

Parents of children with SEND can access information and support at:

birmingham.gov.uk/localoffer



Inclusion Service COVID-19

Weekly Update

17th July 2020

1 Special School & Resource Base Home to School Transport

Special & Resource Based School Attendance Summary	17.06.2020	18.06.2020	25.06.2020	02.07.2020	09.07.2020	17.07.20
Number of Pupils transported to School	451	467	576	522	463	412
Number of Schools transport was provided for	81	88	88	82	54	59

Monthly Comparison

	May-20	Jun-20	Variance	Var %	Comments
Number of Journeys	2737	4352	1615	159%	Journeys more than doubled across the month of June
Number of pupils transported - Average	130	453	323	248%	Numbers peaked at 453 average in June
Number of Schools service provided to - Average	38	77	39	103%	Number of school settings doubled in June

Over the last week, the peak number of children on Home to School Transport attending specialist provision across all settings has decreased from 463 to 412. The number of schools open during this period is changing with requirements each week, as a result of some schools and colleges starting to close earlier than mainstream schools.

We have started work on our September planning in accordance with the latest guidance received from the Department for Education. Home to school transport does not come under the same restrictions as local public transport services so from September there will be no requirement for social distancing on dedicated school transport services.

As a result of this we are working with schools to understand their 'bubble' student groups so that we can arrange, as far as possible, the transport directly in line with these. This week we attended weekly meetings with all special schools across the city.

Following the advice from the Government regarding adults wearing face coverings on public transport, we are continuing to providing face masks to every guide on Home to School Transport. The PPE for our guides (hand sanitizer and disposable masks for every guide and a reusable visor, disposable gloves and aprons for those in direct contact with pupils) have been collected by our transport providers to distribute to guides, so that we continue to follow the DfE advice to keep them safe whilst they are undertaking their duties. Going forward, a weekly PPE order will only be processed for those guides being allocated to any new routes starting.

2 The SEND Parent Help Line

This week the Parent Link Contact line has received 37 calls, 11 were specifically related to an EHCP, 10 calls where the parent was requesting support and information and 16 were related to school placements within the EHCP process.

Total number of calls:

March	April	May	June	July
104	72	41	203	110

The service also received 44 referrals: 15 from the South of the city, 15 from the East, 5 from the West, and 9 from the North. 16 children with ASC needs, 5 Sensory/Physical difficulties, 2 with SEMH needs, 4 with Cognition and Learning Needs and 17 who currently have no identified diagnosis.

Themes linked to these referrals were: 17 linked to requests for an EHCP assessment, 12 regarding school placement, 2 linked to a breakdown in communication and 13 for advice and guidance.

Total number of referrals:

March	April	May	June	July
31	67	72	129	107

The service received 8 new parental requests for EHC assessment this week.

The School Link Service has had 78 contacts via the email and call line this week

Total number of contacts:

March	April	May	June	July
No Service	11	106	105	141

3 The Educational Psychology Team Parent Help Line

The educational psychology parent helpline will be paused over the summer, but you can still access resources including videos to help to prepare for the return to school on our website [COVID-19 EPS Resources](#)



Education Helpline for Families

Areas of concern raised by parents:	North	East	South	West	Total
Parent/ Carer Anxiety					0
Child Anxiety				3	3
Emotional Support		1			1
EHCPs					0
Impact of Parental Separation					0
Domestic Violence					0
Sibling Relationships					0
Grandparents					0
Child Carers					0
Concerns for friendships					0
Daily Living Routines					0
Self-Care					0
SEN Needs		1			1
Other				1	1
					Total
Number of New Consultations	0	0	4	0	4
Number of Follow up consultations	0	2	2	4	8
Number of Unanswered Calls	0	0	0	1	1
Original Referral Locality	0	0	4	0	
Total Consultations					13

4 The SEND Specialist Advisory Team

	March	April	May	June	July	Running Total
Number of individual multi-agency school planning meeting	53	70	112	90	16	341
Number of strategic conversations with schools		557	483	803	397	2,240
Number of contact discussions with parents via email and telephone		155	253	278	119	805
Number of parents accessing specialist support and/or training via TEAMS			28	207	102	337

The advisory service continues to offer remote support to schools through individual planning meetings and strategic conversations via TEAMS, telephone and email. There have been over 2200 contacts since April 2020. The teams have been advising schools about how to support pupils to return to school.

Over 330 parents/carers have now accessed specialist support or online training delivered by the Communication Autism team via teams. 119 families have been contacted individually and have received support in July after phoning the support



line. Requests for support have been related to transition and school placements which are not resolved and there has been an increase in parents seeking support around diagnosis of autism. Parents continue to value this help and support.

The second round of local SENCO briefings have taken place this week providing updates from health and SEND, with a continuing focus on being ready for all pupils returning to school in September. Feedback from the 200+ schools that attended has shown how useful SENCos have found these sessions, seeing them as 'invaluable' to their role as well as having these remotely online as being a more effective way of working and keeping in touch.

The leadership team continue to be in regular contact with our Special Schools and Resource Bases as the designated point. Conversations around wider opening and risk assessments has dominated recent meetings with schools offering more places for vulnerable pupils. The wider team hold weekly meetings with mainstream school with 188 schools contacted last week alone to support the risk assessment process around pupils with EHCPs. There are continuing discussions about supporting pupils to return to settings and ensuring that settings are making their best endeavours to meet the needs of pupils with EHCP and including parents and carers in decision making. Schools are beginning to plan for the return of pupils in September.

The SEND Youth Forum has continued to be active during the current restrictions (via Teams). They have recently given their views to NHS staff and other stakeholders. A new blog has been created about their work. <https://accessstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/2020/07/03/send-youth-forum-getting-back-to-school/>

5 Sensory Support and Physical Difficulties Support Teams

Now that schools and settings are beginning to reopen and take increasing numbers of children our support is changing to meet the needs of the children, families and schools at this time of change. Support is around planning and guiding children's transition back into schools and settings as well as preparing for transition into their new schools and settings in September, where appropriate.

For those children and young people (CYP) who are not yet returning to school, links with families continue to be through varying electronic means to suit individual needs. Virtual tutorials (with subtitles if required) are also ongoing. This past week contact has been made in relation to over 1100 children, young people and their families and/or their associated schools and settings.

We have started to collate how many CYP that are on our caseloads are now back in their school or setting (albeit part-time in many cases); we are currently aware of 151. We expect this figure to increase throughout the coming days as we make contact with more schools, settings and families.



Sensory Support and Physical Difficulties Support Teams- Figures for week ending 17th July 2020	
School aged CYP receiving support, including contact with their families and schools	429
CYP receiving support around their specialist technology, habilitation needs or modified resources	18
Pre-school children and their families receiving support	210
Pupils receiving direct teaching and tuition via electronic means	42
Focused transition work completed by all aspects of the services	229
Statutory work completed for pupils on caseload (including requests for EHCP/advice/annual reviews)	47
Reports written (in additional to statutory reports)	75
Strategic work with schools	72
Specific safeguarding work	10

Sensory Support and Physical Difficulties Support Teams- Monthly Figures				
	April	May	June	July So far
Total amount of support activities undertaken during the month	2010	3162	4517	2214
Break down of activities undertaken				
Support to school aged CYP, including contact with their families and schools	NA	1088	1683	822
CYP receiving support around their specialist technology, habilitation needs or modified resources	NA	383	271	24
Support to Pre-school children and their families	NA	669	887	423
Direct teaching and tuition sessions via electronic means	NA	92	143	110
Focused transition work completed by all aspects of the services	NA	506	808	431
Statutory work completed for pupils on caseload (including requests for EHCP/advice/annual reviews)	NA	142	271	95
Reports written (in additional to statutory reports)	NA	73	204	135
Strategic work with schools	NA	152	198	152
Specific safeguarding work	NA	57	52	22

6 The SEND Early Years Team

EYIS is supporting the inclusive practice of settings, as well as continuing to support children on home teaching caseloads. Ahead of the start of the school summer break team members have been particularly focused around giving advice for the holiday period and supporting planning for the start of the Autumn term. They have also continued to advise in response to questions from parent/ carer(s) and settings around meeting SEND in the context of implementing the latest national Covid-19 guidance.

The % of children with EHCPs resuming attendance in PVI settings has increased gradually throughout the term. EHCP risk assessments have been updated with parent/carers for those yet to return. These have had a focus on transition back into placements with a view towards September for those due to transition to mainstream and specialist provision. Plans are in place to ensure that parents have a point of



contact through the upcoming school holiday period and team members will contact all families again at the very beginning of next term.

There are many examples of good practice where specialist teams are partnering with parents and receiving schools to ensure positive transitions for children due to start in Reception classes in September 2020. To date bespoke transition documents and associated SEND records have been sent to receiving schools for 338 children.

54 Direct requests for support from parents/carers of pre-school children with identified or emerging SEND have been promptly responded to in the Covid-19 period.

The routine casework of the team continues to be delivered in responsive ways to support the holistic meeting of each child's needs in partnership with their families. Relevant referrals are made, there are regular consultations with other professionals in the 'Team around the Child', and bespoke resources are developed and provided to support the children. The 'Graduated Approach' of the SEND Code of Practice 2014/5 continues to be delivered through the implementation and review of children's individual plans. This is achieved, virtually, in partnership with parents and other involved agencies.

New referrals into EYIS are promptly processed and families promptly contacted.

Statutory work retains priority and includes submitting requests for assessment, providing educational advice and completing annual reviews in line with the EHCP pathway.

Early Years Inclusion Support	April	May	June	Week beg: 13/07/20
Support calls to parent/carer(s) of children on home teaching caseloads or of children now at home rather than in their setting	659	695	702	243
Calls from team members to PVI /other EY settings to offer consultations	885	611	1111	315
Consultations with other agencies in relation to support for child and/or provision of bespoke resources /activities at home/via child's setting	589	827	1042	279
SEN&ES Plans / SEND Support Provision Plans started / reviewed	79	71	137	28
New referrals to EYIS received and processed within the week	40	32	44	9
Statutory work completed (including requests for EHCP/advice/annual reviews)	65	48	52	11
Individual risk assessments	55	152	154	24



7 The Children's Occupational Therapy Team

The Children's Occupational Therapy duty/ help Line service continues to support parents with concerns around activities of daily living, specialist equipment and Occupational Therapy advice and assessments during the COVID – 19.

	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	W/b July 6th	W/b July 13th
Duty Calls	40	82	55	35	34
Video assessments	20	34	32	11	8
Equip order/ authorisation	31	39	40	13	12
Liaison with partners	148	206	195	70	54
Liaison with family	64	117	113	43	35
Paperwork & training	21	103	71	16	18
Visits to Family homes with PPE	0	1	5	2	6

The service is continuing to look at the methods of assessing and providing remotely and welcomes feedback from Children and their Families. As a result of feedback and review we are developing a standardised advice letter which will be attached to the invite for the Video Assessments. We are developing the changes to ways of working as the next phase of C-19 lockdown progresses and school are reopening. We have staff with PPE who only visit families if it is critical to setting up equipment,

Safeguarding or manual handling needs. The service is maintaining the focus on continuing the Virtual assessments and home working in line with the government guidance.

8 Virtual School – Birmingham Children in Care

This week the Virtual School have:

- The cross checking of the BCC and BCT pupils attending school continues. We are meeting with the Trust to reviewing the guidance on attendance classifications in Eclipse for possible scenarios for schools in the Autumn Term. Virtual School advisors continue to follow up on in-year admission requests. See table below
- All summer term Virtual PEP meetings and transition PEP meetings have taken place and PEPs are now being signed off
- We are promoting & booking young people up with third sector providers summer activity programmes with social distancing measures for children in care to attend as a summer offer. We are supporting other LA CIC young people with information about the summer programmes
- We are sharing virtual work experience opportunities and employment opportunities with our year 10 -18 pupils; and developing a careers box for the
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- website (a one stop shop with our careers service on all that is on offer currently, advice and guidance)
- 50 of our CIC are continuing to work with their Evolve Health mentors. The offer of Virtual meetings will transition over the summer to socially distanced face to face contact and physical activity through use of green spaces outdoors through the summer months as part of an extension to the city's 'Future Parks' project.
- We are continuing to develop guidance for schools and social care around processes for children in care with SEND as part of SENARs guidance on Decision Making Groups
- The draft pupil premium policy has been approved by Virtual School governing body and now needs to go forward for consultation with corporate parent board and care council before presentation at schools forums in September.
- We have developing our Trauma Informed Attachment Aware work across Birmingham Schools as part of the developing joint services Emotional Health and wellbeing offer for schools. We are planning to host a community trauma webinar for all schools, with schools being able to share existing established good practice and create a platform to launch Birmingham's Emotional Regulation framework for schools to review their school behaviour policies.
- We are working with our EP to develop our offer around attachment and trauma across Birmingham to feed into the emotional and wellbeing strategy group and the coordinated offer for schools.

We continue to respond to queries and ongoing support for social care colleagues, schools and carers. As well as working on individual pupil cases and supporting young people into a school

Hours or number			Case Work	School place	PEPS
Designated Teachers	SEND case work	PEP work	Pupil Case work	In-Year Admissions	Virtual PEP meetings attended



School and Early Years Attendance data for Children in Care for the week ending the 10 th of July					
	Number Week previous	Number attending to Fri 10 ^d July	Number attending setting	% of cohort (week previous)	% of those expected/ assessed as safe to attend
School age Birmingham setting	782 (780)	232 (144) (199)	232	29.6% (18.4)(25.4)	100%
Early years Birmingham setting	402 (373)	18 (same)	18	4.8%	100%
School age non- Birmingham setting	480 (483)	162 (124)(149)	162(lower due to Yr 11)	34% (31.2)	100%
Early years non- Birmingham setting	22 (23)	2 (same)	2	8.69%	100%
Total school age	1265 (1260) including Year 11)	394 (348)	394	31.1% (27.6)	100%
Total early years	402	31 (18)	31 (18)	7.7% (4.8%)	100%

No school place available:

Pupils who are in Birmingham schools: ere are 10 are not currently accessing school. 5 young people are in special schools which are now open so we are waiting for confirmation of attendance. We are working with BCC SEND Heads of Service on dialogue with schools. There is further dialogue with the other 5 young people between school, Virtual School and the allocated social worker regarding the risk assessments and classifications.

Pupils in other LAs (Worcester, Sandwell, Kent, Solihull, Walsall and Staffordshire): 18 are not accessing school of whom 4 are Year 11. 12 of them have SEND of which three have move placement and we are seeking school with new LA. One is in independent specialist provision 5 in special school and the Virtual School is linked with SEND to ensure dialogue is open with the school for return.

9 EHCP Requests Currently in Process

This week the team have been completing focused work around data cleansing which will lead to improved recording and reporting within EHC requests. The team have been actively working with identified key professionals and examining ways in which coproduction and joined up communication can become automatic. An improvement has been noted in the time taken to send out and receive professional advice. Training has taken place where the teams have been working on clarity of roles and responsibilities to explore how we can further streamline approaches in order to improve on the 20 week statutory deadlines. We have structured a specific role around decision making and how this can be transitioned from the case manager to a decision making group. We have also looked specifically around the issuing of drafts and finals with improved consultations and communications with schools.

The liaison team, responsible for recording, investigating and contacting schools and parents following complaints are continuing to support many families to improve outcomes for their children. There has been much positive feedback received in this area.



The weekly draft EHCP's continue to be issued within time frame last week and the teams are tackling the recovery plans that remain over time. Ten final EHC plans were due to be issued last week. In addition, the team managed to complete a further twenty EHC final plans from within the recovery stage. This made the weekly performance 80.4% including the recovery plans. As all due plans were completed in time without any exemptions, this allows us to report 100% within time excluding the recovery.

EHCP Issued by Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	52	58	59	102	79	70	111	116	47	47	75	83
% processed in time (Excluding Exemptions)	93.3%	83.9%	80.0%	85.1%	64.9%	77.1%	69.7%	68.2%	60.9%	51.2%	54.1%	58.8%
2020	57	59	56	109	86	101	30 to date					
% processed in time (Excluding Exemptions)	58.7%	59.6%	70.8%	61.50%	41.8%	78.5%	80.4% to date					

10 How we have helped during Covid-19

SEND Specialist Advisory Team

Thank you – you have made a real difference to my child's life and I'm so thankful for how far you have brought him on since we first met. You have been amazing.

Thank you so much for taking the time to talk me through options for my daughter last week with regards to CAT support and assessments. I have just had a meeting which was incredibly helpful and I am so grateful for the support for my daughter.

SEND Early Years Team

"Thanks to your support and that of your department (EYIS) we managed to improve and be in a better state than we were at the beginning of the Covid lockdown, and the amount of support we received was quite exceptional and great".

"It was very kind of you to take the time and send me other useful information to share with parents which will be very beneficial during this difficult period. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the wonderful work you do to support vulnerable children, families and settings even through difficult times".

'Xxx's mom is thrilled and she is accessing the training, just thought I would give you this feedback to inform that parents are finding this

