

Bromley SENDMatters:

25 January 2019

1. Nurture Group Network Meeting

Last Tuesday (15th January) saw the launch of the Bromley Nurture Group Network attended by over 35 professionals representing 18 schools within Bromley. The group consisted of schools who currently have a Nurture Group Provision in place and also those that are interested in setting one up.

The vision for the group is to support schools to develop and maintain quality Nurture Group Provision, to encourage schools working together to support each other, and also broader issues around what good practice looks like and ensuring good outcomes for the children. We would like to invite individuals to be part of a Nurture Group Steering Committee. The committee will initially be responsible for setting up the Terms of Reference for the Network and ongoing will play a role in how the network is developed including identifying topics for the next meetings. The Nurture Group Steering Committee meeting is set for Tuesday 26th February at 4pm at Harris Primary Academy Kent House.

The next Nurture Group Network meeting will be 4pm Tuesday 5th March 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.

2. SEND Training Collaborative – Launch of the SEND SLEs

The Teaching Schools in Bromley, working in collaboration with the local authority and schools with a SEND Specialism or provision, have designated and are currently training up a team of 8 SEND Specialist Leaders in Education from across Bromley schools.

They will be available to support reviews of SEND provision, provide school to school support with a focus on SEND and coordinate and deliver training for SENCOs, Teachers and Teaching Assistants.

This forms one part of a broader Bromley SEND Training Collaboration to meet the SEND training and development needs of Bromley Schools.

More information will follow when the SLEs are available for deployment and the collated training offer completed.

If you would like to find out more about the work of the SEND SLEs or would like more information on how to become an SEND SLE please contact Paul Foster by emailing PJF@hayes.bromley.sch.uk.

3. The Bromley SEND Autism Partnership Group Enquiry

The Department of Health will shortly be undertaking a review to 'drive improvements to the lives of children who have autism'.

This has already been flagged up by the Bromley SEND Governance Board as an area where improvement is required and in order to make local progress a partnership group has been set up to understand what changes might be needed across the local area.

The partnership group has agreed to use the Department of Health's 4 work strands to underpin their work.

The review will look at:

- Transforming outcomes for children and young people who have autism by ensuring they get the right support in their communities and joining up health, care and education services to address autistic children's needs holistically
- Ensuring that diagnostic services are developed to improve earlier diagnosis of autism in line with clinical guidance
- Improving the transition between children and adult services, which many families find difficult, so no young people fall through the cracks, and ending the inappropriate reliance on inpatient hospital care
- Improving our understanding of autism and all its profiles, including recently identified forms such as Pathological Demand Avoidance

The partnership will also be exploring what benefits (or perceived benefits) are brought by having a formal diagnosis.

To take part in the initial enquiry we are inviting all individuals to give their views in this 7 minute survey (closing date 15th February) - www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KBRXYSJ

The recommendations for our next steps will be published in the Summer Term. For more information regarding the Bromley ASD partnership Project please contact Hilary.Rogers@nhs.net.

4. Launch of SENDMattersBromley

This month sees the launch of the SENDMattersBromley webpage on the Local Offer. The aim of the page is to give up to date information on the changes that are happening within Bromley SEND Community.

5. Bromley Parent Voice Update

Are you interested in making a difference for families across Bromley with children and young people with SEND? Bromley Parent Voice (BPV) is looking for new people to join their team of trustees to help shape and improve services available for families across Bromley.

To find out more information please contact Pip Rastall on 07803 287838 or email info@bromleyparentvoice.org.uk.

6. Monthly features:

a) Who's who in SEND?

Who: Sarah Childs (sarah.childs2@nhs.net)

Role: Bromley's Designated Clinical Officer (DCO)

Location: Bromley CCG, Beckenham Beacon

Did you know that the Children and Families Act recommends that every local area has a Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) for SEND?

Here in Bromley we are one of only a few local areas who have employed a DCO full time.

In her role:

- Sarah attends the SEND Governance board and has a key role in making sure that the SEND reforms are implemented from a health perspective.
- Sarah also supports joint working between Bromley Council and our health partners across a range of different SEND projects and work streams.
- Since starting in Bromley Sarah has been working with us on the following areas:
 - Improving quality of EHC plans
 - Developing more robust decision making for EHC needs assessment requests
 - Implementing the EHC e-portal from a health perspective
 - Identifying pre-school children who may have an SEND

b) SEND Mythbuster

Myth: "Bromley don't issue EHC plans for children or young people in mainstream schools"

FACT: Nearly 1/3 of children and young people with a plan in Bromley are in a mainstream school.