

Contacting the SEND Team | Thank you Liz! | Our SEND Conference January 2025 | Feedback for our Inclusion Team
Introducing our Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) | Slough Local Area Partnership Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection | SEND Team Update /Phase Transfer
Upcoming careers event hosted by Together as One and Slough & Langley College | Staffing update | Newsletter feedback

As we move forward into the warmer weather (hopefully!) this edition highlights key updates, upcoming events, and important developments in our work. From recent successes to future plans, we're excited to share the latest with you. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Thank you Liz!

Liz Flaherty is the special needs adviser commissioned by the Department for Education to work with Slough Borough Council.

Liz's role is to both challenge and support us in all our work relating to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Liz regularly meets with stakeholders and senior officers across the Special Educational Needs agenda, to help us to continually strive to improve the lived experience and outcomes for children and young people within the borough, who have a special educational need, and their families.

Liz has been working with Slough for nearly five years and has a deep understanding of the journey we have been on, striving to make, and continue to make improvements in our SEND related services.

After teaching in the secondary school sector for nearly thirty years, always with a particular focus on



children with SEND, Liz began working in a large shire SEND service, including as Head of Service for SEND. She was an OFSTED inspector for the SEND local area inspections before taking up her current role as a professional SEND adviser.

Liz, thank you for all the support you are giving to Slough.

Contacting the SEND Team

There are two dedicated email addresses to help you contact us, and to help us effectively respond to you, we would ask that you please use the correct email address depending on the nature of your contact with us:

SEND_ECHNArequest@slough.gov.uk

This email is the address to send all your ECH Needs Assessment requests.

SENDteam@slough.gov.uk

This email is for all other enquiries.

Or call us on **01753 787676**.

Join our mailing list, so you don't miss out on future updates on the service!

Anyone can join our SEND newsletter mailing list, so please encourage your fellow SEND parents and carers and fellow professionals to subscribe for direct updates and information. They can email us directly at SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list.

We are changing the way that we do things, and we want you, and our children and young people to be at the heart of everything that we do!



Our SEND Conference January 2025

In January we held our Annual SEND Conference for SEND partnership professionals.

This was the second SEND conference, guided by Slough's SEND & Inclusion Strategy with a focus on strengthening partnership working.

Partner agencies played a key role in delivering workshops, including Berkshire Healthcare's NHS Speech and Language Therapy team,

Angela Mumford - Head Teacher at Littledown School, Jovi Armotrading from Together as One, and Slough's Early Years and Inclusion Team.

The gathering of partners from various organisations that support and work with children and young people was a positive experience. It fostered new connections, and improved our collective understanding of how we can create a meaningful impact for all

children and young people with SEND.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, offered their support, and gave us some constructive feedback. Please see a snapshot of the event below.

If you have any comments or suggestions for next year, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email: samantha.caley@slough.gov.uk



Feedback for our Inclusion Team

"Thank you for the training yesterday - I'm new so lots to learn! Could you send the slides? I might use the one about Slough statistics in a staff meeting!"

"We sent two staff members on the previous training, back in the summer, and have booked for another to attend on 25th, however, because of the excellent feedback from the first two staff members, we'd love to send the rest of our staff. Can I add another eight to the one I've booked for 25th please?"

"Thank you for the resources. It was a fantastic training day. It really got everyone thinking about the needs of the children and we have something concrete to support them moving forward. The second part of the day we focused on what we need to put in place to support children's sensory processing needs, but in a more inclusive way so all children will benefit. We are now better informed about sensory circuits and can plan and ensure we incorporated all 3-stages and reflected on the active movement start we do with all children too.

"Thank you so much for delivering an engaging and very informative day and the resources will be used to move us closer to our goal."

Introducing our Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO)



Let me introduce myself, I'm Stephen Mason, Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO), you may hear the role referred to as the "disco," so you can imagine the jokes I get!

I was delighted to join Slough at the beginning of February and play a role in developing the DSCO role as part of the children's services improvement journey. I'm still getting to know Slough, so do feel free to contact me and introduce yourself.

stephen.mason@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk

So, what does a DSCO do?

Primarily it's to have a passion and commitment to promoting and developing quality services that promote inclusion and positive outcomes, for our Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND).

Social care and SEND

The DSCO is the single point of contact for information in and out of social care, ensuring social care meets its statutory responsibilities, by providing quality advice for Education Health & Care Assessments, joining up our plans and interventions with Education and Health. Also, ensuring social care contributions to annual reviews. When plans and meetings join up it is easier for parent carers, and children and young people, and makes the best use of our resources.

Listening and learning

An important part of the role is listening to the experiences of parent carers, and children and young people, understanding what works well, and what we can do better. This supports co-production, working together to make positive changes including in our systems and processes.

Preparing for adulthood

Working with colleagues in adult social care by ensuring we understand the support a young person may need beyond the age of 18. Effective preparation for adulthood and 'transition' ensures an effective handover to adult services, encouraging and supporting independence, inclusion, and a purposeful adult life.

Quality matters

This involves quality assuring colleagues' work, through auditing advice and files, so we can identify and share best practice and keep learning.

Inclusion, independence and success

And finally, it's about championing the needs and the inclusion of our children and young people with additional needs, by having a good understanding and appreciation of the challenges faced, having high aspirations and expectations, and looking for ways to encourage skills and independence, across all our services and local communities.

So, I don't think I'll have any time to be bored. There is much to be celebrated and built upon in the work within social care and the SEND partnership, but clearly there is a more to do. I welcome the challenge and look forward to working in partnership with everyone, so we can proudly say and evidence that our children and young people with SEND are **Happy, Safe & Loved, Thriving.**

Slough Local Area Partnership Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection

Agencies in the Slough Local Area SEND partnership are expecting an imminent phone call from Ofsted and CQC to announce a Local Area Partnership SEND inspection.

Most parents and carers are familiar with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED). This organisation inspects all our education settings and social care services. Some parents and carers are less familiar with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). They inspect our Health Services and General Practitioner Services. Together these agencies will inspect the quality of the Special Educational Needs and Disability services across Slough (SEND) focusing on the experiences of children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25 who need extra support to learn and grow.

Area SEND inspections also include looking at services for children and young people who live in the local area, but go to school or are cared for in other areas.

The inspection process aims to find out about the positive and not so positive experiences, of parents and carers, and children and young people, who receive services. This includes education services e.g. schools, early years settings and colleges; health services including CAMHS and therapies such as Speech and Language Therapy; care services such as Early Help and support from the Children with Disabilities Team and the offer of short breaks. Inspectors will also talk to Special Voices (our Parent Carer Forum) and other parent groups.

Crucially inspectors want to know how well local services work in partnership to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND.

SEND Team Update/Phased Transfer

.....

It's been an incredibly busy few weeks in the SEND team as all school aged children with EHCPs who are moving from Nursery to Reception, and Year 6 to Year 7, go through what is called 'Phased Transfer'.

This means that the SEND Team have been working under pressure with parents and schools to name the children's schools for September 2025. Our performance has

improved this year and next year it will be even smoother.

Taking on board feedback from schools and parents, SEND team managers are carrying out briefing sessions on improvements to Phased Transfers for the next cycle. We will be consulting with schools and parents to arrange these sessions post Easter, so please look out for announcements.

Upcoming careers event hosted by Together as One and Slough & Langley College

.....

This March, we are thrilled to partner with Slough & Langley College to host our inaugural careers event specifically designed for young people (16+) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The full event will take place on **Wednesday 5 March, 9.20am-2pm**, at the college, offering an enriching day for these young individuals to:

- meet with employers
- connect with people who have SEND and are thriving in the workplace
- learn new skills through interactive workshops.

The aim of the day is to spark an interest in different careers, and for students to find out about different work opportunities that will inspire them. While the structure of the day will feel familiar to many of you, we've tailored it to better meet the needs of the attendees. For instance, we will closely manage the

number of participants at any given time to avoid overwhelming those affected by sensory overload.

The day will consist of three sessions:

- stallholders to showcase opportunities and inspire attendees from 9.20am-12.40pm
- individuals within your organisation who have SEND and are willing to share their journeys will do so from 10am-1.20pm
- skills workshop leaders from 10.40am-2pm.

We look forward to hosting what promises to be an impactful and inspiring event.

For further information contact:

Jovi Armotrading
SEND Engagement and
Participation Officer

Telephone: 07709 525687
Email: jovi@togetherasone.org.uk
Website: SEND - Together As One

Staffing update

.....

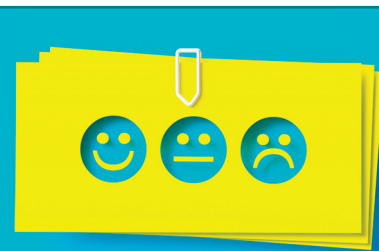
Three Business Support Officers (BSOs) have started work to quality assure the data we hold for all children.

They are also assisting in streamlining annual reviews so that we can bring those up to date. The "Data Task Force" will be in post for up to three months and their work is already having positive results. Welcome to Charlie Randell, Kerry Gibson and Dupe (Mo) Jacobs.

Two of our interim SEND case officer colleagues are transitioning to new roles. Interviews will be held next week to fill their positions.

Plans are in place for recruitment of permanent staff in March. We look forward to providing you with an update you next month.

If you have further comments, suggestions or would even like to work for the SEND team, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Head of SEND via email at paul.crulley@slough.gov.uk



Newsletter feedback:

this is your newsletter!
If you would like to suggest any changes to this newsletter, see additional information, be added to the mailing list, and/or give feedback, please email sendnewsletter@slough.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with us.
If you would like to make any article contributions, in future editions, get in touch SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk. We would love to hear from you!