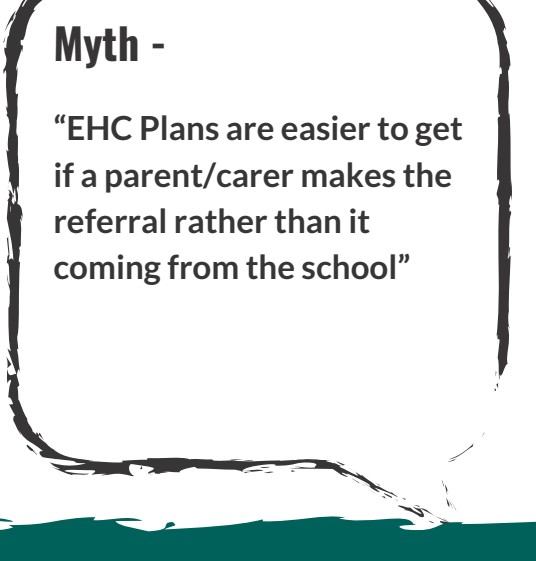
We will be writing to each school individually and also to families to outline the changes in more detail, including how the split of cases are being allocated across the SEN Statutory Assessment Team.

Who's who in SEND?

Did you know that in the SEND Code of Practice 2015, all Local Authorities must show evidence of engaging with Children, Young people and their families with SEND.

In her role:

- Kay is responsible for developing a system to effectively engage with children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families to shape support and services (The Local Offer).
- They work with colleagues across Bromley to ensure that they engage with families and young people when making plans for their children/them.
- Kay works with education settings and partners to develop guidance and training on the duties to engage with children, young people with SEND and their families when planning their support and developing a set of resources to support engagement
- Kay is also part of the SEND Regional Coordinator team which is responsible for the implementation of the SEND Reforms across the London Region.



Kay Moore

Role: Children, Young Person and Parent SEND Lead
Location: Phoenix Centre, Bromley
Email: Kay.Moore2@bromley.gov.uk

SEND Mythbuster

Myth -

"EHC Plans are easier to get if a parent/carer makes the referral rather than it coming from the school"

Fact -

Parents, young people, education settings and other professionals can all make a request for a statutory assessment on behalf of a child or young person - it is exactly the same process!

Once a Local Authority receives a request for a statutory assessment there is a max of 6 weeks within which evidence can be collated in order to make an informed decision. Best practice encourages a collaborative approach between parents and schools in the initial referral which will lead to a reduction in the time it takes to make a decision.