

SEND

Weekly Newsletter

22 May 2019



Issue 39

Welcoming latest member of the SEND team

Meet Gemma Reeves – SEND Operational Manager, Assessment Hub.

I've worked in the education sector at Somerset County Council for 16 years, across transport, education welfare and Support Services for Education. In these roles, I've worked with a range of professionals to support children and young people to access, attend and thrive in their schools, colleges and other educational settings. More recently, I've worked at Musgrove Park Hospital, managing the Breast Care Centre, exploring and learning about a new sector and different public sector organisation.

I'm really excited to be back at

the Council in the SEND team.

As SEND Operational Manager in the Assessment Hub, I manage the team undertaking the assessment side of the Educational Health and Care (EHC) process, from the first request for an EHC needs assessment to the potential issuing of a plan for a child or young person. I know the team have been working hard to respond to the changes since the implementation of the [SEND Code of Practice](#) and more recently following changes to the team structure. I'm keen to work with the team and educational settings to



support Somerset's children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities so they can achieve their best possible outcomes.

For all enquiries on EHC needs assessments email SENDassessmenthub@somerset.gov.uk

Personal health and wheelchair budget survey - share your views

The [NHS Long Term Plan](#) was published in January 2019 and includes a commitment to expand personal health budgets – including personal wheelchair budgets – so that

200,000 people can benefit by 2023/24.

As numbers increase, it is important for people to be able to openly share their experiences of having a

personal health budget, integrated personal budget or personal wheelchair budget – from their first conversation, to the ongoing care and support being provided.



Booked your half term breaks?

It's your final call this week for activities during the Half Term week 27 May to 31 May.

Don't forget the Short Breaks Team May calendar can be viewed [online and downloaded here](#).

There are some great, affordable activities across Somerset for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and their families.

These include;

Brookside Academy Playscheme in Street, SASP Sports sessions, Taunton, Purple Elephant family sessions in Frome and activities in Chard.

You can contact the team on 01823 358117 or shorbreaksteam@somerset.gov.uk

Mental health bid for partners

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is working with Somerset County Council and partners on an expression of interest in the [2019/20 Mental Health Support Teams \(trailblazer\) programme](#).

Once in place, these teams would deliver evidence-based interventions for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health issues and support designated senior leads in education settings.

Up to 8000 pupils would be supported by Mental Health Support Teams.

The expressions of interest (EOI) will be submitted by 24 May.

Dealing with bullying - tips from The Unstoppables

These tips were written by The

Unstoppables - a group of young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Somerset.

1. Talk to someone!

Parents, friends, police, student support, advocates, local MPs, teachers, Citizens Advice and councillors.

Did you know you can send a letter to school governors or Ofsted if you don't feel like the right action is being taken?

2. Anti-Bullying Week 11-15 November 2019

Ask your school how you can get involved.

Help make sure the consequences of bullying are loud and clear.

3. Remember - if someone is



bullying you...they may have something going on with themselves.

4. Try to help others - comfort and be there for them.

5. "People can't hurt or upset you without your consent."

You have a choice - try not to let it upset you.

Useful websites:

Kidscape - help with bullying

www.kidscape.org.uk

Mindline - for better mental health

www.mindinsomerset.org.uk

Childline

www.childline.org.uk

