

## **Parent Carer Forum Q & A**

### **Year 6 transition to high school : How will this work now? What are /will be the arrangements for transition back into school/next year group.**

Schools are making contact with families and liaising with the new school. They will be using the EHCP information to help prepare. The SEND Team continues to work and is available to contact with any specific queries. As soon as we are able Y6 and reception age children will be a priority for doing transition work to their new primary or high school.

### **EHCP reviews, what is happening and what/if any backlog will there be?**

Reviews will be conducted by phone or Skype where possible. The LA will be kept up to date with the discussions and any contentious issue will be picked up by the SEND team. The bulk of reviews will have already been carried out, conducted between Oct-March. However we appreciate that there may be some delays. Government have relaxed the timescales for reviews but we are working hard to complete as many as we can.

### **What is happening about Y6 SATS?**

They have been cancelled. We have yet to receive information on what assessments will be used. as we are awaiting further advice from Government.

### **Written confirmation about high school place, when to expect this? (received a phone call but no written confirmation) - then how to arrange transport?**

The offers of a high school places went out on 1 March national allocation day and the Admissions team liaised with SEND about these offers to determine the places for children with an EHCP. Families of children moving to special school were contacted to confirm between 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March 20. Transport offer is as per usual process.

The appeals process for secondary schools is still under discussion as we await further advice from Government. We know that this is an anxious time for families and we are looking at alternative ways we can facilitate this to alleviate that.

### **What help is available for families in crisis?**

Wigan Council are providing as many updates as possible through the Wigan Council website, and you can find things like the latest updates and advice on Covid-19 and any suspended services here (<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/index.aspx>)

We know that a number of individuals, families and businesses will be affected by Covid-19 and may mean they start to struggle financially. More information on the support available can be found here (<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Benefit-Grants/Benefit-Grants.aspx>). Which includes information on areas such as:

- Support with council tax reduction, discount and exemption
- Housing benefit support

- Eligibility for universal credit
- Applying for free school meals
- Business rate relief

New webpages are being written and made live to support residents, tenants and businesses providing advice, support and signposting to support services. And we will continue to update you as these become available.

A new contact helpline and digital offer to support vulnerable residents that are self-isolating went live on 24<sup>th</sup> March, signposting to relevant community groups or supported through the Service Delivery Footprint (SDF) Community Hubs for additional support, if they have no one else to turn to. SDF Community Hubs are being set up across the borough working with voluntary networks to support residents. Requests for support can be made by completing our 'Self-isolation Welfare Support' form at [www.wigan.gov.uk/bekind](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/bekind) or by calling the support line on 01942 489018.

We are also providing a general welfare support offer over the phone which customers can access by ringing 01942 705 221. Food parcels are also being made available at Wigan Life Centre to support customers.

#### **When do parents find out about admission to special primary school places?**

If the LA have had a request for a Special School Primary place for their Reception School year, all parents will be notified in line with the school organisation team after the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Again as above, if you wish to appeal, we will be in touch as soon as we can about how we will facilitate this.

#### **Which families should expect a call from TDS to see what support they need?**

TDS are compiling lists as we become aware that services have ceased, therefore so far all individuals who were accessing Ladies Lane have been contacted to see if any support needed. Likewise, we have been in contact/attempted contact with all families who have an open involvement with a worker on the team. Schools have also linked in with us and made us aware of families that have no support or are struggling, so we have also linked in with those families. We haven't contacted families re HSJ as we are hoping this will be resolved soon and there will be some offer of support.

We would hope that if families are struggling and need additional support that they would contact us and we could consider what options are available. There is a duty worker available every day for contact if needed via 01942 828468.

#### **What is happening regarding SENDIASS? What is the current offer in Wigan?**

The SENDIASS offer remains the same, although they are not currently holding face-to-face meetings. Monitoring indicates that they are just as busy in terms of calls from families though. Val, is offering support over the phone and trying to arrange meetings via Skype and

Microsoft teams. In addition, they are calling all of their closed cases to check if they require any support during this period. This includes support picking up shopping ect... for those who are unable to get out.

**Paediatric appts for diagnosis and enhanced transitions from nursery to primary with support from ELCT .**

Early Years Childcare will be contacting families to make them aware that we will still be planning for their children transitioning into school and liaising with the SEND team with regards to levels of support and will continue to support in September.