



Date: 18th November 2019
Our ref: MC/MB/JB

Dear Parents/Carers

Support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Thank you to all who were able to attend the communications sessions on 18th October.

As promised, we are writing to you with a summary list of issues discussed at the meeting that you said matter most to you as we go forward.

These included:

- Ensuring parents know who to go to with any concerns about their child/young person
- Making sure parents know what help and support is available
- Improving communication between parents, schools and services
- Getting services working better together
- Keeping Education Health and Care Plans up-to-date
- Tackling long waiting lists to access services, particularly Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) and Speech & Language Therapy
- Looking at the number of special school places

Those of you who filled in the online survey also told us that it was important for you to understand what will happen to your child once they reach age 18, with over 75% saying preparing for adulthood is a particular worry.

If there is anything you think needs to be added to this list, please get in touch and let us know. Our contact details are shown on the next page.

In the meantime, as several of you pointed out that it is not always clear who you should turn to when you have concerns about your child, we also wanted to share some key help and information contacts.

- SEND Information and Advice Service (SENDIASS), a service which offers impartial and independent information advice and support for parents: 0191 424 6345 or email SENDIASS@southtyneside.gov.uk
- Stronger Together (the Parent Carer Forum) is an independent parent partnership who offer information for families: email ststrongertogether@yahoo.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/Ststrongertogether/>
- The Local Offer (www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/37862/special-educations-needs-and-disabilities-SEND-) is our website where all information and support services are listed. We are currently working on making this site better and more accessible for families.

- Our SEND Team, who deal with Education Health and Care Plans and assessments, can be contacted at SEN@southtyneside.gov.uk
- If you do have any particular concerns, then you can always speak with your school's SENCO

We will be following up this initial meeting with a further event in March, by which point we aim to share some real progress with you.

Once again, thank you to those of you who came along on 18th October, and those who gave your views in our online survey.

Yours faithfully,



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