SEND Newsletter……encouraging everyone to raise their expectations for children and young people with SEND

Welcome to the SEND newsletter - an opportunity to share some updates about what is happening in Oxfordshire.

SEND Local Area revisit by Ofsted and CQC

Oxfordshire was revisited by Inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) between Tuesday 15 and Thursday 17 October 2019. Inspectors reviewed a wide range of evidence and met with parents/carers, senior leaders, school Heads and SENCo's and staff from across the local area. Inspectors will use the information they gathered to evaluate the progress made against each of the five areas of significant weakness identified in the Written Statement of Action. The report which outlines the findings of the revisit was published on the 23rd December 2019 and can be found here. Thank you to everyone who took part in or contributed to the revisit.

Improving the Local Area Engagement with Parents/Carers

Oxfordshire County Council is committed to improving the relationship with parents/carers who have children and young people that attend education settings across Oxfordshire.

We have already started our journey of engagement with a coffee morning that was held on the 15th November. This was well attended, and the feedback received is currently being pulled together in a short report to inform our future events.

Dates for your diary for our future consultation events are:

13th March – 10am - 12pm – Topic for discussion – Exclusions
16th June – evening meeting – 6.30 – 8.30pm - Topic TBC
9th October – 10am -12pm - Topic TBC

All venues are currently being sourced and will be announced as soon as possible.
Children’s Integrated Therapies Service

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire’s Parent Carer Forum are holding two focus groups with Parent Carers to inform a review of the Children’s Integrated Therapies Service (which reflects Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy)

The views and experiences of parents and carers are wanted. Please come along to one of the sessions…

**Tuesday 21st January**
6 - 8pm
Wesley Memorial Hall
New Inn Hall Street
Oxford
OX1 2DH
Register your place here: [https://oxpcfeventone.eventbrite.co.uk](https://oxpcfeventone.eventbrite.co.uk)

Or

**Friday 24th January**
12 - 2pm
Jubilee House
5510 John Smith Drive, Oxford Business Park South, Cowley, OX4 2LH
Register your place here: [https://oxpcfeventtwo.eventbrite.co.uk](https://oxpcfeventtwo.eventbrite.co.uk)

Support for Autism

For early years children with autism you can find information [here](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/service/ndc/). This includes

- **What autism is**
- **Getting a diagnosis**
- **Early Years Autism Support**
- **Information for parents, carers and families**
- **Courses and support groups**

For children and young people over 5 with autism or waiting for a diagnosis you can find general information by following this link.

[https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/service/ndc/](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/service/ndc/)

The [SENSS Communication and Interaction Support Service](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/service/ndc/) helps schools to support children with autism and speech, language and communication needs. Information about their graduated response, training and resources for schools and settings can be found [here](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/service/ndc/). A [parent leaflet](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/service/ndc/) explains how the service works.
Improving SEMH provision and reducing exclusion in Oxfordshire.

Over the last year inclusion leaders in secondary schools have been meeting with officers from the LA to develop ways of working together and share good practice in order to reduce exclusion from school and improve provision for pupils with SEMH needs.

Wykham Park Academy have been running classic nurture groups for 3 years for pupils across the school. Justine Williams, Senior Assistant Principal and SENCO answered the following questions about the impact the Nurture Provision has made:

What impact has attending the Nurture Group made for children that attend?
They are engaged not just with the nurture provision but their engagement and behaviour in lessons has also improved. In Year 7 it helps them to ‘fit’ into secondary school and feel supported. As the provision continues throughout the school they gain in pride and ownership of the nurture room
How do you know that children in the Nurture Group are making progress?
We track academic progress, reading age, behaviour data, attendance and use the Boxall Profile
What feedback have you had from parents of children attending the Nurture Group?
All very positive
How do children feel about attending the Nurture Group?
Excited and that they belong - it is no stigma to come to nurture, they have a real pride in the support they receive
How has the Nurture Group impacted the rest of the school?
It embodies our ethos and culture that all students are supported and belong. Staff openly refer students to the Nurture provision
What are the most important things to consider when setting up a Nurture Group?
Staff, venue, budget and of course the right students
Anything else you would like people to know?
As a SENCo it is the best intervention I have used, yes it is expensive in terms of finance and staffing but the outcomes are absolutely worth it

For more information about Nurture: take a look at www.nurtureuk.org, contact your OXSIT consultant, OXSIT@Oxfordshire.gov.uk; OCC Educational Psychologist or Dr Ruth Seymour, Educational Psychologist, Mulberry Bush Outreach rseymour@mulberrybush.org.uk