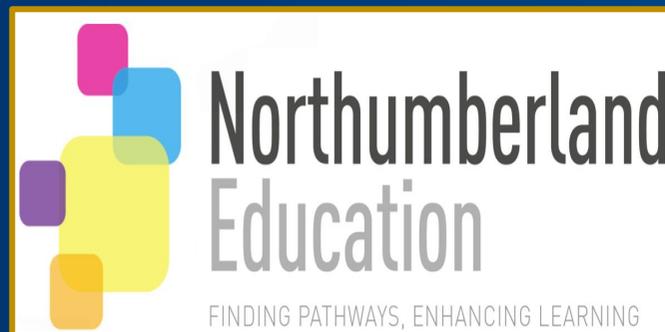




Northumberland  
County Council

# Autumn Term SIP Meeting SEND

Date: 10th September 2020



[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

# SEND Update – Pre COVID 19

- Continued focus from Education, Health and Care in working towards the outcomes as set in the Written Statement of Action
- Ongoing work towards the creation and implementation of a SEND outcomes framework
- New Northumberland SEND strategy created and ready for consultation
- Continued work with schools and settings on multi-agency working to reduce and avoid exclusions
- Continued work across all schools and settings to fully embed the use of a Graduated Approach to meeting SEND
- Ongoing work in terms of workforce development, both within NCC teams and services and with schools and settings
- Early Years implementation of the School Readiness passport and roll out to all First/Primary schools and EY settings to aid transition processes
- All age and multi-agency work on effective transitions to prepare a campaign for roll out in the summer term

# SEND Update – COVID 19

- Schools required to remain open for the children of Key Workers, Vulnerable children - those open to social care and children with EHC Plans.
- Government guidance for all children with an EHC plan to have a Risk Assessment
- Temporary suspension of deadlines/time scales for statutory processes
- Ongoing NCC support for schools with regard to SEND concerns/issues
- Continued endeavour to keep statutory processes on track
- From June - reinvigorate work on the WSOA, revisit and revise working groups and action plans
- School wider opening, support from SEND teams
- Support schools to plan for the return to school for those with SEND - support offers in place including new and temporary resources (Kooth, Pop-up Hub, etc)

# SEND – reminders for SIP Reports

- SEND is always a part of each SIP visit, no matter how big or small the cohort of SEND learners within the school
- During the LA SEND Inspection SIP reports were scrutinised for SEND content and will be again in the revisit which is likely to take place next Spring
- Reminder to include SEND information in every written report - keeping this thread going throughout the year. This encourages the school to actively involve the SENCo (if they are not the HT) in the SIP visit. It also focuses the Governors attention towards SEND if it forms part of each report they receive. Even if there are no issues or concerns regarding SEND, it is useful to have a line or two to provide an update
- Therefore embedding a thread of SEND at every level - from operational with Teaching Assistants and support staff, to evidence of regular discussion about SEND at Governor level (how regularly does the SEND Governor meet with the SENCo?) Pupil & Parent/Carer too
- Important to also ensure a focus on the Equalities agenda as expected in the inspection framework - can leaders say pupils have equal access to everything and produce evidence if asked by an inspector? Do the Equalities and Accessibility Plans and information reflect this?

# SEND – Autumn Term SIP Reports

## ● Autumn Term - key aspects of SEND to consider

- What was the situation regarding SEND pupils prior to lockdown? Was the cohort fairly settled with provision and plans in place at the correct level for each child on the SEN register?
- Following school closures, what measures were put into place to ensure any pupils on the SEN register were catered for according to ability and specific need with regards to homeschooling methods and resources?
- Were Risk Assessments all in place for EHCP pupils? Were these co-produced with parents/carers and appropriate professionals? How regularly were they updated?
- Part 3 of the report asks a specific question to school leaders - *‘How have leaders ensured reasonable endeavours have been made for pupils with EHCPs since March 2020?’* It is specifically asking how the school measured the risks of the provision in the EHC plan not being able to be implemented during school closure
- A recent SEND Survey for parents/carers relating to COVID has provided some results that may not be as hoped. In relation to this it would be useful to ask the following questions:
  - If a SEND learner did not access school during the closure, are you aware of the detailed reasons why?
  - Did you communicate with parents/carers to ascertain their thoughts and feelings about how successful homeschooling was for them?

# **SEND – Autumn Term SIP Reports**

- **Continued** - other things to consider
  - Are updated Risk Assessments for coming back to school and appropriate provision in place with expectation of full attendance?
  - Were those pupils with social communication needs and anxiety given advance notice of COVID related changes to systems, procedures and buildings?
  - Have reasonable adjustments been planned to ensure behaviour, uniform and attendance policies etc can be flexible in accordance with individual needs?
  - Are you aware of the support/resources available to schools, learners and families where they are having difficulties with emotional and mental health and well-being?

# **SEND – Additional information**

- The SEN Support Services are now operating under the name ‘Northumberland Inclusive Education Services’. They are providing the same services with the same referral processes. All information can be found here on the ecourier:  
<https://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/sen-support-to-schools/>
- Additionally there is a recognition that some of our more vulnerable and pupils and those with a more significant level of SEN may require a little extra support with their emotional health and well-being. The Educational Psychology team along with other professionals have put together a bank of resources to support with this. This includes information regarding a ‘pop-up hub’ which will be available on a temporary basis to support those who are having significant challenges with this regard. These resources can be found here: [https://padlet.com/nies1/return\\_to\\_school](https://padlet.com/nies1/return_to_school)
- Finally, NCC have commissioned online mental health support resources to increase the help available in our county. This includes KOOTH which is aimed at children and young people over the age of 11. It offers a frontline, confidential service, but has the ability to escalate into higher tiers of mental health services if the need arises. Within the same offer is QWELL which is soon to be introduced and will provide the same service to adults working in Northumberland schools