



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your South Glos bulletin for July 2020. We hope you are all well.

## Supportive Parents News

Although it might not feel like 'end of term', the Summer holidays are now upon us! We'd like to remind you that we're still here for you during the holidays - our service is open throughout this time. For **telephone & email Support**: our Information, Advice and Support line service is operating as normal but calls are being diverted to an answer machine to enable remote working. We still aim to return all calls within 24 hours, **Monday-Friday, between 9.30 and 4.30pm**. Call us on **0117 9897725** or email [support@supportiveparents.org.uk](mailto:support@supportiveparents.org.uk) for help and support. We're also offering you support in the shape of the virtual/phone events listed, so do take a look at these and book a place.

### Staffing Changes

We are delighted to introduce Victoria Allan, our new Head of Service. Vic joined Supportive Parents on 1st June and comes to us with a vast experience of supporting children with SEND and their parents/carers, having been SENDCo at Bristol's Orchard School for five years.

Vic has recently completed a Masters Degree in Inclusive Education. She said: *"I am really pleased and excited to be taking on the role of Head of Service at Supportive Parents. I am looking forward to being able to continue working in the world of SEND and to being able to contribute to the brilliant work that Supportive Parents is known for."*

At the same time everyone at Supportive Parents says a big thank you to Kathryn Mason, our Deputy Head of Service, for the hard work she has put in over recent months. Kathryn is resuming her deputy role and is our new Local Authority Lead in Bristol.

### We're Recruiting!

We currently have two vacancies on our staff team:

- A Local Authority Information, Advice & Support (IAS) Worker
- A Local Area Practitioner with a Children & Young People focus

For details about both these positions and how to apply, please click [HERE](#).

The deadline for applications is **Friday 7th August**.

Don't forget to keep up to date by checking our News Page [HERE](#) or sign up to our Facebook page [HERE](#) and receive regular news and updates.

## AGM

A date for your diaries - our Annual General Meeting takes place on Monday 19th October at 7pm. This will be a virtual meeting and all are welcome. Further details about this will follow in due course.

## Feedback

So that we could meet your needs, we asked you what you wanted from our service during the lockdown. You gave us your answers via a survey we conducted. See how we responded by reading our flyer: [You Said, We Did](#)

## Volunteering

If you have some time on your hands or useful skills and experience to contribute, do get in touch with our Volunteer Lead, Jane Franklin, to find out about any current or forthcoming volunteer opportunities with Supportive Parents. Contact Jane by emailing: [jane.franklin@supportiveparents.org.uk](mailto:jane.franklin@supportiveparents.org.uk).

## Resources

- **Transitions Guidance** - Supportive Parents have produced a leaflet with some guidance and tips for starting or moving school. Click [HERE](#) to read this.
- **South Glos Transitions leaflet** - this is about moving back to school full time and may be useful. Click [HERE](#).
- **Preparing for a Virtual or Telephone Meeting** with a professional - See our new resource [HERE](#).
- **Guide to Legal Changes to SEND** during Covid-19. Supportive Parents have teamed up with [Incredible Kids](#), to produce this resource. We hope this answers many of your questions around issues such as PPE or exclusions and gives you clarity around the current situation. Take a look at the guide on our website [HERE](#).
- **Annual Reviews** - See our new resource: 'Preparing for an Annual Review' [HERE](#).

For parents of children with ADHD or Dyslexia, you may also find the following resources useful at this time:

- **ADHD Information for parents:** click [HERE](#)
- **ADHD Information for young people:** click [HERE](#)
- **British Dyslexia Association:** click [HERE](#)
- **Free events for young people with dyslexia:** click [HERE](#)

## Support Groups

Santie, Sara and Edurne from the South Glos team enjoyed the first day time and evening 'virtual support group' sessions with parents on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July. The topics we discussed and which were raised by attendees were wide ranging. Supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can be a challenge at the best of times so we hope you found our time useful.

Our next South Glos virtual support group will take place on **15<sup>th</sup> of September**. Further details will be advertised in due course on [Facebook](#) and our website [news page](#).

## Education & SEND

**South Glos Educational Psychology Service** gave us an update on their service during Covid19 measures. You can find the feedback [here](#).

**Top 10 Tips - Lambeth Educational Psychology Service** shares their [Top 10 Tips](#) for parents in supporting children and young people's learning and well-being during the coronavirus outbreak. This includes information about self-care and mindfulness, dealing with anxiety in children regarding the coronavirus outbreak, plus stories and links, dealing with bereavement, grief and more.

### Government Letter to Parents

A joint ministerial open letter to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, their parents, families and others who support them, explains the current situation regarding the full return to educational settings in September 2020. See our news page about this [HERE](#).

### Department for Education Advice

The Department for Education has provided a leaflet and some short videos for parents regarding children returning to school after Coronavirus and what you can expect.

- The leaflet can be found [HERE](#)
- The film for primary school pupils can be found [HERE](#)
- The film for secondary school pupils can be found [HERE](#)

## Consultations

### Changes to the Adoption and Children Regulations: Coronavirus (COVID19) Consultation:

This consultation opened on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July and will close on 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2020. The government is seeking views on proposed changes to the Adoption and Children (Coronavirus Amendment) Regulations 2020. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to present significant challenges to the country, including the way children's social care services are delivered. The amendments are temporary and will expire on 25th September 2020. The government would like to extend a small number of these amendments to manage future challenges. Who this is for:

- Local authorities and children's trusts
- Children's social care providers, including children's homes and fostering and adoption agencies
- Children's social care workforce
- Children's charities/advocates
- Children and young people with experience of care
- Any other interested organisations or individuals.

If this is relevant to you, give your views [HERE](#).

### School Admissions Consultation:

This consultation opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June and will close on 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. The government is seeking views on a revised version of the statutory School Admissions Code. The

revised Code seeks to clarify and improve the process in which children are admitted to school outside of the normal admissions round in light of a number of Government reviews. Additionally, the revised Code will also provide additional information and details that will support admission authorities in discharging their duties effectively. You can take part in this consultation [HERE](#).

## Training & Events

We continue our work with South Glos Parent Carers (SGPC) forum to offer parents and carers as many opportunities as possible to use our expertise. You will be able to 'meet' us at the following virtual support sessions over the summer holiday:

- 30<sup>th</sup> of July
- 13<sup>th</sup> of August
- 27<sup>th</sup> of August

These take place between 8-9pm and are advertised on the SGPC web page as 'online virtual coffee and support'. Click [HERE](#) for details of these sessions.

SGPC also have an opportunity about **Transport** for parents and carers on the **27<sup>th</sup> of August**. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

We hope it's a good Summer,

Best Wishes  
Supportive Parents