



March/April 2021

## PROGRAMME UPDATE

### *Keeping stakeholders, parents and carers informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme*

#### **4. Working Together, Head Teachers and SEND Case Officers**

During the week of the 15th March, mainstream and academy Head Teachers attended meetings with Education and SEND teams, to get to know the team and build relationships with case officers allocated to their schools.

SEND Service staff received some very positive feedback about the relationships that have been built and the consistency of service from the team which is much appreciated whilst the service is still growing and evolving.

There were discussions about the number of children who have Education and Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Dudley (approx. 2740) and the number of new requests being received, particularly at Early Years

A number of areas were raised at the meetings which the SEND Service management will take away to look into further and build into development in the coming months.

These include;

- Funding – sessions at the SEND Network meetings have been delivered on the new matrix. Further details will be available in the coming weeks around implementation.
- Tribunals training for Mainstream Schools is currently being developed and will be offered in the coming months.

- Parental preference for inclusive mainstream schools; a consistent approach across all schools is required when receiving applications from children with SEND. Training and further guidance around this is planned for next term.

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