

Welcome to March's edition of our SEND newsletter!

For you this month, we have an introduction to our Educational Psychology Service, information on our pending SEND area inspection by Ofsted and a wealth of resources and information that you and our young people may find useful.

We are changing the way we do things, and we want you, our children, and young people to be at the heart of everything that we do! Feel free to reach out with any future article ideas that you feel would be helpful - this is our newsletter, together and your views, really do matter.



Our Local Offer Page here at Slough, is a fantastic place to get to grips with all things SEND. The information is updated regularly and has helpful links, information on SEND services and the support that is available to children and families. It covers areas such as education, health, social care and other services. Visit www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk and select 'SEND Local Offer' for more information.

Romsey Close Children's Centre is outstanding!

All of Slough's children's centres were recently inspected by Ofsted and all were found to be good, apart from Romsey Close which was found to be outstanding!

In the report, the Inspector highlighted: "The dedicated leaders and staff are passionate about ensuring all children have the best

start in life regardless of their backgrounds. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are exceptionally well supported and make rapid progress from their starting points."

Well done and thank you to all of the dedicated staff who achieved this amazing result!



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**.

Mailing list reminder

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.



Spotlight on Psychology Services

Gary Nixon Educational Psychologist

Gary is an outstanding leader in education, health and children's services environments and is the Principal Educational and Child Psychologist here in Slough. He has previously held senior leadership positions in Shire, City and London Borough Areas and is a respected school leader, holding positions across all areas of SEND and learning, with specialist expertise in applied psychology, educational and organizational leadership and school improvement.

Within his professional life, Gary continues to influence national policy developments and is very passionate about the offer provided to our SEND young people, who are the heart of what we do as a service and why we do what we do.

All Educational Psychology work relates to the key themes of the SEND Code of Practice, including assessment of children and young people, which recognises the unique nature of every child and their unique individual circumstance. The Psychology Team, work with young people and their families to draw information together to develop a formulation of their strengths, needs and aspirations.

With this information Gary works to find the right approach to interventions and the support that would be helpful and beneficial going forward. This includes preparation of psychological advice to the authority as part of Education Health Care (EHC) needs assessments and supporting the council to understand needs and provision if a change of placement



or provision is requested or required. Our SEND young people deserve an inclusive service, where their needs are recognised, understood and form part of what we put in place to help them succeed in education.

If you'd like to contact a member of the SEND team please call 01753 787676 or email sendteam@slough.gov.uk.

Sign up to Slough Children's Disability Register!

Sign up to Slough Children's Disability Register to receive a Max card and to receive information on services in Slough!

Slough's Children's Disability Register is an online register which captures information about children and young people, aged 0-25 years, with disabilities or special educational needs in Slough. The information that you give us will be used anonymously to show the use of and demand for services in Slough.

On registering your child's details, you will be given the option to receive a Max Card.

The Max Card is a national, local authority-commissioned discount initiative for looked after children and children with additional needs aged 0-25 years. The scheme enables families to visit hundreds of attractions across the UK at a free or discounted rate.

- Check mymaxcard.co.uk/venues/ for details and a list of venues.

In Slough, your child might be eligible for a Max Card if they:

- have an EHC plan
- receive DLA
- have a letter of diagnosis of substantial and long-term mental impairment from CAMHS
- have medical proof of a physical impairment that has a long-term effect on ability to do normal daily activities.

This register is for Slough Borough Council residents only.

Registration on Slough Children's Disability Register is not a requirement to obtain any services in Slough and equally does not constitute automatic entitlement to any services.

To find out more and to register: [Slough Information and Services Guide | Slough Children's Disability Register](#)

If you need help with registering, email fis@slough.gov.uk or call Slough Family Information Service on 01753 476589.



Sign up to the **Children's Disability Register** to receive information on services and support available in Slough!

The Slough Children's Disability Register (SCDR) is a secure database which aims to capture information about all children and young people aged 0-25 years with disabilities or special educational needs in Slough.

The information you provide helps to plan and develop services and support.

Sign up and save with **maxcard**! When registering on SCDR you will be given the option to receive a Max Card. The Max Card is a national, local authority-commissioned discount initiative for children with additional needs aged 0-25 years. The scheme enables families to visit hundreds of attractions across the UK at a free or discounted rate.

Registration on Slough's Children's Disability Register is voluntary and not a requirement to obtain any services in Slough and equally does not constitute automatic entitlement to any services.

For more info visit:
E: fis@slough.gov.uk
T: 01753 476589



SEND Area Inspection update

As our previous newsletters have highlighted, we are preparing for our local area inspection of the services and provision for our children and young people with SEND. We are currently in the process of refining our area strengths, and areas for further development.

We have significant strengths in our Early Years Education sector, our Children's Centres (who were recently inspected by Ofsted and rated Good and Outstanding!) and in the performance of our schools and colleges across the borough. We are keen to further improve the consistency of communication and the timeliness of our assessments across SEND and the Health Teams, working closely with partners such as Special Voices, schools, and other professionals.

We are a service committed to positive change, which won't happen overnight, but we are confident that the improvements will benefit our SEND young people and families, who deserve a better service. There is also a dedicated page on Slough Borough Council's website that relates to Ofsted's initial report on SEND and our written statement of action, which highlights the areas identified for improvement. [SEND Local Area Inspection and WSOA - Slough Borough Council](#)

Additionally, to better understand Ofsted's approach to local SEND

inspections, please visit the official Ofsted YouTube page, via the video titled [What to expect on an area SEND inspection? A SEND virtual roadshow](#). This video is a recording of one of four virtual roadshows on the area SEND inspection framework. Watch the recording to find out about the changes under the existing framework, how Ofsted gather evidence on inspection and measure the service that you rely on.

We meet with our Ofsted colleagues regularly to measure our progress and to seek their advice on what meaningful changes can be made to keep us on track to a positive inspection. Be assured that work is happening every day on improvements, even if we don't announce it. For us improvement should not be a one-off event, but rather form part of our standard practice on a daily basis, ensuring that we are fit for purpose and evolving our SEND Local Offer.

Via our newsletter - we will take the regular opportunity to update you on the continued meaningful improvement plans and ideas, shaping your SEND service.

You can yourself take a more proactive role in helping to guide the improvements required, to deliver a service that is worthy of our children and young people. It is easy to get in touch with your ideas and feedback - email us: SENDnewsletter@slough.go.uk

Our recruitment strategy

As part of our ongoing improvements as a service area, we are currently developing a strategy, which will enable us to recruit to further posts within the SEND Case Officer cohort and the surrounding team. Core to this, is the priority of the overall stability of the team and ensuring that we recruit and maintain staffing levels, that not just deliver the statutory service that you deserve, but also enables us to implement and progress the service improvements that we would like to see, as part of your everyday service.

Nationally there is a high demand for SEND Case Officers which leads to local and national competition in the recruitment market place. This is a challenge which we are determined to overcome.

It is incredibly important for us to continue to select the right people for our service, who can bring with them the knowledge and expertise that will directly benefit our families.

We will be recruiting to further posts in 2025 and we are excited to update you in upcoming newsletters to our progress.

Spotlight on National Children's Bureau

The NCB has over 60 years' worth of experience in driving change to improve the systems that keeps children safe, secure and supported.

Their website [National Children's Bureau](#) offers a wealth of training events, information and support for anyone who has or works with children, with their impact noted beyond childhood. Their collaborative evidence-based approach gives them the ability to influence policy decisions, often at the highest levels.



SENDIASS training opportunities

We are pleased to share that regular training sessions on a variety of SEND topics are available on the SENDIASS website.

These training opportunities are designed to support parents, carers, young adults, and professionals alike, offering valuable insights into the SEND system and how to navigate it effectively.

Both morning and twilight sessions are available, providing flexible options to suit different schedules. We encourage everyone to take advantage of these sessions to gain a deeper understanding of SEND-related topics and improve their knowledge and skills in supporting young people with SEND.

For more information and to book a place, please visit [Slough SENDIASS](http://www.sloughsendiass.org.uk)



Online information sessions for parents of children with SEND, young people with SEND, and professionals

**Tuesday 25 March 2025
11am-12noon or 6-7pm.**

This session will focus on understanding the EHC plan, including:

- what to do if you disagree with the school/college/institution named in the EHC plan (Section I)
- if the Local Authority has not named a school/college/institution in the EHC plan (Section I).

To book, email: SENDIASS@slough.gov.uk (please specify AM or PM session) or via www.sloughsendiass.org.uk



Spotlight on mental health

Good mental health allows us all to cope with life's ups and downs.

It is okay to ask for help for ourselves and for our young people, who may not have the ability to seek out resources that can help. No matter how difficult life can feel at times, there is a range of local NHS and voluntary support services available for children and young people to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Support is available from a range of children mental health specialists,

and includes face-to-face and virtual sessions, advice via text and phone lines. Slough is in partnership with Frimley NHS - Healthier Together, who via their website frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk offer a range of services and advice on maintaining your child's mental health.



Healthier Together

Local advice and support to help manage and improve the health and wellbeing of babies, children, and young people

ASCOT | BRACKNELL | FARNHAM | MAIDENHEAD | NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE | SLOUGH | SURREY HEATH | WINDSOR



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!