



May 2017

## Message from Deborah Lightfoot, LSCB Chair

Welcome to the May edition of the LSCB newsletter, please share this widely with your colleagues.

Research shows that disabled children are more at risk of being abused than non-disabled children. Disabled children are usually involved with a wide range of professionals and it is important that all practitioners have a clear understanding of the help available to support disabled children and their families locally. In this newsletter we set out key aspects of this support.

The LSCB has a role to ensure that children with special needs, and their families, receive the help and support they need. We carried out a multi agency audit in summer 2016 regarding the needs of disabled children in both boroughs.

In Richmond, our Main Board considered the needs of local children with ASD and special needs in January 2017. Following feedback, we were pleased when the Early Years Service ensured all providers had details of the local offer to hand. We looked at the AfC SEN Improvement Plan in April.

SEN stands for 'Special Educational Needs'. The phrase Special Educational Needs is defined in section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

*Section 20 states that:*

- “(1) A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.
- (2) A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:-
- (a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
  - (b) has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.
- (3) A child under compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she is likely to be within subsection (2) when of compulsory school age (or would be likely, if no special educational provision were made).”

The majority of children and young people with SEN or disabilities will have their needs met within local mainstream early years' settings, schools or colleges through the resources delegated to them by SEN Support funding.

SEN Support: where a child or young person has been identified as having special educational needs, schools should put in place a four-part cycle of **Assess, Plan, Do, Review**. This is a graduated approach to understanding the child or young person's needs and removing their barriers to learning.

Sometimes a child or young person needs a more intensive level of specialist help that cannot be met from the resources available and this is the time to consider an EHC (Education Health Care) needs assessment. Some children may require an EHCP assessment very early on and in these cases the local authority should liaise with the appropriate professionals and start the process without delay. Anyone can contact the SEN Team to ask for advice on the best route to requesting an EHC needs assessment; this will most often be through a multi-agency meeting with those involved, at the educational setting (e.g. school). Following this meeting, either the educational setting or the parents may submit a request. If the young person is over 16, they can ask for an assessment themselves. An EHCP brings the child or young person's Education, Health and Social Care needs into a single, legal document. The child or young person must have special educational needs to be eligible for a plan.

### ***The Golden Binder***

A resource has been created by SEND Family voices working with AfC and representatives from Health, Social Care, Schools, Early Years and Post 16 to create a complete set of guidance documents relating to "Support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)". The resource is nicknamed the "Golden Binder". Every school SENCO, Early Years Setting, and special school in Richmond and Kingston should have a copy, as well as all key professionals involved with the EHCP process.

Find out more about the local offer from AfC here. This outlines local support services for children with special needs.

[www.afclocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.afclocaloffer.org.uk)

This website offers independent advice to parents:

<http://www.sossen.org.uk/>

Welcome to Tracey Welding, who has joined us from Early Years in AfC. Tracey will be our Kingston LSCB Coordinator and will lead on safeguarding outreach to the faith, community and voluntary sector in both boroughs.

Nottingham LSCB has produced a short film to remind us that children who do not attend appointments, like medical appointments, were not brought:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAdNL6d4lpk&feature=youtu.be>

**Child Safety Week** is starting 5th June 2017. In advance of our next newsletter, here are some ideas for you to promote their theme "**Sharing is Caring**" and to order an action pack.

<http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/>