



January 2021

Hello and Happy New Year!

We hope that you have had a restful time over the festive period and are all safe and well.

Supportive Parents News

We welcome **Charlotte West** to the team as our **new Child and Young Person Practitioner**. Charlotte is developing the service we offer to children and young people. If you are the parent or carer of a young person or know someone under 25 who would like to share their views to help us develop our service then please do get in touch. Email your enquiry to support@supportiveparents.org.uk and in the 'subject' of your email mark this for the attention of Charlie West.

We are very excited about our **SP 16-25 newsletter** that is being launched this month. Have a look on our [website for 16 to 25 year olds](#). This is aimed directly at under 25s and has lots of useful information.

Some future news to keep an eye out for are:

- **The volunteer section of our website will be going live shortly.** Please do have a look and see if you might be willing to offer even a small amount of time to our organisations. All contributions – big and small are valued.
- **Virtual Hub resource** - Please keep an eye out for our **virtual Hub** which will be **going live soon**. The Hub is a resource where children, young people and their families can find out about what services are available to them. The information is presented through videos and focuses on the 5 ways to wellbeing: Give/be creative, connect, Take Notice, Be active and Keep Learning.

IMPORTANT news about the current lockdown can be found further down in the e-bulletin.

Education and SEND

Covid19 Lockdown – Government Information can be found [here](#).

Government Guidance currently advises:

Schools are OPEN for certain groups of pupils. Children of critical workers and vulnerable children should be attending school. This includes children and young people with EHCP's.

Covid19 Lockdown Restrictions and Clarification of 'critical workers' and 'vulnerable children'

[Government Guidance on children of critical workers and vulnerable children](#) who can access schools or educational settings during lockdown was updated on **5th January** and now includes:

- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Please note that this is guidance only and does not guarantee that a child will be able to access education. Parents are advised to contact your school and local authority to discuss your situation if this criteria applies.

Early Years Settings, childminders and nurseries remain OPEN.

Special Schools can stay OPEN.

Exams taking place in the summer like GCSE's and A-Levels are NOT going ahead. Alternative arrangements will be announced later.

Currently, pupils with EHCP's MUST have their special educational provision arrangements met.

This means that legal timescales for EHC needs assessments must be adhered to. Annual review meetings MUST continue.

South Gloucestershire Council

South Gloucestershire Council information about the current lockdown can be found on their website [here](#).

- Information about **shielding and extremely vulnerable people** in South Gloucestershire can be found [here](#). There is information about help with food available on this webpage.
- Information about **schools, education and childcare** can be found [here](#).
- Information about **children and young people's mental health and well-being** can be found [here](#).
- Information about **community children's health partnership** can be found [here](#).
- Information about **support for families** can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- Information for **carers** can be found [here](#).
- For any **safeguarding concerns** about a **child**, call 01454 866000 or for concerns about an **adult**, call 01454 868007. Further information about safeguarding can be found [here](#).

Further **national advice** can be found from [CONTACT](#), with national information and guidance for families with children and young people with disabilities covering a range of topics.

Training and Events

Please see our handy flyer of our virtual support group sessions [here](#).

Save the date! - 28th April 2020 – FREE Coffee Morning for parents and carers in Bristol and South Gloucestershire about **Social Communication**, and **Sensory issues in education**.

Join us for presentations, cake, coffee (in the convenience of your own home, of course!) and a chance to hear from our service and professionals about supporting your child in school or other educational settings. There will be an opportunity to meet, take part in discussion and have your question answered.

Please note - this event is only for those residents within the **Bristol or South Gloucestershire area**. You will be asked to confirm your address when booking. We do ask that if for any reason you are unable to attend you let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer the space to someone else.

Virtual Support Group Sessions

Book a **FREE place** at our **virtual support group** Day (10:30-11:30am) or Evening session (7-8pm) by following the links provided:

- **19th of January 2021 – SEND & You: EHC needs assessments.**
To book a free space, follow the [link](#).
- **23rd of February 2021 – SEND & You: Special Educational Provision vs SEN support**
To book a free space, follow the [link](#).
- **21st March 2021 – SEND & You: Annual Review**
To book a free space, follow the [link](#).

Other News

The launch of our **first Children and Young People (CYP) Newsletter** this month can be read [here](#).

SGPC (South Glos Parent Carers) have events available on their calendar that may be of interest [here](#). There is also a frequently asked questions [\(FAQ\) survey](#) available that parents and carers in the area can fill out.

Resources

NEW Resources Available:

Elective Home Education

- **NEW Elective Home Education [information series](#)** is available on our website.
- See our **Supportive Parents** Elective Home Education [Toolkit](#) for more information about this topic.

Transition Guide to Prepare for or Starting School

- This guide can be found [here](#).

With best wishes,

Santie, Sara and Edurne

Supportive Parents South Gloucestershire SENDIAS Service

📞 0117 9897725, Monday to Friday 9:30-4:30

✉ support@supportiveparents.org.uk

🌐 www.supportiveparents.org.uk