WIRRAL

Local Offer Wirral

NHS

snapshot

Wirral SEND Services

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

EDITION 8

PARENT/CARER EDITION
MAY 2021

Welcome to Edition 8

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all keeping well and able to do more now the restrictions are starting to ease.
Thanks for sending in such positive feedback on the SEND SNAPSHOT. Again, this edition has yet more contributors which is fantastic news! New contributors in this edition are Parent Carer Participation Wirral (PCPW) who are Wirral's SEND Parent Carer Forum and the Paediatric Cystic Fibrosis Team.

As usual the contributions are listed alphabetically for ease and you again have content from the local authority's SEND services, Social care, Health services and a range of third sector/advocacy organisations who continue to provide invaluable support to our SEND families.
I have been asked to provide an Index and to group associated services together, so we'll give it a try and see how you find it.

The latest edition of the NW SEND Regional Newsletter is again packed with loads of great information and well worth a read.
https://localofferwirral.org/nw-regional-send-newsletter-may-edition/

Since the last edition we have welcomed our new Asst. Director for Education James Backhouse. James joins us from Manchester City Council, where he was the Senior School Quality Assurance Officer and Strategic Lead for Early Years, overseeing LA maintained schools and early years settings in the city. James has a background in education having been a Science Teacher before becoming an Assistant Head, then Vice Principal.
Next week we say goodbye to our Head of Send & Inclusion Tarun Ghosh. Tarun has made the decision to retire and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

With half term in mind, Poppy has sourced details of inclusive activities taking place next week. I've added them at the end of the different services' updates. Lots to read, lots to support you….

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0-19 Health and Well-being Service - School Nursing

Wirral 0-19 is now in full reset and restore following the COVID pandemic and pleased to be seeing more and more families face to face in their own homes for assessments and support. We are using our centralised duty team for information coming into the service and then the right information is transferred to our nine neighbourhood teams, Wallasey A, B and C, West A and B, South A and B and Birkenhead A, B. We triage all referrals through the duty service and ensure that allocation is to the right team and with the right priority. We also support an advice line offering timely support for any questions with the contact number 0151 514 0219.

Our current themes for support are emotional health and well-being for our young people returning to normal routines and managing anxieties around the return. Another key theme has been offering support around sleep and the again the routines associated with this.

Our Chat health service is a new service offering support via text for children / young people aged 11-19. The contact number for this is 07480635538.

0-19 With you all the way

Visit our dedicated children and young people's section:
wchc.nhs.uk/children

ChatHealth:
New text messaging service for 11-19 year olds:
07480 635538

The ADHD paediatrician referrals pre-diagnostic pathways have had some delays to the normal expected waiting times, with a particular pressure around classroom observations and QB testing. We are offering additional timeslots with extended sessions in the evening and weekend to work through these. We understand the impact of any delays for children / young people and recognise that some additional support may be needed – if you are a parent/carer or have made a referral as a professional and feel that the impact for the child has increased or that the young person requires additional support please contact our duty teams for further advice.

BOOM! The Book – free book for children and families

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns are impacting all children. For vulnerable groups of children, who

already experience poorer health and well-being, these impacts are amplified. A desire to support children through this pandemic led to a not-for-profit collaboration between a public health doctor, a child psychiatrist, a children's writer, an illustrator and a graphic designer. To help with emotions, mental health and wellbeing during and post-lockdown, they developed a children's book to help make sense of this challenging time in all our lives. It's a beautifully illustrated story of a family whose emotions get them all tied up in knots – and how they manage to work through it together.

https://online.flippingbook.com/view/939871/

Parents' Toolkit: SEND BBC Bitesize

SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) resources, activities and support to help you and your family during lockdown.

www.bbc.co.uk

Contact: Lindsey Costello, Service Lead Wirral 0-19

E mail: lindseycostello@nhs.net

Adult Integrated Disability Service

The Adult Integrated Disability Services is made up of Social Workers, Learning Disability Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Psychologists. We provide support to our clients with complex learning disabilities and their families, while people with less complex learning disabilities are supported by the Wirral Community Trust.
During Covid-19 we have continued to provide support to our clients. We are undertaking some face to face visits with the use of PPE, but mostly now using phone calls, and virtual visits using MS Teams for example. Some services have also been impacted upon during the pandemic, as have the team members. This may be the case for some time. We are continuing to be as responsive as possible to clients and families. The whole team is working within government guidelines to ensure we are providing a safe service.

Contact: Jeremy Hunt
E mail: jeremy.hunt1@nhs.net
Phone: 0151 488 8091

CAMHS

Here in the CAMHS Learning Disability Team we're continuing to do everything we can to offer help to our families whose children present with challenging behaviours and mental health concerns.

We had to stop delivering our face to face Behaviour Workshops for the parents and carers of children and young people with learning disabilities. The Team has therefore developed a series of videos; they cover the areas that would have been discussed in the workshop, albeit in a more condensed format. We hope they help with an understanding of challenging behaviour, why it happens and what can help. The videos talk about becoming behaviour detectives for the individual child or young person, and then based on this understanding of the functions of the behaviour, developing helpful strategies and approaches. These videos are available our MYMind website https://www.mymind.org.uk/

You can get to the videos on this page - https://www.mymind.org.uk/about-mymind/parents-and-carers/training-for-parents/

BREAKING NEWS: the workshops will re-commence face to face this summer 😊

Community visits and outpatient appointments

During Covid these have taken place using phone calls, tele-conference and video conference. Through this type of appointment, the team have continuing to offer holistic and person centred support to the children and young people open to them. Parents and carers have reported a high level of satisfaction with the level of contact and support they have

received. We are now increasing our face to face appointments at our clinic and at home.

Crisis Support

Wirral CAMHS are part of the 24/7 Mental Health Crisis helpline is open to people of all ages who require urgent support and are residents of Cheshire West, Cheshire East and Wirral.

If a child or young person's mental or emotional state quickly gets worse or deteriorates, this can be called a 'mental health crisis'. In this situation, it is important to get help quickly.

Parents/carers and young people can call 0800 145 6485 and our dedicated local staff will support them to access the help you need. The phone line is free to call, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is open to people of all ages – including children and young people.

Focus on health inequalities

The team are ensuring that the children and young people with learning disabilities known to the team have a 'flag' on their WUTH patient record to identify them as a person with a learning disability and therefore requiring reasonable adjustments should they attend hospital.

The team have developed a pathway to support families in ensuring their children with a learning disability have an up to date health passport. The team are supporting parents/carers to complete these where needed and engaging with the Learning Disability Liaison Nurse at the local hospital trust. The NHS Covid-19 Grab and Go forms are available for use in conjunction with Health Passports and practitioners are raising awareness of these with families where appropriate.

Health Passport Project - update

The Queens Nursing Institute's Fund for Innovation 2020 (with funding from the Burdett Trust) is focussed on nurse led projects to improve health outcomes for people with learning disabilities. Our

team submitted an application and were successful! The specific aim of the proposal; to develop a co-produced, local health passport for children and young people with learning disabilities and/or autism in Wirral that enhances communications and access to services.

The project has been a wonderful example of co-production; The Positivitree, our SEND Youth Engagement Officer, WUTH and CWP have worked together to develop a local child, young person and family centred Health Passport which will be a wonderful asset in Wirral.

Once we've published our local health passport, we'll be holding events to raise awareness and launch the passport. We'll keep you posted.

Learning Disability Annual Health Checks

Back in July we were very interested to learn that NHS England was inviting applications for areas to become 'exemplars' in learning disability care. A key focus of the exemplar sites will be to increase the uptake of annual health checks available to people with learning disability to at least 75%, (NHS Long Term Plan) particularly amongst 14-17 year olds with a learning disability.

The teams were excited and proud to learn that they have been selected as one of nine areas to be recognised as an exemplar or champion site. Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group recognised this as an opportunity to build upon the ongoing good practice in order to reduce health inequalities for people with a learning disability, of all ages.

This project would provide support to drive forward approaches to improve care through a focus on increasing the uptake of annual health checks amongst 14-17 year olds with a learning disability.

We have therefore developed a number of resources to publicise and increase awareness of annual health checks, specifically for this age group.

Update – when the project commenced the data showed us that from 2017-2020 the number of children and young people aged 14-17 years accessing an annual health check was around 25-29%. We were delighted to find out that this has increased to 56.2%.

Contact: Tracey Hartley-Smith, Clinical Lead – Children and Young People's Learning Disability Services, Learning Disability CAMHS Wirral
Team Email: cwp.telephonemessagesld@nhs.net

Additional Mental Health Support Team update:

We are now in schools again, able to see children face-face or remotely depending on families' preference. We offer 1-1 work or group work as well as offering support and advice to 53 primary schools.

Contact: Isabel Sutherland, Team Manager, Mental Health Support Team

Mobile: 07393 760564 E mail: isabell.sutherland@nhs.net

Children with Disabilities Team

The Children with Disabilities Service continue to provide support to families during COVID. We are undertaking face to face visits with the use of PPE. However, we understand some of our families will need a virtual visit due to their child's complex health needs. Services have of course been impacted upon during the pandemic, as have the team members. This will be the case for some time. We are continuing to be as responsive as possible to our children and families. Social Workers are working within government guidelines to ensure we are providing a safe service.

Contact: Peter Stanley, Advanced Social Work Practitioner
E mail: peter.stanley4@nhs.net

Continence (Children's Service)

The first line of contact should be universal services via the 0-19 service who can offer support and packages of care around preparation for toilet training and will offer first line support should there be any concerns regarding constipation, toilet training and bedwetting via package of care.

Children will have an initial age appropriate assessment where continence can be promoted, toilet training supported and behavioural support from practitioners.

Assumptions should not be made regarding the ability, or lack of ability of children & young people with additional needs to be toilet trained. Continence should be promoted at all times and the provision of continence products to this group of children should be the exception rather than the rule'..
Children where it is known or anticipated there may be difficulties with toilet training, should have the opportunity for early assessment and support to facilitate the development of the skills necessary for toileting.

Contact: Janice Evans, Service Lead Integrated Childrens Division
Email: janice.evans2@nhs.net

Cystic Fibrosis (C.F.)

The Cystic Fibrosis team has continued to provide both face to face and telephone consultations.

Cystic Fibrosis Specialist Nurse Janet Dods available for queries and advice.

Contact: Janet Dods, Cystic Fibrosis Specialist Nurse
Mobile: 07920783381
Email: jdods@nhs.net

DCO (Designated Clinical Officer)

The Designated Clinical Officer is involved in the following projects:

Lesson planning training for health providers on advice writing,
Liaising with the LA on NHS internships opportunities,
Leading on development of standards for quality assurance of health advices submitted.
Working with NHSE & Regional colleagues on the Continuing health care (CHC) transition programme,
Working with Dr Cathy Hamer & regional colleagues on a tribunal working group addressing how we can learn from them and inform our practices locally to improve and reduce the need for tribunals,
Joint working with Regional DMO/DCO group on information to inform the new SEND inspection framework.
Joint working with LA colleagues on improvements to the annual review process

Produced a self-evaluation for health services to monitor their compliance with implementation of the SEND reforms in their service areas.

EHCP/SEND duties:

57 requests for assessment due back in April
4 pre tribunal meetings /tribunals attended to ensure health elements are considered and included to meet needs.
65 requests for information to inform EHCP annual reviews sent on to providers for responses.
17 queries relating to schools EHCP & health advice
6 parental queries
24 practitioner queries SEND /EHCP

Stay safe!
I have no mobile contact at present as I am working from home but my e mail address remains the same.

Contact: Elaine Mooney 🌈
E mail: emooney@nhs.net

Diabetes (Childrens)

We have delivered workshops for teachers/school staff looking after children with diabetes and these were well received. We plan for this to be an ongoing program. As we emerge out of the pandemic, we will be able to invite bigger numbers of staff to these sessions.
We continue to support our children and school staff.

Contact: Jane Edmunds Paediatric Diabetes Specialist Nurse
E mail: jane.edmunds2@nhs.net

Dietetics – Children (Community)

We are continuing to see all referrals made that meet our referral criteria which can be found on the trust website alongside all the additional info we have added on there for people to read whilst they are waiting to be seen.
https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/childrens-dietetics/

We continue to accept all referrals and where possible virtual assessments will be offered, but when a face-to-face appointment is required, these will also continue to be offered. Urgent referrals continue to be prioritised and seen. We continue to support our home enteral tube fed patients in order to prevent hospital admission.
The service is continuing to accept new referrals however waiting times may be extended. Patients are being offered telephone and videocall consultations as appropriate.

The service is continuing to support NHS colleagues requiring dietetic support however response times to calls may be longer. We are in the process of updating our webpage on the Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust website, with additional information and resources to support families and referrers while waiting to be seen. Referrals to the service can be made via GP, or Health Visitor.

Local services to support families whose children restrict their diet or refuse to eat are scarce. Any families currently struggling with this might find the parents and caregivers section on this website useful: Parents and Caregivers - Start Here - SOS Approach to Feeding

Team telephone: 0151 5142 827
E-mail: wchc.childrensdietetics@nhs.net

Contact Details: Denise King/Helen Stanton, Clinical Lead
Email wchc.childrensdietetics@nhs.net

Dietetics - Children's (Hospital)

The Hospital Children's Dietetic Service continues to accept referrals via the Paediatricians and Neonatal consultants. We are continuing to provide a normal service to the children's ward and neonatal unit.

We are continuing to do multidisciplinary clinics for patients with cystic fibrosis, diabetes and multiple/immediate allergies.
Urgent referrals continue to be prioritised and seen either face to face or via telephone.
Referrals to the service can be made via telephone, letter or cerner if they are under a WUTH consultant.

Team telephone: 0151 604 7491/0151 604 7790
Team email: wih-tr.PaediatricDietitians@nhs.net

Vicky James Professional Lead/Clinical Lead Allergy & Gastroenterology
Emma Quayle Clinical Lead Cystic Fibrosis & Neonatal
Rona Cookson Clinical Lead Diabetes

Contact: Vicky James, Paediatric Dietitian/Professional Lead

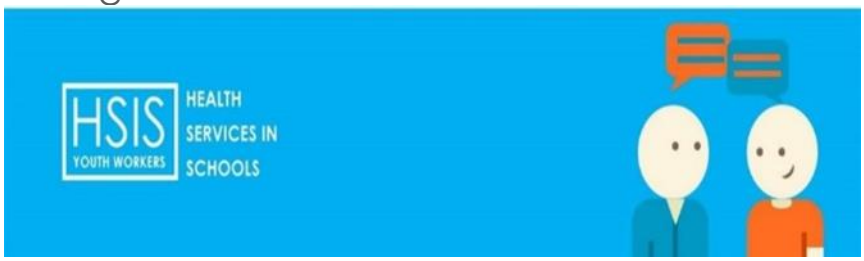
Epilepsy

The epilepsy service continues to provide both face to face and telephone appointments for our patients.
If your child has an appointment in epilepsy clinic, please attend for this, unless you have been advised that it is to be a telephone consultation. If possible, your child should be accompanied by one adult only.
The epilepsy nurses continue to be available for telephone advice during office hours and can be contacted on 0151 604 7672 or by email.
The epilepsy service is making links with Wirral Sexual Health. From June, one of the Brook nurses is going to be holding a clinic alongside Jayne's adolescent clinic at Arrowe Park. We hope this will raise the profile of sexual health, and start conversations between young people, parents and professionals.

Contact: Jayne Murphy and Jenny O'Brien,
Children's Epilepsy Nurse Specialists
Email – jayne.murphy7@nhs.net and jennifer.o'brien1@nhs.net
Direct line – 0151 604 7672 extension 2187

Health Services in School (HSIS)

The team currently work in all Wirral Secondary Schools, Alternative Provision, Wirral Sixth Form College and Wirral Met College.



Attached is the HSIS briefing document which sets out the role of our team.

HSIS 19-20 brief.docx

Contact: Michelle Langan, Health Services in Schools Team Leader.
E mail: michellelangan@wirral.gov.uk
Tel: 07769967607

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Wirral has a statutory function to listen to the public and explore their views and experiences to ensure the public voice is at the heart of health and care provision when we work with the providers of services, CQC and decision makers.

Other statutory duties of Healthwatch include:

- **Enter & View** – we can enter and view any service where health and/or care is provided to learn what it feels like to use a service, to have someone we love accessing a service, and to work in a service
- **NHS Complaints Advocacy** – for people who have experiences that they feel they need support to complain about.

Everything we offer is on our website:
https://healthwatchwirral.co.uk/
You can contact us on 0151 230 8957 or email info@healthwatchwirral.co.uk – we are here to #Spare5 for you!

Healthwatch Wirral – on the road again!
Members of the Healthwatch Wirral team are out and about in the community from now until the end of June. We're working with Wirral Council, Involve Northwest and other local organisations to help deliver rapid COVID tests and hear about your experiences of health and social care. Keep an eye on our social media to find out where we're going to be each week:
https://www.facebook.com/healthwatchwirral

COVID-19 vaccination feedback
We have been working with vaccination sites since the start of the year and have recently published our second report capturing

local people's experiences of the COVID-19 vaccination. This report pulls from over 8,000 leaflets and feedback is very positive overall. You can find the report on our website: https://healthwatchwirral.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/April-Vaccination-Report-all-sites.pdf

Don't forget to keep an eye out for Healthwatch leaflets when you're called for your vaccination so you can tell us about your experience!
Wirral Feedback Centre - https://speakout.healthwatchwirral.co.uk/

You can tell us about your experiences of **any** health and social care organisation through the online Feedback Centre to help us improve care for everyone. It's quick and easy to use – just search for the service you've accessed and answer a few quick questions about your experience.
#Spare5 today to tell us about your experiences!
Feedback Centre Flyer
Feedback Centre Flyer – Hospitals
Feedback Centre Flyer – GPs

Contact: Micha Woodworth, Project Manager.
Email: Micha.Woodworth@healthwatchwirral.co.uk

Mental Health and Behaviour

The team has shared this 42 page brochure which focusses on Developmental Trauma. This article has been written for parents, carers, friends and family of children who have experienced early loss, trauma and attachment disruption.
It has also been written for practitioners working hard to support or teach vulnerable children, but who often feel at a loss as to how they can effectively help those with profound and complex difficulties.
Last but not least, this article is useful for adults who experienced loss or trauma during their own childhood, and who may find that the information here deeply resonates with their own life story.

https://localofferwirral.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Developmental-Trauma-Close-Up-Revised-Jan-2020.pdf

Contact: Moira Bridge
E mail: moirabridge@wirral.gov.uk

Respiratory (Asthma & Allergy) Paediatric service

Background information

- Lung diseases are responsible for more than 700,000 hospital admission and over 6 million inpatient bed-days in the UK each year.
- One in five people in the UK has asthma, COPD or another long-term respiratory illness. Half of them are currently on treatment (mainly inhalers) for lung disease (British Lung Foundation, Lung disease in the UK. https://statistics.blf.org.uk/)
- Correct inhaler technique is essential to maximise the deposition of asthma medication into the lungs and optimise the management of the disease.
- Assessing and training inhaler technique is a vital part of any clinical respiratory disease review. Different inhalers and inhaler techniques are appropriate for different patients, therefore expert guidance for patients on an individual basis is provided by appropriately trained healthcare professionals.

Asthma Treatment:

People with asthma usually need two different inhalers:

- a preventer (brown, pink, red, orange etc;) and
- a reliever (generally blue).

The preventer inhaler is often forgotten about but is one of the most important parts of asthma treatment.

A pMDI also known as a "puffer", is the most common inhaler device used in the UK. There are lots of different coloured devices, and the colour indicates the type of medicine inside the inhaler. Too often the media depicts people with blue reliever inhalers used incorrectly. This over promotion of reliever inhalers reinforces a perception that this is the most important inhaler.

However, from the National Review of Asthma Deaths in 2014 we have evidence that overuse and reliance on blue inhalers was frequently a causal factor in mortality. It would be best if images depicting preventer inhalers were used rather than blue inhalers as this would demonstrate good asthma management.

This picture shows the WRONG way to take inhalers yet are considered to be the "normal" way to take inhalers by many.

This picture shows the correct way inhalers should be taken using a spacer – spacers are not just for children, adults should use them too.

Useful links

https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhalers-medicines-treatments/inhalers-and-spacers/preventer/
https://www.healthylondon.org/rightinhalerimage-campaign/

- Asthma UK: Asthma inhalers, medicines and treatments
- Asthma UK Inhaler and spacers
- Asthma UK Using your Inhalers

Contact: Rebecca Bryson, Paediatric Respiratory Nurse Specialist Asthma and Allergy
E mail: claudine.bryson@nhs.net
Telephone: 0151 604 7673

SEND Learning Disability/Autism Commissioning

Commissioners at Wirral Health and Care Commissioning continue to work collaboratively and productively with colleagues to ensure that we provide a positive and good service for young people and their families. This includes:

• Ensuring that young people (14 +) have access to and receive annual health checks from their GP practices. We are working with colleagues in CAMHS (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership) on a specific project with the involvement of our GPs and health professionals to support young people and their families. The number of young people who have had an annual health check has increased but more is planned to continue this work.

• We are undertaking preliminary work in delivering a post diagnostic autism service for young people and includes how we engage more in the local community following the easing of COVID restrictions.

• We continue to work with our education and local children's commissioners in identifying ways, in partnership with young people and families, we can join up our working processes and systems. We are currently developing a joint training/awareness programme and will aim to include young people and key professionals in its further design and delivery.

Learning Disability awareness week is 14th to 20th June – keep an eye out for the resources Poppy puts on the Local Offer website, Twitter @lowirral and Facebook

Contact: Jenny Shaw, Commissioning Manager
E mail: jennifer.shaw19@nhs.net

Sensory Service

We are carrying on as usual. The relaxing of the rules about the use of facemasks is something that is very positive for deaf children. We are still playing catch up with our early years work

due to the suspension of home visits during the pandemic. Monitoring in settings has increased and there is also an element of catch up within the team.

Due to the recent pandemic, some children may have not had the usual school screening service for hearing or had as much contact with their Health Visitor as usual. Parents/ carers can go via their GP for a referral for Paediatric Audiology, or a referral to the Hearing Support Team, Sensory Service can be made and we will pass referrals directly to Paediatric Audiology and then follow up, if a hearing loss is diagnosed.
The 'Hearing Referral form' and contact details for any further information, can be found on the local offer.
Referral documents for our service and useful links are on the Local Offer

https://localofferwirral.org/listing/sensory-service/

Head of Sensory Service, Peter Davies
E mail: pjdavies@wirral.gov.uk
Tel: 07787261001

Specialist Support Team-Children and Young People with Physical and Medical Needs (MPN)

Transition Planning
Since March, the main focus of work for the MPN Team has been on transition planning for the next academic year: pupils moving from primary schools to secondary schools who have an EHCP or an IPFA (medical/physical).

Wirral Local Authority made its offer of secondary school places to parents on 1st March. The majority of secondary school transition meetings have now happened for those pupils with whom the team is involved.

Primary school place offers were made on 16th April. The MPN Team's focus over the remaining weeks of this term will be on contributing to an enhanced transition for pupils with medical and/or physical needs identified by colleagues in the Early Years SEND Team, early years settings, and health.

Transition planning considers key areas such as staff training, additional funding, equipment provision, physical access and building adaptations.

Information Roundup

Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner for England, launched 'The Big Ask' on 19th April. It is described as, 'the largest ever consultation with children undertaken in England'. It's a survey for children and young people aged four to seventeen in England. It's a chance for children to have their say on the things that matter to them.

The results from the survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve. The consultation will close on 28th May.

https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/

Local Offer website: https://localofferwirral.org/specialist-support-team-for-children-with-medical-physical-needs/

Contact: Jayne Catton Specialist Teacher:
Jaynecatton@wirral.gov.uk Tel: 07901 511 323
Julie Hudson, MPN manager
Juliehudson@wirral.gov.uk 07799417210

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) service

The team will continue to offer a blended approach to appointments. Virtual appointments via telephone or video are still the preference but face to face appointments will continue to be offered where schools cannot facilitate virtual calls or if we believe face to face is needed for clinical reasons.
There continues to be many benefits to virtual consultations, even beyond lockdown e.g., clinicians don't need to wear masks so interaction is much more natural, teachers/teaching assistants/parents can join the call which enables them to learn

the strategies needed for supporting the child or young person, social distancing can continue.

Our trust website is continuing to be updated with helpful videos and links for supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication difficulties. Please take a look at **https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/**

Please also take a look at the Facebook page as information, ideas, links and articles of interest are shared regularly. Find the team at Wirral Children's Speech and Language Therapy Hub.

https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/

Contact: Team Leaders: Abbie Kyffin & Fiona Sinnott (Covering for Kate Gallagher)
Email: wchc.childrenssaltteam@nhs.net
Direct dial: 0151 514 2334

Social Care – Children's Services

All Social Care staff are continuing to work remotely from home. All children/young people who are open to Social Care are continuing to be seen and spoken to by their social worker.

School Link workers are continuing to work with schools offering regular contact and support. We are ensuring wider support is available for families, not just those open to Social Care through establishing partnerships with local partners and community organisations.

Our Early Help Services (including Family Matters) are continuing to work with families face to face but also virtually making use of various technologies available to them.

There are a number of Facebook pages available which can assist families to identify support available: Wirral Family Matters, North Birkenhead – Cradle to Career, My Child Can

Contact: Alison Watson, Designated Social Care Officer for SEND
E mail: alisonwatson@wirral.gov.uk

Adult Social Care

In Adult Social Care there are 4 Neighbourhood teams known as Integrated Community Care Team's: South Wirral, Birkenhead, Wallasey and West Wirral.

Transitions cases may be picked up in any of these areas depending on where the young person lives.

They can be accessed via the general Adult Social Care line 0151 514 2608

Contact: Lyndsey Quirk, Systems Service Director.
E mail: lyndsey.quirk@nhs.net

14-19 Team

The Positive Inclusion Programme
Delivery has started, run through Wirral Council and partly funded by ESF. The purpose of the programme is to support young people on a journey from unemployment NEET to a positive outcome they want which maybe Employment, Education or Training.
Who is Eligible?
Anyone who lives on the Wirral or within the City Region who is Long Term unemployed (Over 6 months)
It is to support our most vulnerable young people such as, SEN, Care Leaver, Young Carers, Ethnic Minority, Young Single Parent, or those known to the Youth Offending Service.
You must be 16 – 24 cannot be 25.
A one-to-one mentor will be assigned to you, a full bespoke agreed action plan will be developed to address individual barriers and worked on with support.
The goal is to support young people to overcome barriers to employment. This could mean accessing some specialist support or training, getting some volunteering or work experience under their belt, a move to Supported Employment place with a view to progressing into a sustained job at the end of the support.

Contact: Gareth Jones, Learning, Skills and Employment Manager
Email: garethjones@wirral.gov.uk

ASC Team

The Autism Social Communication (ASC) Team continues to support children, families, schools and settings, responding to changing circumstances as required.
We are delighted to be in schools and settings in person but will continue to offer a hybrid model of service delivery, capitalising on the technology we have become used to over the last year.

Contact: Sue Jamieson Quinn, Senior Educational Psychologist
Email: suejamieson-quinn@wirral.gov.uk

Early Years SEND Team

The Portage workers have started to remobilise in line with NHS England, the Government and Wirral guidelines to keep families and staff safe. Both staff and families are happy to be having face to face meetings. We are contacting parents referred into us who have children going into F2 and F1 (possibly) in September so we can support with a transition meeting into school. The Pre-Portage sessions are starting again in the Children Centres or virtually and this will be on an invite only access.

The Portage workers have done a brilliant job keeping in touch with parents during lock down and as we come out of it. They are really looking forward to going back to home visiting so they can see the child in their comfort environment and to be able to show parents different ways of supporting their children and braking skills down into small achievable steps. We work upwards from what the child CAN DO.

The SEND Officers continue with contacting settings and holding planning meetings. The number of children that we pick up from this is ever increasing and the team are working very hard to hold virtual observations, discussions with parents and staff and to then write reports. They are beginning to do some face to face observations but they need to follow NHS England, the Government and Wirral guidelines to keep families, settings and staff safe. There are currently over 300 children in the sector being supported by settings and childminders that have been referred to us.

The SEND Officers attend training so that they can share information with the early years practitioners, and they are planning a variety of training courses and SENCo cluster meetings from now into the new year. Please let your SENDO know if you would like training on something specific.

We have completed the Good Autism Practice training (4 x 2 hours). We really enjoyed delivering it (didn't like the IT glitches) and we have had some very positive feedback. We have heard

and seen trainees changing their language and practice which is brilliant – thank you.

Thank you to the staff in early years for supporting the children during the pandemic – well done. We know that in the coming years Speech and Language and social and emotional are going to be our areas of priority – as well as the new EYFS.

Contact - Penny Bishop, Early Years SEND Manager
Email: pennybishop@wirral.gov.uk
Mobile: 07826905206

Education Psychology Team

Please bear with us at the moment we are experiencing an unprecedented demand for input into the EHC Needs Assessment process and we have a large backlog that we are trying to work through.
We are back out in schools but work in this area has to take priority in terms of our school visits. We are proactively working with our procurement team to access some interim locum support and we are going out to advert AGAIN for two permanent members of staff.
We hope you are all staying well and enjoying the milder weather. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Contact: Catherine O'Connor, Principal Educational Psychologist
Email: catherineoconnor@wirral.gov.uk

Gilbrook SEMH Outreach Support for Primary Pupils

We are delighted to be out in schools for all our sessions now. We have made sure we are safe by being tested regularly.
We are finding that the pupils we work with have really liked having their own special 'play' pack with some keeping them in school and accessing them as part of a set of strategies to help maintain their emotional wellbeing.

We continue to support staff and parents and provide a listening ear and advice where we can. Whilst we are incredibly busy, we will endeavour to be available to offer support, advice and training – just get in touch!

Contact Vicky Leary, Senior Teacher
Email: v.leary@gilbrook.wirral.sch.uk Tel: 0151 5223903 or go to https://twitter.com/leary_v [Indigo Inclusion

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Home and Continuing Education Service (HCES)

HCES continue to provide face to face teaching from their base at Hilbre School and Pilgrim Street Arts Theatre. Bespoke remote learning packages are in place for all pupils.

We are working collaboratively with families to agree an approach to learning which is in the best interests of the pupil, whilst safe and feasible. Each case is risk assessed and staff are working in a flexible and responsive way.

Referrals from clinicians, schools and the SEND team are being processed as usual.

Contact: Julie Hudson, Interim Head of Service, Wirral Home and Continuing Education Service
E mail: @wirralhometeach.co.uk
Tel: 0151 929 6222

Inclusion

The service is continuing to work closely with schools to identify those pupils who are most vulnerable/at risk and in need of extra support in order to manage reintegration back into education settings.

Contact: Moira Bridge, Inclusion Manager
E mail: moirabridge@wirral.gov.uk

Orrets Outreach and SENAAT Team

The Orrets Outreach teaching team work with pupils who require additional literacy and numeracy support. Support is both 1:1 and small group and the team will work across all settings at both primary and secondary level. Packages of support can be adjusted to meet the needs of the pupil and we encourage you to contact us to discuss what you need.

The SENAAT team carry out a range of assessments including Access arrangements, Dyslexia Screening Tests, Irlen's, Dyscalculia etc.
SENAAT are again organizing the SEND Transition meeting in the Summer Term to support the transfer of SEND pupils into High School.

Our plan is to support Wirral Schools and Settings to become Dyslexia Friendly and we are now offering the Orrets Meadow Dyslexia Friendly Award.

Both teams will offer Inset on a range of services both in person and remotely.
Contact: Cathy Cotgrave, Head of Outreach Services
Email: cotgravec@orretsmeadow.wirral.sch.uk

School Readiness Team

Wirral Children's Centres have continued to run virtual groups for families- more recently have started some small group work back in the centres in a covid secure environment. Some examples of the groups include:

- Baby Massage
- Baby Babble
- Chatter Tots
- SEND support groups
- Rainbows

Groups are slightly different as carers are now required to book on (to ensure we are compliant to covid restrictions) and groups are smaller at the moment.

Please contact your nearest Children's Centre if you are interested in any of our groups.
Birkenhead: 666 3323
South and West: 666 3246
Wallasey: 666 3506

Contact: Joanne Simpson
E mail: joannesimpson@wirral.gov.uk

SEND Team

The SEND team have been busy sorting out allocations for specialist provision for September 2021. Meetings have been held with EHCP Coordinators, SEND Manager and headteachers to look at the individual needs for each pupil and ensure they are provided for correctly in the right setting. We are endeavouring to complete this at the earliest possible opportunity in order for schools to be aware of which pupils they will have on roll and therefore start a robust transition process for them ensuring they feel welcomed and able to settle as soon as possible in September. This will also provide parent/carer and pupils themselves to begin to plan for this change.

We are currently reviewing the year six/seven allocations model and have plans to move the year six annual review/secondary placement conversations to the end of year five.
Having an idea of the preferences parent/carers have for their child re secondary provision at the end of year five, will help the SEND team to plan and ensure that there are enough places to accommodate all pupils in each provision.

Contact: Anna Dollard, SEND Manager
E mail: annadollard1@wirral.gov.uk Mobile number 07785 915449

ADDvanced solutions

Here's what we have on offer to Wirral families https://localofferwirral.org/addvanced-solutions-whats-on-in-wirral-this-spring-summer-half-term/

Contact: Vanda Reeves, Director Community Network Development. E mail: V.Reeves@addvancedsolutions.co.uk

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Autism Together – Children & Family service

We are continuing to support families in a number of ways.
At the beginning of the pandemic, we moved our clubs online which proved very popular with families and young people who welcomed a scheduled activity and gave young people a way to connect socially with others.

As we are coming out of the latest lockdown we will gradually start to introduce more face to face activities whilst continuing with some online provision for those who may still feel a little anxious or apprehensive about returning to groups.

In line with Government guidance and to protect staff, children and young people we will continue with reduced numbers for the foreseeable future and maintain a Covid safe environment by maintaining social distancing, regular cleaning, hand sanitising and temperature checks.

We continue to signpost to other organisations including Wirral Local Offer, CAMHS (including their self- help resource pack), Wirral Info Bank, Koala NW, Wired SEND and ADDvanced Solutions.

Here's what we currently have on offer:

Wednesday
Connected Group – 2-3pm & 3-4pm
(Siblings) Chill & Chat 4.30 - 6.30pm
All currently held via Microsoft Teams

Thursday

Gaming group 5-6pm for 8-18yrs old
Chat about gaming etc.
Currently held via Zoom
Activity Group 6.15pm to 7.45pm = 8-12 years old
In – person, Oak House, Bromborough

Friday

Gaming group 5-6pm for 8-18yrs old
Chat about gaming etc.
Friendship group 6.15-8.15
For young people who have attended our friendship group in the past and those who are on verge of independence with travel and money. By invite only.
Both currently held by Zoom

Saturday
Activity Groups 8-18yrs. From 10.15-11.45 and 12.15-1.45
For young people with ASD and social/communication difficulties as primary need.
Opportunity to form friendships, play games and have fun.
In – person, Oak House, Bromborough
For further details or to book a place, please contact Lynda Maxwell on 0151 666 9960. **lynda.maxwell@autismtogether.co.uk**

RAINBOW GROUPS for children 5yrs and under with social/communication difficulties or ASD diagnosis.

Monday 1.30 - 2.30 Bromborough Children's Centre
Tuesday 9.30 – 10.30 Seacombe Children's Centre (starting 25th May)
Friday 9.30 – 10.30 Brassey Gardens Children's Centre

Limited numbers at the moment. Please contact the Children's Centre for booking information.

Contact: Lynda Maxwell: lynda.maxwell@autismtogether.co.uk

Believe it Coaching

Cheshire Phoenix Wheelchair Basketball Club are excited to have received funding from the Toyota Parasport Fund (https://parasport.org.uk/) to allow us to buy 5 junior sized sports wheelchairs for our Juniors to use at training.

Before lockdown we were growing our junior section and hope we can continue the hard work when are back to training.

Wheelchair Basketball is for people aged 5 and upwards with and without a physical disability and is a great sport for families / siblings to play together.

Our Junior training sessions for players aged 5 and upwards are usually 5pm-6pm on Saturdays and we hope to be back training soon when COVID restrictions allow.

We provide the sports wheelchairs and have experienced, qualified Coaches at the club including GB retired Paralympian Anna Jackson.
If you are interested in knowing more have a look at our website - http://www.cheshirephoenixwbc.co.uk or follow us on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/cheshirephoenixwbc - if you would like to chat to us you can call us on 07711 356541

British Wheelchair Basketball 'Inspire a Generation' project

British Wheelchair Basketball's 'Inspire A Generation' programme' s primary objective is to develop new fun and recreational local opportunities for individuals to engage with wheelchair basketball, ensuring increased levels of participation and to sustain sport, physical activity and an active lifestyle in the longer-term.
This is a great opportunity for young people to get involved as players and for people aged 18+ to be trained to be Community Activators and help to deliver the sessions.
Cheshire Phoenix Wheelchair Basketball Club is registered as a Local delivery partner and will be helping to train the new Activators and identify places to run 6 week courses to introduce people to the sport, so if you know of somewhere that we could run sessions let us know and if you are interested in being a player or being trained as an Activator you can either contact the club at phoenixwbc@cheshirephoenix.com or by ringing 07711 356541 and we can chat more to you or you can register directly on the 'Inspire a Generation' website - https://inspireageneration.com/

Contact: Anna Jackson
E mail: anna_jackson@yahoo.com Mobile: 07711 356541
Website: www.believeitcoaching.co.uk/

Crea8ing Careers

We work as a non-profit community interest company taking a holistic approach to services, providing wraparound support for all participants engaged with our parenting programmes and workshops focusing on well-being and resilience building, and

specialising in a trauma informed approach, making this an integral part of our service.

Our ACEs parent support programmes to help those that have experienced toxic stress and trauma, continue via Zoom, along with our Youth Connect 5 programme on supporting children's mental health and resilience building. More information available on the Local Offer website. See link below, information on the Local Offer website.
https://localofferwirral.org/crea8ing-careers-family-support-update/

Additionally, we offer CPD accredited ACEs Awareness training to parents and carers to help better understand our own experiences and that of our children, enabling us to mitigate the negative impact on future outcomes.
As part of the Wirral Family Coaches partnership, our coach Jo Graham has a passion for families of children with additional needs through both lived and professional experience.
https://www.wirralfamilycoaches.com/joanne
Through our partnership with Wirral Lifelong Learning Service, you can access our Managing Stress and Anxiety, Wellbeing & Resilience and Digital Parenting Safeguarding Awareness training.
Keep an eye on our Facebook events for dates and other family activities:
Monday Funday Music sessions,
Bonkers Bingo family nights
Quirky Quiz nights
https://www.facebook.com/Crea8ingCareers/events/

Contact: Lynne Howe, Director. Mobile 07719790320
E mail: lynne.howe@crea8ingcareers.com

Koala North West Complex Needs Team

Koala NW are delighted to share news of their 'Empower Us Project' a new service they are offering to support families of children, aged 2-11 years old, who have complex needs and/or disabilities. This will be open to families living in Wirral, Ellesmere Port & Neston. We hope that in joining our Empower Us outreach project you will make connections with like-minded

individuals, many of whom have experienced similar circumstances.
Between us we have so much knowledge – lets share it and empower families! If you, or anyone you know, is interested in finding out more about our Empower Us Project you can contact our Complex Needs Co-ordinator, Elley Kirkham, on 0151 6088288 or email admin@koalanw.co.uk

Take a look and see what you think?
https://localofferwirral.org/koala-nw-have-asked-us-to-share-their-fantastic-new-offer-of-support/

Contact: Elley Kirkham, e mail: elleykirkham@koalanw.co.uk

Multi-Sensory World

We are continuing our work over here at Multi-Sensory World finding new and exciting products to add to our website to help families and professionals in a whole host of different ways. We have a lot of new fidget toys available as well as unflavoured toothpaste, recordable items and lots of educational toys. We have a new system on our website www.multi-sensoryworld.co.uk that we can now process school/NHS invoice payments on the website, please always use a school/NHS email and delivery address to access this service.
Contact: Clare Meaney
E mail: clare@multi-sensoryworld.co.uk

Next Chapter

We are offering the attached courses which run until July.

https://localofferwirral.org/next-chapter-courses-supporting-child-family-mental-health-well-being/

Contact: Claire Owens, Director
E mail: claire@nextchapternwcic.co.uk

Parent Carer Participation Wirral (PCPW)

Who are PCPW?

PCPW are a group made up of parents and carers for children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities who live on or receive SEND services on the Wirral. Our activities are funded by the Department for Education, and we are overseen by a National Charity - 'Contact'.
We are the recognised "voice" by Contact, and the Department for Education to participate with and co-produce services with the Local Authority.

What do we do?

PCPW will offer the Local Authority, commissioners and service providers the views and concerns of parents and carers in order to influence service development, design and delivery on the Wirral. We aim to be your voice for parents and carers and to contribute to the improvement of education, health and social care services. PCPW will also hold events to gather your views and to provide you with information on SEND.

Are you a Parent or Carer?

We are always looking for new parents and carers to join us. You can attend meetings, give feedback to influence the services your child or young person uses or help us identify the gaps in services. Also, it's a chance to meet other parents and learn about what's on offer on the Wirral.

How to contact PCPW

Visit our Facebook page – Parent Carer Participation Wirral, email Kate our administrator at pcpw@wired.me.uk, or join us for one of our meetings.

We hope to see you soon!

Contact: Kate McCann, Administrator
Email: pcpw@wired.me.uk

Safe Families for Children

We are still following the government guidelines but most of our open referrals are now face-face if required and we have proudly hosted a number of children throughout the pandemic. To find out more click on the link below.

https://localofferwirral.org/safe-families-who-are-they-and-how-can-they-support-you/

Contact: Sarah Broadbent, Senior Family Support Manager
Mobile: 07469354076
E mail: sarahbroadbent@safefamilies.uk

The Positivitree

The Positivitree continues to provide mental health and wellbeing support services for parents and carers of children, young people or vulnerable adults with additional needs (SEND, medical conditions, waiting for diagnosis - all welcome!).

1-1 Support
The Positivitree's team of volunteer Wellbeing Facilitators are all experts by experience and bring a wealth of additional knowledge including: Life Coaching, Mental Health First Aid, Law, Sensory Diets, CCBT coaching, Primary Education and Early Years SEND.
Each of our team has capacity to offer 1-1 support to parents who are struggling to cope with the current challenges they are facing.
To register for this support parents can be referred directly by professionals/practitioners or can self-refer via the following link
Parent-carer wellbeing support registration 2021

If there is any reason, we are unable to support the needs of a parent/carer we have a well-established and trusted network of partner organisations who we will sign post to.
Creative Cognitive Behavioural Therapies.
Most recently we have worked with Open Door Charity to introduce Creative Therapy sessions to our offer and are taking registrations for the four week 'Colours' programme which blends self-care methods with elements of cognitive behavioural therapy to enhance parental resilience.
We are now accepting registrations to our eight-week computer based cognitive behavioural therapy (C-CBT) programme called 'Bazaar'.
Parents/carers will be matched with a peer-mentor to work through this innovative programme to improve their mental fitness.
Send an email to **rachel@thepositivitree.com** to register your interest or call 078777 82826 to find out more.

Every Tuesday- Wellbeing Walks
Our team are out and about on organised walks in local beauty spots every week, we have done Vale Park, New Brighton, Eastham Woods and even Moel Famau in North Wales over the past few weeks.
We will share the meeting point with everyone who is registered with us and encourage parents/carers to join us for a womble, or even just the coffee and cake at the end!

Every Wednesday - Coffee Morning/Support Group
Our group meets every Wednesday at Bloom Building, Birkenhead between 10am-12pm for a social catch up. The group is hosted by our wellbeing team who are on hand to chat to you about any worries you are having.
Carers, like the ones we work with, were amongst some of the most socially isolated members of society before the pandemic. We have created a genuinely supportive, inspiring and safe place for them to connect with their peers and navigate the challenges we are faced with.

Parent-Carer Bootcamp
Thanks to funding from Tesco, we are excited to be launching our first parent-carer fitness bootcamp in partnership with Wirral Health Project CIC and The Unit Strength and Conditioning.

We will have 3 classes each week: Thursday & Friday 10.15-11am and Saturday 10.30-11.15am.

Yoga
Our yoga class will start again in June with a brand-new teacher the lovely Gracey from Inner Bliss Yoga.

Coming Soon - Thursday evening socials
We will soon be launching a series of social, wellbeing focussed events at our home in Bloom Building.
If you fancy trying your hand at macrame, breath work, yoga, creating a vision board, tapping (Emotional Freedom Technique), or TRE (Trauma Releasing Exercises), cake decorating……or even fancy yourself as a bit of a warbler, we will have something on offer for you!

The Pod-itivitree Podcast
Our team is really excited to have had the opportunity to record some incredible interviews with parents/carers from our community sharing their experiences of being a carer and the impact their roles have had on their lives.
Our first episode was broadcast to coincide with International Women's Day on Monday 8th March and the response has been incredible.
We have had so many messages about how parents relate to the stories and experiences shared in our podcast.

Contact: Rachel Daley, Director
Email: rachel@thepositivitree.com
Tel: 07877782826

The Sensory Shack

The Sensory Shack CIC offers respite services for children and adults with additional needs or Trauma.
Bookings are private sessions during COVID 19, but sibling groups are welcome to attend.
We have on site Sensory coaches/ care staff.
We can tailor specific sessions to the individuals needs and preferences.

The sessions are client let with some structure added when appropriate.
We have Sensory School sessions for children struggling in school, referrals can be made via parent/carers or schools.
We offer parent/carer support over the phone and via messenger and WhatsApp.
Our sessions are beneficial for looked after children and those struggling with trauma.
We are based at Unit 2 and 4 Beechwood Drive CH43 7ZU.
Our website is www.thesensoryshack.co.uk
We are also on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
Limited spaces available now so please book in advance.
Supported sessions are £25 for 90 mins.

Contact: Sinead Holden
E mail: thesensoryshackwirral@gmail.com
Tel: Tel 07858588037

Thumbs Up

PLEASE NOTE - we're now taking bookings for the Autumn term

The Thumbs Up Education Programme Limited began way back in 2013. Our initial focus was to provide emotional support to year 6 children as they made the transition to secondary school. Things however, progressed very quickly and once we were working in schools, we were asked to support children from other school years, or indeed small-targeted groups or individual sessions.

All our programmes are underpinned with strategies associated with Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). CBT is our chosen method because not only is it a simplistic way of bringing about a better understanding of 'self'(self-awareness), but it encourages us to challenge unhelpful thoughts and feelings, which can promote improved emotional wellbeing.

Our core programme is called the Essential Life Skills Programme, which we adapt and evolve as the need arises. We have worked extensively with children with additional needs, and because we

have recognised that there is 'no size fits all' in relation to our work, we have achieved great results in this area.
Our Essential Life Skills Programme can be enjoyed by teaching staff, parents/carers and children, we pride ourselves on our unique presentation style; we take the important topic of 'mental health' and deliver it with fun, humour and interaction.
Our ethos is very much – if a child (or parent/carer) is smiling and enjoying learning, their ability to absorb positive and forward - thinking strategies is so much better.

During our sessions (in-school or virtually) we will be addressing the following topics:

- Effective communication
- Raising self-esteem
- Understanding ourselves (self-awareness/self-worth)
- Explanation of model of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
- How to turn negative thoughts and feelings around
- Building confidence
- Bouncing back (building resilience)
- An 'attitude of gratitude'
- Introducing mindfulness into everyday lives
- Having an 'I CAN DO IT' attitude
- Positive affirmations
- The impact a positive mindset has on learning
- Gaining a better understanding of emotions and feelings
- The importance of talking about how we feel
- Anxiety/stress management
- Making good choices and the necessary changes
- Personal best
- Discover your superpowers

For more information about Thumbs Up and the work we do, please take a look at our website at **www.thumbsupprogramme.co.uk.**

We also provide a FREE email support service for parents/carers, please email us at admin@thumbsupprogramme.co.uk for further information.
Contact: Sue Mason
E mail: suemason@thumbsupprogramme.co.uk

Wirral MENCAP

BREAKING NEWS!!!!
We have good news about a new development in the Information, Advice & Advocacy service here at Wirral Mencap

https://localofferwirral.org/breaking-news-rollout-of-the-new-all-singing-all-dancing-information-advice-advocacy-service-at-wirral-mencap/

Wirral Mencap provides services and opportunities for people with a learning disability and their family carers. Click the link below to take a look at their latest offer and exciting plans.

The Activity timetables offers a great range of activities including: Line Dancing, Disco & Dance, Health Club, Cookery course, Bingo, Chill & Chat and Relaxation.

https://localofferwirral.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Wirral-Mencap-updated-Zoom-Timetable.pdf

https://localofferwirral.org/wirral-mencap-support/

FREE Relationship Training events:

Please click the link below to see details of our two upcoming courses. One is a half-day online (17th June) and the other is a full-day in person (26th July). We would be really grateful if you could share this with all/any colleagues; it is suitable for managers, support workers, social workers, healthcare staff and anyone else that works with people with a learning disability.
Both courses cover the following, the half-day at an introductory level and the full day in more detail**:**

- **Sexuality, gender and identity**
- **Supporting family and social life**
- **Socialising, dating and maintaining relationships**
- **Having conversations confidently**
- **Implementing new CQC guidance**
- **Sex, rights and the law**

The easiest way to book is via Eventbrite or you can call/email myself or the office – details on the flyers. The Eventbrite link is https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/156241106355.

https://localofferwirral.org/free-training-for-health-social-care-staff-supporting-people-with-a-learning-disability/

PLEASE NOTE: The Market Street office will be staffed on Mondays and Thursdays so you can attend in person if needs be.
Make an appointment using the office number 0151 666 1829 on these days, or anytime on 07597986437.

Contact: Tina Phelan, Information and Advice Manager
E mail: cphelan@mencapwirral.org.uk

SENDIASS

Practitioners, please can you take a few minutes to complete our annual survey which we use to assess the service we are providing.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ASWSP2020PRAC

As a service with are delivering the following
• IAS via telephone email
• Continuing with support virtually in meeting with schools, college
• Continuing with support virtually in mediations, tribunals
• Continuing with support virtually in annual review, transition reviews, CIN etc

We are still working remotely and offering what we have offered since lock down.

In addition, I am available to deliver virtual sessions to the following:

• Early Help teams
• Early Years SENCO Cluster
• YOT team meetings
• Looked after team meetings
• Care leaver team meetings
• PCPW meeting
• Young People Sessions at Wirral Met College

Waiting for following to be set up

• CAMHS young people group
• Youth group

I have arranged virtual meetings with the following practitioners on a 6-8 weekly basis:

• SEND Team Managers awaiting contact
• SEND Participation Manager/Local Offer

- Alison Watson – Designated Social Worker Officer for SEND
- Lyndzay Roberts – SEND Resolution

We are providing the following:

- IAS in mediation - Zoom
- IAS in SEN support meetings – Microsoft teams
- IAS support with social care (CIN) – Microsoft teams
- IAS for mediation/tribunal preparation
- IAS via telephone and email

In addition, we have also attended/will be attending team meetings/coffee mornings via Microsoft teams/zoom for the following:

- PCPW
- Social Care
- Involve Northwest
- Schools

We are also looking for attend further information sessions to help raise awareness of our service. Any services wanting us to attend an information session with them, please contact Becky Heskey.

Contact: Manager, Becky Heskey, 0151 522 7990 Option 2
E mail: ias@wired.me.uk

Wirral Mediation & Disagreement Resolution service
Due to COVID-19 Mediations/Disagreement Resolutions are currently delivered through video conferencing such as Zoom Team Email: mediationadmin@wired.me.uk Tel: 0151 522 7990 (option 2)

Contact: Natalie Johnson, Mediation Service Manager
Email: iasmanager@wired.me.uk Mobile: 0784120313

Co-production

Busy time when it comes to SEND Co-production.
We are working alongside Health Colleagues, our Parent Carer forums and the SEND Commissioning team to realise some ambitious plans and drive change in areas highlighted with a need to be improved. As they progress I'll share updates with you.

As we emerge out of COVID we are resurrecting the work already invested in a Co-production project called VOICES. Our Parent Carer Forum and I will be meeting with the Leads from VOICES on 7th June to advance our Co-production Charter & Action Plan. The model we are using is based on a four cornerstones to genuine partnership working, which in turn leads to effective Co-production. The prescribed four cornerstones are:
Welcome & Care
Value & Inclusion
Communication and
Working in partnership

Poppy & I sit on the NW SEND Young People Coproduction Steering Group and Poppy along with several other SEND young people have co-produced a booklet to help practitioners when working directly with young people and covers a range of areas that have identified by young people. It is also a useful read for Parents and Carers. It was co-produced with young people from across the North West who came together online in the summer of 2020. The young people were brought together to form an online group when lockdown began, the sessions were designed to give young people the opportunity to meet when they couldn't otherwise do so, and were a mix of task focus discussion, treasure hunts, online games and fun. This resource was created from those Youth Voice sessions. Thought you might like to see the finished publication.

It covers the following topics:

Young People's feelings
Wellness
Disability Hate Crime
How young people can get more involved with services

How SEND young people can be better supported
Residentials & School trips
Digital tips for workers & young people
Links to useful resources

https://localofferwirral.org/send-toolkit-designed-by-send-young-people-to-upskill-send-practitioners/

Please feel free to share with other staff that work alongside you, and those who support children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and disabilities. It may help with conversation starters with children and young people and prompt them to upskill further. Poppy, I'm sure would welcome feedback.

Contact: Sally Tittle, SEND Participation Manager
E mail: sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk

Leisure

The following facilities are now open:

- Swimming at Europa, West Kirby & Guinea Gap Leisure centres
- Gyms at Bidston Tennis Centre, West Kirby &Guinea Gap Leisure centres
- Bidston Tennis Centre Tennis Programme including Lessons

Online class timetable - https://wirralleisure.co.uk/online/

Outdoor class timetable - https://wirralleisure.co.uk/outdoor/

Membership Information - https://wirralleisure.co.uk/invigor8-memberships/

Invigor8 Golf Offer - https://wirralleisure.co.uk/golf/

Regular updates provided on the wirralenvigor8 Facebook page

Contact: Stacey Addison, Cultural Equalities Development Officer
E mail: staceyaddison@wirral.gov.uk

Local Offer

We're putting new content on the website daily.
It's fantastic to see the increase in services engaging and proactively sharing resources. Keep an eye on the 'What's New' section accessed via the Home page.

We are being made aware of training events, revised paperwork, pathways and a range of inclusive provision for both term time and school holidays.

Recently we were told about a new Sensory Toy shop that has recently opened in Mill Lane in Wallasey (opposite the fire station) https://localofferwirral.org/new-and-exciting-sensory-shop/ Maybe useful to share with Parent/Carers or worth a look for those of you looking to buy sensory toys for your settings.

Also on the increase is the number of followers we have on our two social media platforms. Social media is gaining new followers week on week. Our twitter account @lowirral has now seen a 60% increase since the start of the pandemic. Does your school/ service follow us? Our Facebook page is The Local Offer Wirral

As ever, if you're looking for something and don't find it drop us a line via our local offer inbox **localofferwirral@wirral.gov.uk** and we'll get back to you. Poppy checks the inbox daily.

Children and Young Person's Disability Register

The register helps us plan services for our young SEND population. You can access the register via the red edged box on the home page of the Local Offer site. **http://localofferwirral.org/childrens-disability-register/** Sign up is purely voluntary but will be a great help in enabling us to be better equipped to react to 'actual' rather than 'perceived' needs. A list of frequently asked questions is available to support parent/carers and young people complete the registration form. You will need their NHS number to hand so always best to have this to hand before you start to register. Any

help you can give us with promoting the register to other Parent/Carers would be much appreciated.

Bereavement support

The Local Offer works closely with the SEND Youth Voice Group at the Pilgrim Arts Centre in Birkenhead. The young people and their parent/carers raised concerns around the difficult subject of bereavement. To be better placed to support the children and their families, the Local Offer sits on Wirral's Bereavement Advisory Board to represent SEND families and champion their differing needs when dealing with a bereavement situation.
Such was the level of concern amongst our young people we have added a dedicated section of the website to Bereavement. This can be found by clicking in the yellow edged Family Information service tile on the homepage.
https://localofferwirral.org/family-information-service/bereavement/

Child Bereavement UK have a superb website which is a great resource for professionals, for families and for young people and well worth a look. https://childbereavementuk.org/

Contact: Sally Tittle, SEND Participation Manager
E mail: sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk

Local Offer Youth Engagement

Throughout lockdown I have been working hard to support SEND families in Wirral.
As many of you know I am part of the Youth Voice Group (YVG) and the SEND Youth Voice Group, I have continued to attend those online meetings weekly. I feel the online sessions are tackling isolation, loneliness and building resilience to change by giving them chance to join, input their moves into choreography. All the choreography is created using the groups idea and emotions, the piece we have been working on is about the concept of 'hidden'. This is open to interpretation depending on how you see the word 'hidden' which is giving the group chance to express

their feelings. Our Tuesday night session helps the young people with their physical and mental health. The young people can stay online after and chat to a member of staff, we also have creative 1:1 meeting throughout the week.

I have had an exciting and full few weeks since my last update, I am so thankful to be involved in the projects I am working on to be able to ensure young people are in the heart of all services. I am currently participating in a range of regional and national workstreams using the Northwest SEND Co-production Steering group as my platform. My passion is to make sure that as workers we have a person-centred approach with our children and young people in the centre of everything.

I am still assigned to two projects. The first one is to promote and market Wirral's Disability Register to make parent/carers aware and help us proactively support as many SEND young people as we can. By having a profile of the needs of our SEND young people we have a greater chance of getting the best support and information for them and their parents/ carers. Secondly a request from the SEND Governors, I am looking at the School Information Reports on schools' websites. SENCOS please can I ask you to check yours report is up to date and reflects the current state of play. Please also remember to date the review/revisions at the foot of the page.

I was excited to be asked to be a member of the interview panel for our new Head of SEND. It was a really good experience for me to see how recruitment works and to represent SEND young people.

I had the opportunity to meet the new Assistant Director (AD) of Education, James Backhouse. We met in person (following COVID rules) and it was great to be back in Pilgrim Street (I haven't been in over a year). James is really passionate about engaging with young people and supporting them to be the very best they can. He has ambitious plans and I can't wait to get started.

I have also been involved in some new projects with the charity KIDS. KIDS' vision is a world in which all disabled children and young people realise their aspirations. Their mission is to support

and empower disabled children and young people to have fun, learn and grow with confidence into adulthood.
The time I've spent with them has been interesting and useful to me as it is a UK wide charity working with young people all over, I was the only one from the North so I enjoyed hearing views from young people in the other areas.

As many of you may know I am very passionate to get more young people / SEND young people employed within services and councils. I took the opportunity in a recent Executive and Directors' leadership meeting to present on

How to communicate effectively

What co-production is

How my role as 'SEND Youth Engagement Officer' has benefitted our children and young people.

Following on from this I suggested in one of our regional network meetings, that the next steps from this could be we present why my role is important, how its helped, also how it has benefitted the council and Sally. I was listened to and pleasingly this is happening during learning disability week in June.

As always, I am thrilled to have our SEND youth voice group involved with the blog section on the website…
We have two new entries and they are fab!!
https://localofferwirral.org/category/blog/

Contact: Poppy Cain, SEND Youth Engagement Officer
E mail: liacain@wirral.gov.uk

SEND Commissioning Team

There is lots of change in the SEND service at the moment, and we are continuing to work with this change and make progress in reviewing services for our children, young people and their families.

We have recently collaborated with other SEND Commissioners in the Liverpool City Region to begin creating a Parent/ Carer Booklet, which is full of helpful terms and explanations for all things commissioning. We hope it's useful.
https://localofferwirral.org/an-information-booklet-about-commissioning-for-parents-and-carers/

We are also reviewing Children's Therapies and have devised 3 surveys. One is for SENCOs, one for Parent/Carers and the third is for our young people. It would be great if you could share your views.
https://localofferwirral.org/have-your-say-in-childrens-therapies-in-wirral/

Contact: Lisa Gunn, SEND Senior Commissioning Support Officer
E mail: lisagunn@wirral.gov.uk

SEND Resolution service

Service is still active.
Complaints/concerns need to be sent via email to SEND Resolution **sendresolution@wirral.gov.uk**
in the first instance or by phone on 0151 691 8262

Update – we are currently in the process of updating the Local Offer to ensure that the Complaints procedure for SEND is available for all to view and access.

Contact: Lyndzay Roberts SEND Resolution Officer, sendresolution@wirral.gov.uk

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SEND Youth Matters

During COVID 19 we have adapted our sessions, wherever possible, to be accessible on-line. These have run successfully over the last few months and the young people are enjoying the interaction with their friends, youth workers and having the opportunity to engage.

If you are aware of any young people who would benefit from joining in, then please ask them or their Parent/Carers to get in touch and we'll do what we can to help.

The sessions are easy to access and staff will happily help you on getting into the online workshops.
You just need to download the Microsoft Team App. The sessions are all FREE!

The sessions on offer are:

• Monday Technical Theatre for 13-19yrs – Lights, camera, action! at 7-9pm. Contact malcolmbrookfield@wirral.gov.uk

• Tuesday Drama 13-19yrs - Drama sessions covering all different skills between 6-9pm. An hour slot can be booked into. Contact jamiegreer@wirral.gov.uk

• Tuesday SEND Youth Voice Group 11-25yrs – between 6-9pm. An hour slot can be booked into. We use dance, drama and crafts to explore the world around SEND young people. Contact selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk

• Wednesday 13-19yrs Dance – Dance sessions doing all different styles between 6-9pm. An hour slot can be booked into. Contact claireparr@wirral.gov.uk

• Thursday Singing training 13-19yrs at 7-9pm. Contact malcolmbrookfield@wirral.gov.uk

• Saturday Children in Care – 10-11am, using dance, drama and crafts for ages 8-14yrs. Contact selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk

•Saturday Junior Arts Smart – 11-12pm, using dance, drama and crafts for ages 8-14yrs.Contact selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk

Please call us to discuss any concerns or issues, we are happy to support.
We also offer GIRLS and LADS projects which need to be referred into for those young people struggling and needing more support.
Email: **shiraleacoldicott@wirral.gov.uk**
for more information on these projects.

Despite the face to face restrictions, we have delivered weekly online sessions from week 2 of lockdown 1.0, a Pilgrimbury Festival in September, Spookybury in October, a Christmas party in December and provided nightly activities throughout the period between Christmas and New Year.

Last Friday we held an online evening event where the young people performed dance and drama pieces, sang solos and also in groups. It was a great night and we finished up with a relaxation session.

Latest numbers tell us that 108 young people have regularly engaged in our sessions.

Contact: Seline Wakerley, Participation & Engagement, Creative Youth Development Team/Dance
Email: selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk

Half Term Activities (still few & far between whilst restrictions ease)

WORKSHOP

Our first event is Robot Rovers! A programming workshop for families with children ages 7 and up.
The event organiser, Dr Louise Dennis of the University of Manchester, was extremely keen that we take the opportunity to engage with some of our SEND visitors and give SEND families priority access!

Follow this link to secure your free tickets
https://tickets.liverpoolmuseumstickets.org.uk/webstore/shop/viewItems.aspx?cg=wmht&c=rro

The workshop is ideal for any young people who enjoy learning how things work – getting stuck in with the why and how – have a love for robots and machinery – could spend hours thinking about computers or just plain old love cool stuff!
The workshop uses LEGO Rovers which are programmed through simple interfaces on computer screens. Families will have a Rover each and so can share the roles among themselves, so if someone is a great driver, they can take the wheel and if someone is a problem-solver they can have a think about the obstacles and challenges. The aim is to work together and engage with some top of the range science.

If you, or your friends or contacts might be interested please follow this link to learn more. We wish to give priority booking to SEND families.

Holiday Club – The Hive Youth Zone

Running from Tuesday 1st June – 4th June
They are following the latest guidance from The National Youth Agency to keep young people safe at The Hive while they have fun! Expect a booking system, staggered arrivals, temperature checks, hand washing and limited numbers with small holiday club pods of 5 young people are all in place.

https://www.thehiveyouthzone.org/young-people/holiday-club/

Wirral Leisure

• Swimming at Europa, West Kirby and Guinea Gap Leisure centres
• Gyms at Bidston Tennis Centre, West Kirby and Guinea Gap Leisure centres
• Bidston Tennis Centre Tennis Programme Including Lessons

Online class timetable - https://wirralleisure.co.uk/online/

Outdoor class timetable - https://wirralleisure.co.uk/outdoor/

Membership Information - https://wirralleisure.co.uk/invigor8-memberships/

Invigor8 Golf Offer - https://wirralleisure.co.uk/golf/

AND Festival 2021

Thursday 27 May - Sunday 11 July 2021
Festival of new cinema, digital culture and art
https://www.visitwirral.com/whats-on/and-festival-2021-p473261

May Half Term Multisport Camp 2021 (4yrs - 15yrs)

Hilbre High School (PE Department)
https://wirralmultisports.class4kids.co.uk/

Hope you all get to enjoy some of the sunshine forecast over the next few weeks and days. We're due some rain free days and half term holidays are always better when we can get outdoors with the children.

As restrictions ease (hopefully) I will continue to publish the SEND SNAPSHOT as it is evident from your feedback that you've found it a helpful point of reference and kept you updated throughout this period of change and uncertainty. However, as things start to settle, I will move to publishing editions on a termly basis.

Hope this bumper 59-page edition is useful to you.

Thank you too to the services/organisations who have contributed to the SNAPSHOT and helped me to keep you all updated on the current state of SEND services in Wirral.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you're in need of signposting to help or have some feedback to share. As ever, would love to hear from you **localofferwirral@wirral.gov.uk**

Please can I ask you to share the SNAPSHOT with your friends, family and any groups you belong to.

We've come this far so please stay safe, take care of yourselves and those you love.

Take care

Sally Tittle
SEND Participation Manager
27.5.2021