

Support for children with SEND during the COVID19 crisis:

Information for Schools and Parents

Support Available from the Inclusion Team

Sensory Support Team:

The team are offering telephone support to both families and schools. The focus is on remotely supporting schools to ensure any measures for learning at home (i.e. using online learning etc.) are suitable for the HI/VI learners needs, including discussions re- equipment etc. The team are also offering remote support to learners in schools as needed. The team are not visiting families or schools to adhere to social distancing requirements.

In addition to our own resources, the team are putting together additional resources about accessibility and some of the virtual platforms being used in our schools e.g. Google Classroom. We are also signposting families and schools to other resources that are available to support learning and mental health.

The team has contacted our health colleagues to advise where to send clinic updates electronically and that we are continuing to accept new referrals (will make contact where possible but not visit).

The team are starting to think about transition for our learners with sensory impairments, particularly around mobility and orientation and we are thinking about how we might carry out environmental audits without visiting.

Contact Details:

Sensory.Support@westsussex.gov.uk

Special Advisory Teacher Teams

Learning Behaviour Advisory Team (LBAT) and Autism and Social Communication Team (ASCT):

LBAT and ASCT are available remotely to support schools with meeting the need of children with Learning, Behaviour, Autism and Social Communication needs. The team offers CARMs or pupil consultations remotely at school's request and will respond to school queries or worries via phone or email. The teams can share electronic resources and training packs for school staff or parents.

Schools are to contact their allocated advisory teacher in the first instance. If an 'out of office' reply is received, and a more immediate response is needed, then contact:

SchoolsABC@westsussex.gov.uk

and someone from the LBAT and ASCT will make contact as soon as possible.

The teams are not visiting families or schools to adhere to social distancing requirements but are extending support to parents and will talk directly with parents, at the request of the school. Parental permission is required to be able to name and discuss a child.

Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS):

The team are available remotely to support schools in meeting the needs of EAL and GRT learners. The TES team are supporting schools in making and/or maintaining phone contact with individual GRT families where appropriate, including supporting access to home learning resources (eg. where internet availability is limited) and monitoring particularly vulnerable families. EMA colleagues are able to signpost electronic resources for EAL learners if requested. Bilingual support is available for supporting

schools' communication with Bengali, Portuguese, Polish, Lithuanian and Russian families. The team are not currently visiting families or schools in order to adhere to social distancing requirements.

Contact Details:

EAL queries - Ethnic Minority Achievement: emat@westsussex.gov.uk

GRT queries – Traveller Education Support: tes@westsussex.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs Assessment Team (SENAT):

The team are all working remotely and continuing to focus on usual statutory requirements – EHC needs assessment requests, EHC needs assessments and Annual Reviews. All documentation being received or sent out is via electronic means. Phone numbers/email addresses remain the same for all team members. There is a process in place for receiving post on a weekly basis although electronic contact would be preferred at this time.

Special Needs Officers (SNOs)/Team Managers are also available to discuss risk assessments linked to admissions to schools, under the vulnerable category with school leaders. SNOs also offering additional virtual support to schools. Schools just need to call or email them directly.

Panels are working remotely to enable continued decision making.

There is information on the Local Offer about the impact of the pandemic on SENAT's statutory functions, this can be viewed here:

https://westsussex.local-offer.org/information_pages/605-coronavirus-covid-19-useful-information

If professionals or families do not know who to contact in SENAT there are two shared email inboxes also available to raise queries:

SENAT.South@westsussex.gov.uk

SENAT.North@westsussex.gov.uk

The team are not visiting families or schools to adhere to social distancing requirements.

Educational Psychology Service (EPS):

The team are all working remotely and wherever possible conducting assessments as part of statutory requirements (EHCNA) –via phone or email and through review of all other information available. Senior EPs/Principal EP continue to be part of both EHCNA and SEN virtual panel meetings weekly.

Contact with all West Sussex SENCOS is through the school's link EP – answering queries etc as and when needed.

From after the Easter break the team will be rolling out a 'Community Call-back' service for parent/carers and practitioners to request a call back from an EP, slots will be available both during the day and in the evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are hoping to put together webinars and resource packs based on the areas of need identified through the call-backs. When a flyer is available, it will be shared with schools.

The Portage service is continuing to provide support to the families receiving Portage through on-going and regular telephone contact.

Information about the Educational Psychology Service can be found on the Local Offer website [here](#) and information about the Portage Service can be found [here](#)

Contact Details:

Schools and other practitioners – use email and phone details for contact EPs and community call-back system

Families – use the contact on community call-back flyer to talk to an EP

For any other enquiries: Cate.mullen@westsussex.gov.uk

SEND & Inclusion Link Advisers:

Offering support to schools in the risk assessment of learners with SEND and general challenges arising as a result of this situation. SEND and Inclusion Advisers are also working with Senior Leaders from mainstream and special schools, SENAT and the other Inclusion teams to find solutions for individual pupils with EHCPs and their families.

Contact Details:

Rachel.McDonald-Taylor@westsussex.gov.uk

Claire.Prince@westsussex.gov.uk

General Support to Families

West Sussex County Council Community Hub

If a parent is struggling to ensure they have food for their family, collect medication or in need of any additional support for children with additional needs please don't hesitate to get in touch with the West Sussex County Council Community hub.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/supporting-local-communities/community-hub-covid-19/>

Parents - Please remember, that your school, social worker and any other services that you already have contact with are still here to support you.

Medication

Online Medical delivery is still running to time.

Pharmacy2U which is an online delivery – to your door, but this takes around 10 days from ordering

https://www.pharmacy2u.co.uk/ppc?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI3biw7cPW6AIVgbTtCh0tsQQOEAAAYASAAEgLuqPD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds

Virtual Short Breaks

The West Sussex Short Breaks team have developed a short breaks wiki. A wiki is an interactive website containing lots of information to support children and young people and their families at this time.

It can be accessed at <https://wiki.rixwiki.org/west-sussex-mmm/home/short-breaks-6>