

SEND MATTERS

February Half Term Edition

The official newsletter
of SEND related issues
in Bedford Borough

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WELCOME from Chief Officer for Education, SEND and School Infrastructure - Ben Pearson

Welcome to the February edition of SEND Matters. Inside this edition there is lots of information about activities and support available across Bedford Borough.

The start of 2022 has continued to be challenging for all families and schools, especially as cases of COVID among children and school staff have been higher this term than at any point during the last two years. I know this has caused real challenges for a large number of children and families but have been impressed and inspired with the flexibility of everyone involved to make the most of their opportunities and to continue with learning. Please remember that there is a wide range of support available – please visit our Local Offer for details of what is available.

I do however believe that as half term arrives, there are clear signs of Spring coming; flowers are starting to grow, the evenings are definitely getting lighter and the sun has made a few appearances.

For me, this time of year is about looking forward – to the lighter, warmer weather, and this year, hopefully to a future without all of the challenges we have faced for the last 2 years. I hope that in the next edition of SEND Matters, we can start to share more details of our Summer of SEND 2022 and that many more events can be held in person.

Thank you for everything you do to make a difference to children and young people's lives in Bedford Borough.

Best wishes, Ben



FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

As with every half term and school holiday, our Local Offer Officer has been hard at work pulling together a dedicated page filled with activities and ideas for keeping your children entertained this half term.



Bedford Borough
February Half Term
Activities
& Food
Programme

Bedford Borough Council is funding an exciting range of **FREE** face to face activities for **children eligible for income related free school meals**.

Places are limited and so booking is essential, eligibility will be checked before bookings are confirmed.

Website and bookings will be live from Monday 31st January, 12pm



Visit the Bedford Local Offer website for more information:
<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/bbfebruaryactivities>

There are mad hatter days at a local soft play, rooms full of train track fun and so much more to explore this half term!

To find out more you can view the dedicated page by [clicking here](#).

Bedford Borough is also providing a range of active activities across February Half Term.

All places are FREE for:

- Children eligible for income related Free School Meals (NOT “any child receiving free school meals” as we know the universal infant free school meals scheme can cause confusion here)
- Children Looked After by Bedford Borough Council
- Those with no recourse to public funds (although these children need to be referred by a professional using the attached referral form with proof of this status)

You can find out all of the information by [clicking here](#).

SEND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Back by popular demand we have commissioned some more dedicated SEND family activities through SSG.

There is the ever popular SEND Inflatable sessions - including new bigger inflatables for older children (and the more adventurous parent carers!) to test themselves on - SEND Family Forrest Schools and the chance to book a room with Sensory soft play equipment.

The activities are running throughout February and March and there will be SEND family swimming available over February Half Term (unfortunately the pool does not have a hoist facility).

To find out more and book your place please [click here](#).

Activity sessions for families with SEND children



Forest school sessions

Sensory room sessions

Inflatable sessions

Swimming sessions

- ★ A variety of dates and time slots running from January-March
- ★ All sessions are fully funded by Bedford Borough Council
- ★ To book a session please email info@ssgservices.co.uk

CAMHS UPDATE

You Said / We Did / We Will Do

Following meetings during 2021 with the 3 Parent Carer Forums in Beds and Luton, an action plan has been developed to tackle some of the concerns that the forums raised about CAMHS.

The full plan will be updated every 3 months and circulated to the forums.

Recent developments include:

- Current recruitment is happening now so CAMHS can expand the Intensive Support Team across Beds and Luton to support children and young people in their homes and communities when they need that support
- Further recruitment to the Neuro-Development Team including Improving Access to Psychological Therapists (IAPT) who will act as Link Workers with the Special Schools
- Working with the Parent Carer forums, the Bedfordshire Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and CHUMS to improve the support that CHUMS can provide to children and young people
- Work is underway to refresh and improve the CAMHS website. Young people are involved in the refresh of the website.
- We will shortly be recruiting Parent Carer Support Workers to help with peer mentoring and training. These will be paid roles. As soon as recruitment starts, we will publicise through the Local Offer, to the Parent Carer Forums and through CAMHS communications. Young people are already involved in appointments to CAMHS
- Improving the quality of CAMHS advice for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). 100 CAMHS practitioners have now been trained in SEND compliance with a focus on writing good quality advices. More training is being delivered in the coming months.

For further detail, please contact Rosie Newbigging, SEND Lead, Beds and Luton CAMHS: rosie.newbigging@nhs.net.

CAMHS Discovery College (DisCO) Spring Term Prospectus

The DisCO Spring Term prospectus is now available on the Local Offer. An exciting range of creative opportunities are available now for young people in Beds and Luton. Young people have led on the development of the prospectus.

"I was given the Recovery College (adult version of Discovery College) Prospectus when I turned 18, I was daunted by the range of courses available. A lot of them didn't seem relevant to me at the time... I wasn't ready to go to a group with people three times my age. We would all be at very different stages of both life generally but also our mental health experiences would vary. The idea of the Discovery College came up"

Jay, aged 20

The CAMHS Discovery College prospectus (what's on) can be viewed by clicking here.

Contact shiblu.miah4@nhs.net for more information.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND SHORT BREAKS



Bedford Borough Council is working with Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum to look at local community activities/short breaks for Bedford Borough families who have children with SEND and would like to hear from families to gather views about what they would like to see available for their child.

We have already held focus groups with parents and carers and are gathering the views of children and young people with SEND but there is still time to get your voice heard.

There is an open survey until the 24th February to gather your views on the current provision of community activities and short breaks for children and young people with SEND in Bedford Borough. To complete this short survey please [click here](#).

SCHOOL READY?

Supporting children with SEND transitioning to school in September 2022

As this is the last SEND Matters Newsletter before 'National Primary School Offer Day on 18th April 2022, we asked **Jenny Higham, Early Years Support Team Manager** to give us her top advice for supporting children with SEND to successfully transition to school in September...



When considering whether a child is “school ready” perhaps we should equally consider whether the school is “child ready”.

A mighty tree starts from a tiny seed and it is the early nurturing, opportunities and environment which enables it to grow, build strong roots and flourish. The same is true of our children. Just as it is crucial for gardeners to understand what each tree needs and provides the best conditions for their tree need to grow, the receiving school needs to have that information about the individual child.

Early years settings and families are best placed to provide this but more about transitions for children with SEND next newsletter! What should you do now to build up to that successful transition?

How can Early Years settings or childminders help?

- Firstly, check that the families have applied for a school space and help them to do so if they have missed the deadline.

- *Ensure you have followed a graduated response to any identified needs and referred children who are not meeting the expected milestones to the Early Years Support Team, SALT or Child Development Centre. Remember the deadline for referrals to the EYST is 31st March 2022 for those children who start school in September 2022.*
- *If appropriate, submit a request for an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment in a timely way (it is a 20 week process). The request should be co-produced with the family.*
- *Consistently implement advice provided from external professionals and record and regularly review progress with families.*
- *Once school places are confirmed, begin to plan transition arrangements with the new teacher and SENDCO alongside other experts – the parents family and the early years support team who will offer continuity of support into the child’s reception year.*

Some children with SEND need extra experts who work alongside their families and settings to develop secure foundations on which their future success will depend. These children will not be working at the same levels of development as the majority of their peers so their “school readiness” and “ready schools” will look different but remember - start where they are. Build on what they can do so they can thrive – not just survive.

Individual education plans are just that – individual – but they might include targets around developing these skills needed for future success and fulfil their potential:

- *Using an effective communication system to allow the child to express choices and needs and be understood.*
- *Ability to listen and attend to another person.*
- *Ability to understand instructions.*
- *To be able to work alongside and with others.*
- *Self help and independence skills.*

If you have any questions about how best to support an Early Years child who has SEND, contact the Early Years Support Team for further advice on EYST@bedford.gov.uk.

We are always happy to listen and provide advice to help children flourish and grow into the mighty oaks of the future.

WHAT IS THE GRADUATED APPROACH?

Many parents are not aware of what the graduated response is, and yet it is vital in the process of supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities within their educational setting. We asked **Maree Thorn, Teaching and Learning Advisor for SEND** to give us a breakdown on the Local Offer...

The graduated approach is the process in which schools and families take action to remove barriers to a pupil's learning by accurately identifying their needs and putting effective support in place.

It takes the form of a four-part cycle and enables decisions and actions to be revisited, refined and revised. It is an ongoing process with each cycle providing further information on what SEN a pupil may have and what support works best for them. The four stages of the graduated approach are 'assess', 'plan', 'do' and 'review' and it is sometimes called the APDR process.

You can view Bedford Borough's School, college and provision graduated response and its graduated response for the early years by [clicking here](#).

Who does it involve?

It is clear in the SEND Code of Practice that schools and families should work collaboratively throughout the graduated approach cycle.

This helps to build confidence in the actions taken, to strengthen the impact of the support by engaging parents and carers in the strategies, and can provide opportunities from each party to learn from each other about the pupil's SEN and the impact of the support provided.

What does the cycle look like?

- **Assess** - The teacher will work with the SENCo to carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This will draw on various types of assessment including the regular daily and termly attainment and progress tracking done by the teacher, observations done by the SENCo and standardised SEN assessments. It will be vital at this point to gather the views and experience of parents and carers and the pupil's own views where appropriate.
- **Plan** - The school and family will agree a plan of action detailing the support to be put in place; the expected impact on progress, development and/ or behaviour; and (where applicable) how families will reinforce strategies or contribute to progress at home. A clear date for review will be set.

- **Do** - The teacher will remain responsible for ensuring the pupil receives the support as planned and will work closely with other staff involved to identify how interventions can be linked to classroom teaching. The SENCo will support this as needed but responsibility lies with the teacher.
- **Review** - The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed at the agreed date, along with the views of the family and the pupil where appropriate. This information then feeds back into the first part of the next cycle - how a pupil responds provides important information on their needs and requirements for support.

So how long does it take?

For some pupils a couple of cycles is enough to accurately identify what their SEN is and how best to support them; but for others the cycle may need to continue for longer so that more specialist assessments can be done, the support can be further refined and additional professionals can become involved.



It's important not to rush to process so the support can be fully embedded and enough time has passed for it to have an impact. If the process is rushed it is difficult to tell whether something hasn't worked because it isn't the right option for the pupil or if they haven't had enough opportunities for it to have an impact.

What do I do now?

If you have concerns about whether your child has SEN or you feel they need additional support, don't hesitate to speak to their teacher! The earlier a SEN is identified, the better the outcomes for the child!

STEPPING STONES TRIPLE P – NEW DATES ANNOUNCED!

Stepping Stones Triple P has been developed for parents of children with a disability. Stepping Stones Triple P has been evaluated with families of children with a range of disabilities (e.g. intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy) and elevated levels of disruptive behaviour. Standard Stepping Stones Triple P begins with a comprehensive assessment of parent-child interaction and family issues.

The intervention provides parents with comprehensive support in managing their child's behaviour across various settings (e.g. disobedience, fighting and aggression, temper tantrums). The focus is on understanding the function of problem behaviour and teaching the child skills that can be used to replace misbehaviour.

Dates:

Thursdays, 6.30pm to 8.30pm
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March and 21st April.

Feedback from Parents

This will be the second time Stepping Stones Triple P has been run in Bedford Borough, with the first cohort of parents reporting positive feedback.

Parent One:

"I feel like I'm equipped with the ideas, tips and tricks to manage day-to-day challenges"

"It was good to meet other parents who sometimes feel the same, and I know now that I not alone in dealing with all this"

Parent Two:

"I have started to think that I'm a better parent, and sometime we need to stop and just take a little time out. I was worried about doing the course, but I'm so happy I did. It wasn't difficult and no one judge me"

Parent Three:

"At first I was reluctant to do a parenting programme, I didn't think it would tell me anything I didn't know. But I have learned so much and the positive change in my son and in me. I'm glad I did it in the end"

Questions

If you have any questions please contact Martyn.Lee@bedford.gov.uk or on 01234 276147.

How do I book?

To book email triplep@bedford.gov.uk.

LOCAL OFFER CORNER

Bedford Borough's Local Offer continues to be the go to destination for all things SEND in Bedford Borough with over 10,000 users now visiting the site each month. We are continuously updating the website with the latest news, events and activities and you can even filter your search results by 'date added' to ensure you see the latest entries!

If you have any ideas for content you would like to see on the Local Offer, suggestions for services to be added or just some general feedback, please get in touch,



HEALTHY PARENT CARER PROGRAMME



We are half way through our first two Healthy Parent Carer groups and we have been blown away by the feedback we have received so far. We are already planning to run more dates throughout the year and so if you would like to find out more about how you can book your place and express your interest in attending then please email communications@bbpcf.org.uk.

The Healthy Parent Carers programme is designed to improve parent carers' health and wellbeing by promoting emotional balance through understanding, empowerment, confidence, and resilience.



Kerri and Karen of the Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum are leading on the delivery of the programme to parent carers of children and young people who have SEND in Bedford Borough.

Kerri and Karen are both parent carers themselves, and this is what they had to say about the Healthy Parent Carer Programme:

“ For many SEND families, ours included... getting through the last 20 months or so has been a real struggle. As if things weren't tough enough already... the pandemic hit and for many parent carers, our own health and well-being was put aside and our focus was entirely on making sure our children were ok. As a result, and unsurprisingly, our mental and physical health took the brunt of it all. In an attempt to keep everything and everyone afloat, some of us well and truly sank.

When we were asked if we would train to be Healthy Parent Carer facilitators, we were immediately intrigued as we had never come across anything that was purely focused on the health and well-being of parent carers.

As soon as we started our training we were so pleased to have found something that could truly make a difference to 'us' and others on the same SEND journey – albeit on different paths. We immersed ourselves in the programme and started using what we had learned in our everyday life (to see if it actually worked in practice... and it certainly has for us!

What we like most about the programme is that it was designed by parent carers of children and young people who have SEND, and can only be delivered by parent carers of children and young people who have SEND. ”

SPOTLIGHT ON DISABILITY SPORTS

Bedford Borough's Local Offer continues to be the go to destination for all things SEND in Bedford Borough with over 10,000 users now visiting the site each month.

We are continuously updating the website with the latest news, events and activities and you can even filter your search results by 'date added' to ensure you see the latest entries!

This edition we are focussing a spotlight on just some of the services and activities available within Bedford Borough to support with Disability Sports:

“No Barriers”: a range of different ability Tennis groups at Riverside Tennis

For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yh9x7kd2>

FREE Frame football, last Sunday of the month

For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxu5atu>

SSG Inclusion Football for 7-12 year olds with low level SEN

For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4nua29z3>



No Limits Sports Zone - FREE ONLINE Saturdays Dance class 10am to 11am for children/ young people with an addition need and/or a disability

For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/f8x8vjm8>

Bedford Wheelchair Racing Sunday mornings, 10.30 am until 12 noon

For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc2s7fv6>

Marlins Swimming Club for families with a child/young person with a learning disability

For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4tpmbnp6>

BBPCF UPDATE



BBPCF are the voice for Parent Carers of children & young people 0-25yrs with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities in Bedford Borough. We feedback your views to Education, Health, Social Care and other departments that provide SEND services. BBPCF are still working to reach families in Bedford Borough.

We are listening to all parent / carers of children with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25 years. We are signposting to usable information, sharing ideas and experiences, while still fulfilling our forum duties to listen to the lived experience of parent carers and feedback to the relevant services.

BBPCF are running a series of online events for parents and carers in Bedford Borough you can view our upcoming events on our website: <https://www.bbpcf.co.uk/>.

We have an online membership form for anyone that is involved in SEND (a diagnosis is not required to join). You can view our website at www.bbpcf.co.uk. Follow us on our social media @bedsboroughpcf on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



PLANS FOR BEDFORD SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SCHOOL

Bedford Borough Council's plans to develop a 200-place Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) school, for children aged 2 to 19, in the grounds of the former Robert Bruce Middle School in Kempston, off Hillgrounds Road.



Community access to school facilities

There will be excellent facilities at the school, and we are looking to make sure they are used to their full potential by the wider community. For example, we will be delivering a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) which will provide substantial benefit to the development of sports and recreation in Kempston and the surrounding areas.

The MUGA will be suitable for many sports, proving an all-year round surface that would not otherwise be provided locally. The MUGA will allow wheelchair access to a superb sporting facility which will enable wider community use, particularly through the summer months.

There is potential for a wide range of sporting activities including:

- Football
- Mini Tennis
- Handball
- Netball
- Hockey
- Futsal
- Basketball

Join our public consultation events

Bedford Borough Council have appointed the construction specialists Wates Group to lead the design and construction of the new school. Wates are a leading construction provider for education, with an enviable track record of building schools and completing projects for Further and Higher Education establishments, across the country.

We are now in a position to present our initial proposals and get your valuable feedback. We have organised two virtual presentations in the coming weeks so you can hear the project team talk through the proposals and answer your questions.

We will be holding virtual presentations of our plans on the following dates:

Session 1

Wednesday 9th February 2022, 12.30pm – 2.00pm

Session 2

Thursday 10th February 2022, 6.00pm – 7.30pm

To join a presentation, you will need to register to attend. You can register by

- [Clicking here](#)
- Emailing debbie.thorpe@marengocomms.com
- Calling our Freephone information line on 0800 689 5209

After you register, you'll receive a confirmation email with information about how to join the webinar when it's time.

If you are unable to join an event, full details of the proposals, as well as a copy of the presentation material, will be made available on the website from Friday 11th February.

Give us your feedback

We hope you will share your feedback on the proposals, so we can consider the feedback received ahead of submitting a planning application.

The consultation will open for comments on Wednesday 9th February 2022. In the meantime, if you have any questions about our project, please get in touch with a member of our community relations team using the contact details below.

Contact us

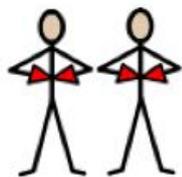
If you have any questions about our project, please get in touch with a member of our community relations team.

Emailing us at debbie.thorpe@marengocomms.com or calling our freephone on 0800 689 5209.

MEET THE TEAM: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (CWD) TEAM



Hello



we are the



Children with



Disabilities



Team

Hello, my name is Tina Holt and I have been the Team Leader of the Children with Disabilities Team since 2016.



The CWD Team are a specialist social work team that offers support to children and young people with disabilities aged 0 to 18 and their families. When young people are 16+ we work alongside colleagues in Adult Services to support young people as they transfer to Adult Services and prepare for adulthood.

The CWD Team comprises of two Advanced Practitioners (Claire Jones and Trish Humphreys), eleven social workers, a social work assistant (Samantha Campbell), a finance officer who manages the direct payments and two Business Support Officers (Deborah Shrimpton and Rebecca Crole-Rees).

We work in partnership with children, young people, families and other services such as health, education and community organisations.

Across Bedford Borough, many children/young people with SEND and their families are living “ordinary lives” without requiring additional support from Children’s Social Care. However, all families are different and some may need varying levels of intervention and support.

Bedford Borough’s Local Offer presents all families with a choice of services accessible without assessment and usually by self-referral.

The CWD Team is there to support those families that may not be able to access Universal Service and who may need some additional support. To access support from the CWDT a formal assessment is completed by a social worker within the team.



Our Role

The role of the CWD Team is to:

- Assess the needs of children and families and offer support, advice and information and plan a programme of care when needed
- Liaise with other agencies such as health to ensure help and support offered to families is coordinated
- Provide short break and respite care for children and young people when needed
- Support access for disabled children and their families to practical help at home, personal care, play schemes, and support groups
- Contribute towards the Education Health Care Plans if appropriate
- Provide a duty service for children, young people and families who are open to the Children with Disabilities Team. The duty service operates Monday to Friday during office hours. The team can be contacted on 01234 718023.

Referrals

Referrals can be made by:

- Parent / carers
- Professionals

Referrals are not made directly to the Children with Disabilities Team.

They should be made to the Integrated Front Door by telephoning 01234 718700.

MEET THE TEAM: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (CWD) TEAM CONTINUED

The Child and Family Assessment

The assessment is an in depth, detailed assessment, and family and professionals connected with the child will be involved. The social worker will look at the following areas:

- The child's needs
- The carer's ability and capacity as a parent
- The environment and the wider support that is available to the family
- The needs of carers and siblings.

If needs are identified that cannot be met via Universal Services, the Social Worker in conjunction with the family will identify support and arrange for this support to be put in place.

What's Happening Now

The CWD Team have been working on some key projects over the last 12 months to support children and young people with SEND

Personal Assistants (PA)

Direct payment recipients have been reporting that they have been struggling to recruit PAs, which is unsurprising given the number of job vacancies nationwide. The CWD Team have therefore worked with the Local Offer Co-ordinator to have a dedicated page on the Local Offer where you can find out more information about PAs, including Frequently Asked Questions, what support is available to PA's and how families can advertise vacancies. To find out more visit: <https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/personalassistants>. In the coming months CWDT will be promoting the role of PAs at local colleges and the Job Hub to get more people interested in taking up this role.

Siblings Matter Too

Tina Holt at the end of 2020 completed research into the impact on siblings of living with a brother or sister with a disability. The CWD Team feel it is important that all those supporting siblings recognise that siblings may have needs too.

There are some great resources available for parents and siblings, but a really powerful starting point is to listen to the TED talk by Alicia Maplea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSwqo-g2Tbk>.

There is a useful guide for parents <https://www.contact.org.uk/media/1411909/siblings.pdf>.

The following website is specifically designed for siblings <https://www.sibs.org.uk/>.

With the focus on siblings the Engagement and Development Team have worked with a group of siblings, in an event known as Welcome to My World. The siblings met over 6 weeks and discussed matters that were important to them and at the end of 2021 they completed a series of Podcast sharing their experiences. It is hoped that during 2022 further sibling groups can be completed.

Here is the [link to first episode on Spotify](#), which should lead you to access them all.

Family Fun Sessions

Families have reported to their social workers that they want to do things together as a family and create special family memories.

The CWD Team in conjunction with the Engagement and Development Team run a number of free family fun sessions in the holidays. Sessions over the last few years have included soft play, circus skills, animal encounters and many more. Back by popular demand for February Half term is a family swimming session.

B.A.S.H.
Bedfordshire Association of Special Schools

Engagement & Development

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TEAM

Family Fun Swimming

weds 16th February 2022 @ Kempston Pool, Hillgrounds
2.00-2.45 / 3.00-3.45 / 4.00-4.45

FREE 'COVID-SECURE' ACTIVITY FOR FAMILIES SUPPORTED BY THE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TEAM, SPACES ARE LIMITED AND 'FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED' SO BOOK A SPACE BY CALLING DEBORAH ON 01234 718023 BY FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY.

CONFIRMATION LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO CONFIRM YOUR SPACE - PLEASE NOTE ALL CHILDREN MUST HAVE AN ADULT IN THE POOL WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES.

RIVER FESTIVAL - 23RD & 24TH JULY 2022



We are delighted to announce that there will be a dedicated section of this year's River Festival site for children, young people and adults with disabilities as well as their families.

We are in the early stages of planning what to include within this section and we would welcome your feedback.

If you would like to give us your ideas about what you would like to see at the River Festival, in particular in a designated SEND Family Zone then please email local.offer@bedford.gov.uk.

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COULD YOU BE A PERSONAL ASSISTANT?

Personal Assistants (PA's) are employed to assist children/young people who need support with health or social care and provide extra support to the parent/guardian.



Every child is different and so are their needs, PA support can vary from working with a child with Autism to sensory loss to behavior issues to being physically disabled so each child needs to be supported in their unique way.

Personal Assistants supporting children are usually employed by the parent/guardian/carer of the child who is in receipt of Direct Payments, and are employed by Bedford Borough Council.

You are entitled to the same employee rights as any other employee, such as paid holidays. PA's are not employed by Bedford Borough Council.

Could you or someone you know be a Personal Assistant? To find out more about becoming a Personal Assistant in Bedford Borough you can watch a short video by [clicking here](#).

We now have a dedicated page on our Local Offer where you can find out more information about Personal Assistants, including Frequently Asked Questions, what support is available to PA's and how families can advertise vacancies.

To find out more visit: <https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/personalassistants>.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you would like to receive emails directly into your inbox relating to SEND and general Childrens Services updates in Bedford Borough we would love for you to sign up to our Gov Delivery System.

Visit the Gov Delivery website by [clicking here](#), enter your email address and then select 'Your Child and You' to subscribe.

If you have any suggestions as to what content you would like to see in future editions of SEND Matters then please email your ideas to sendprogramme@bedford.gov.uk