



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your Bristol bulletin for November 2020.

Supportive Parents News

We hope you had a restful half term break and are ready for another busy term ahead.

Last term we were busy attending open evenings & a careers event. Don't worry if you missed these, many are still accessible on line. The [video](#), which we made for open evenings and the [Meet the Provider Event](#), on post 16 options is open for the rest of the year.

We also delivered a coffee morning on moving on to school, alongside BCC's Inclusion and Early Years team. Again, if you missed this, you can watch the key information from this [here](#).

We welcome, Jay, our first ever supported intern to the team. Jay has been familiarising himself with the office equipment and systems and is helping us to improve our website. We also welcome Amran as a volunteer and thank her for providing a voice over in Somali for our presentation on moving on to school. Thank you Amran!

We couldn't operate without the help of all of our amazing volunteers.

Keep an eye out for our new volunteer page on our website that will be launching soon! If you are interested in volunteering please do get in touch with Jane Franklin, volunteer coordinator on Jane.Franklin@supportiveparents.org.uk.

Training and Events

We have an exciting programme of events planned for the coming months. **Click on the event dates to book your FREE space:-**

Wednesday 4th November - Come and join us over a cup of coffee to meet Marilyn Crofts, Bristol City Council's Local Offer Website Coordinator. The Local Offer is part of the council's website which tells you about resources and provision for families in Bristol affected by SEND. Marilyn will show you how to navigate the website successfully to get the most out of the Local Offer. You will also have the opportunity to give feedback on the Local Offer & what you would like to see on it.

Wednesday 18th November - SEND Support in schools (the first in a series of three sessions, with subsequent sessions in 2021 covering EHCPs and Annual Reviews. The sessions are free standing you can attend any or all of them.)

Tuesday 24th November - Annual Review Day. Parents and carers can book a 1:1 virtual appointment with a trained advisor to discuss their child's Annual Review. We are offering daytime and evening appointments for this event. Throughout November we will also be launching our recorded workshop on Annual Reviews and looking at key legal

points surrounding Annual Reviews through an information series. These will be available to view on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Wednesday 9th December - Person Centred Planning and the Portal: with Jenny Maxwell, Assistant Principal Education Psychologist. Find out about the new online portal for EHCP needs assessments.

Save the Dates for 2021:

Wednesday 20th January - EHCP Workshop

Wednesday 10th February - Coffee Morning

Wednesday 3rd March - Annual Review Workshop

Daytime and Evening Surgery

Alongside our Information, Advice and Support line, which is open Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30 (0117 9897725). You can also speak to one of our team and receive one-to-one help and support with your query about your child's special educational needs. We offer a free bookable 30 minute zoom or phone call. We're happy to look at paperwork (please email it to us in advance), give you guidance about filling in forms and discuss next steps with you.

Our next surgeries will be on:-

Evening Surgery 6pm-8pm:

Tuesday 10th November 2020

Tuesday 12th January 2021

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Daytime Surgery 10am-12pm:

Wednesday 2nd December 2020 -

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Wednesday 21 April 2021

Resources

Exclusion

Our back to school series of posts on Facebook and on our website was very popular and had a reach of 3520 and over 150 engagements. Following on from this we have launched a fresh series looking at exclusion. Exclusion continues to be on the national and local agenda. Although most children have only been back in school since September, we have already had a number of enquiries relating to exclusion. We hope that this series is helpful. Click [here](#) to view our exclusion series.

Future topics

We have a further series planned on Annual Reviews and Elective Home Education but would like to know if there are any other topics which you would like us to cover. Please give us your views in this very quick survey [HERE](#).

Tribunal toolkit

A refreshed version of our [tribunal toolkit](#) is available on the website. This is a practical guide which we hope will help to guide you through the process of appealing to the SEND Tribunal. We are working on a guide to virtual hearings.

Recorded Webinars

There is a new section on our website, where you can access recorded webinars, events and presentations. [Click HERE](#).

At the moment you can see:-

Moving on to School (English)

Moving on to School (Somali)

Events of others

Like to Be – Careers events

Like To Be will be hosting a series of online career events over this academic year. The events will include career talks, live chat with employers, workshops, activities, competitions, and work experience opportunities. The events are free to attend. Supportive Parents will be at them or have resources which are accessible there. See the [Like To Be website](#) for more information.

- **25th – 26th November: The West of England Career Inspiration Show Years 10 & 11**
- **20th – 21st January: The West of England Career Inspiration Show Years 5 & 6**
- **2nd – 4th March: The West of England Career Inspiration Show Years 8 & 9**

Bristol Parent Carers are holding their virtual AGM on 27th November. Keep an eye on their [website](#) for further details.

Bristol Parent Carers have been forced to postpone their annual event. A new date of **11th March 2021** has been set.

Consultation & Feedback

Short breaks statement.

Bristol Parent Carers are inviting parents and carers to a co-production opportunity to write the short breaks statement. The Short Breaks Statement describes the range and type of short breaks available, and the eligibility criteria. More information is available [here](#).

Next Short Breaks Statement session to review proposed changes: Wednesday 2nd December 2020; 1pm to 2.30pm: Click [HERE](#) to register.

Give me A Break

Together for short Lives has just published a report which emphasises how important short break service are in providing respite for seriously ill children. You can read the full report [here](#).

Education and SEND

Local news

Ofsted inspection Update

As you may already be aware, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a joint inspection of Bristol Local Area last year (from 30th of September to 4th October 2019).

The Local authority and CCG were required to produce a 'Written Statement of Action' (WSOA) that explains how the 5 areas of weakness identified in the report will be addressed. There is now a page on the Local Offer to keep parents and carers updated about the inspection and progress in tackling the areas for improvement. [You can read the updates here](#).

Bristol's SEND Local Offer have a new [Facebook page](#). Give them a follow to find local information and support for children and young people 0-25 with special educational needs and disability (SEND), and their families in Bristol.

National News

The Education Select Committee is holding an inquiry into Elective Home Education.

The inquiry will seek to understand the extent to which current arrangements provide sufficient support for home educated children to access efficient, full-time and suitable education, and establish what further measures may be necessary in order to facilitate this.

It will also explore the impact of COVID-19 on home education, and any particular needs arising from the pandemic that need to be addressed. The committee wants to hear your views. You can submit evidence [here](#) until **Friday 6 November 2020**.

Report: stress among children in England during the Coronavirus lockdown

As the Covid-19 crisis unfolded, the Children's Commissioner's Office wanted to understand in greater detail how school closures and weeks at home had affected children's levels of stress and anxiety. They therefore conducted surveys of around 2,000 young people aged 8-17 in England in March and June, to establish the frequency and causes of children's stress in lockdown. Read the full report [here](#).

Children and Young People

Survey for Young People

Bristol City Council are seeking the views of children and young people about how you feel about belonging in Bristol, in particular about where you live, your school and in your family. Watch a film about this [here](#) and fill in the [survey](#) before 17 November 2020. [Click on this link for an easy read version](#).

There is a separate survey to gather the view of parents and carers of children age 0-5. You can read about this [here](#) and fill in the survey [here](#). [Click on this link for an easy read version](#).

Training opportunity

Rio Ferdinand Foundation and Coop 'Amplifying Youth Voice to Drive Social Change'

Offering a range of FREE training workshops and talks giving young people the tools to create their own impactful campaign pieces and social action project

With best wishes for a successful term,

Supportive Parents

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