

# BOWER GROVE PARENT SUPPORT



## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

### CONTENTS:

**Page 1: Referral Routes for Mainstream Schools – SEN**

**Page 1: Find your local special, mainstream school or setting.**

**Page 1: Special Educational Needs – SEN REFORMS**

**Page 2: KCC LOCAL OFFER - Key SEN Information & Links**

**Page 2: 'Who to talk to if you think your child has Special Educational Needs'**

**Page 4: Key SEN Organisations and Support**

### **Referral Routes for Mainstream Schools - SEN SPECIALIST TEACHERS OUTREACH RESOURCE MAIDSTONE AREA – (STORM)**

In the Maidstone area there are now clear referral routes for all mainstream schools for any children who have special educational needs. Each school now meets regularly with a group of schools in their area, called LIFTs (Local Inclusion Form Teams) and present at these meetings is a member of the Specialist Teaching Service (STS), School SENCOs and an Educational Psychologist. If the schools are unable to resolve issues on a local basis by sharing expertise and information together, a referral is made to the weekly allocation meeting of STS at which both Bower Grove School and Five Acre Wood School are represented. The referrals can then be allocated to staff with relevant expertise and with the combined resources of the two special schools there should be a broader and increased amount of SEN support to promote inclusive practice in the Maidstone area. Mainstream head teachers feel the process is working well and all were conversant with the referral process which seemed to be responding to school requests in a satisfactory manner.

### **KCC Schools Link:**

**Find your local special, mainstream School or Setting:**

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places>

### **Special Educational Needs – SEN REFORMS**

Please see an extract from the Department for Education below: <http://www.gov.uk/df>

### **Special educational needs (SEN)**

'The Government is transforming the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), including those who are disabled, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them. The Act will extend the SEN system from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parent's greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met. It takes forward the reform programme set out in *Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability: Progress and next steps* including:

- replacing old statements with a new birth- to-25 education, health and care plan;
- offering families personal budgets; and
- improving cooperation between all the services that support children and their families, particularly requiring local authorities and health authorities to work together'

**Cont'd.....**

# SEN REFORMS

**For information and where you can go for help about the SEN Reforms**

**See Special Educational Needs & Disability**

**KCC LOCAL OFFER link below**

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

## OTHER USEFUL LINKS

**EARLY HELP:** Kent County Council are changing Early Help and preventative services. Transforming the way services for children, young people and families are delivered. To read more please see link below:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/jobs/careers-with-us/careers-in-early-help-and-preventative-services/how-we-are-changing-early-help-and-preventative-services>

Your SEN Officer or SENCO at School

(INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT KENT (IASK) [www.kent.gov.uk/iask](http://www.kent.gov.uk/iask)  
(Formerly Kent Parent Partnership Service)

INDEPENDENT SUPPORT KENT 0300 011 0151 or email: [info@iskent.org.uk](mailto:info@iskent.org.uk)  
(Working alongside the Kent Disabled Children's Parent Driven Consortium)

Kent Parent Carer Forum <http://www.kpcf.co.uk/>

Council for Disabled Children [www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk](http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk)

SEND Pathfinder <http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk>

IPSEA [www.ipsea.org.uk](http://www.ipsea.org.uk)

SE7 Pathfinder <http://www.se7pathfinder.co.uk>

## WHO TO TALK TO FIRST IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS:

### As mentioned on the KCC website:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

'If you think your child may have special educational needs, you should first contact the person in your child's school or nursery responsible for special educational needs. This person is called the SEN Co-ordinator, or SENCO. If your child isn't in a school or nursery then contact KCC or your doctor. **(INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT KENT (IASK)** can help you at each stage of the process, including with paperwork and support at meetings.' **(INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT KENT (IASK)** provides key information leaflets that can be downloaded; please see more information about this service in Key Organisations on the next page.

**For further information and other points of contact please follow the KCC links above or contact the Special Educational Needs teams listed below:**

### Contact the special educational needs teams

If you don't know which team to call, contact any of the numbers below and someone will help.

East Kent - 01227 284405

West Kent - 03000 414693

North Kent – 03000 419345

Email: [aen.resources@kent.gov.uk](mailto:aen.resources@kent.gov.uk)

## KEY ORGANISATIONS BELOW:

### KENT EDUCATION LEARNING AND SKILLS INFORMATION

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/>

Kent Education Learning and Skills Information website has replaced the Kent Trust Web Website as the Kent County Council's main website aimed at schools, settings and other Education, learning and professionals in Kent.

### INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT KENT (IASK) (Formerly Kent Parent Partnership Service)

Helpline 03000 41 3000 Office 03000 412 412

[iask@kent.gov.uk](mailto:iask@kent.gov.uk) [www.kent.gov.uk/iask](http://www.kent.gov.uk/iask)

Information, Advice and Support Kent (IASK) is statutory, which means that every Local Authority (LA) must provide a service for parents\* of disabled children\*\* and children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The Service operates at arm's length from the LA and provides **free confidential, impartial advice and support** to parents. IASK are committed to parental involvement and offer a range of support to increase parental confidence. The experienced team is available to listen and discuss any issues around your child's education and development in complete confidence. The Helpline is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm (answer phone and email are available 24 hrs). IASK staff are available for face to face meetings either at a drop-in (please telephone or see website), or in a place that is mutually convenient (out of these hours if necessary). \* adults with parental responsibility \*\* children and young people

### KENT PARENT CARER FORUM (KPCF)

Kent Parents as Equal Partners have changed their name **to: Kent Parent Carer Forum (KPCF)**

01233 469 241

[info@kpcf.co.uk](mailto:info@kpcf.co.uk)

<http://www.kpcf.co.uk>

Kent Parent Carer Forum (KPCF) CIC (a Community Interest Company) was set up to Unite parents/carers of children with SEN and Disabilities, to Listen to their views and then help to Influence change. What do KPCF do? They listen to parents, carers and families about the issues they face. They then share these issues (anon) with the relevant people at KCC or NHS and they also share this information with the relevant MP and councilors. KPCF CIC sit on a range of boards and decision making groups helping to make parents voices heard. They aim to actively involve parents and carers in planning and making decisions about services for children and young people. They also share the information on a national level so that the Government hears about what issues are being faced. Membership is free! Becoming a member will mean they can keep you updated about important local and national developments. Joining is FREE and you can participate as much or little as you like. Get involved, have your say and together you can help to influence the services available to our families. They hold a Parent Advisory Group which is for all mums, dads and carers in Kent who have children and young adults of up to 25 years.

### SEN PATHFINDER

<http://www.se7pathfinder.co.uk/home-1>

Check out this website for key Special Educational Needs (SEN) information

### IPSEA - SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS CHARITY

<http://www.ipsea.org.uk/>

IPSEA has produced 40 new on-line resources to help parents take action with common SEN issues. These are available to download on their website.

### CONTACT A FAMILY SEN NATIONAL ADVICE SERVICE

**Contact a Family has launched the only country-wide advice service for Special Educational Needs: The SEN National Advice Service.** This service will help families whose child may have special educational needs – they will be able to provide advice and information on any aspect of their child's education. Help is available through their helpline **0808 808 3555**, or post a query on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) and a SEN adviser will get back to you. Alternatively send them an email:

[helpline@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:helpline@cafamily.org.uk). Web: <http://www.cafamily.org.uk>

### Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM)

Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is a campaign to get rights and justice for every disabled child. They work closely with the disabled children's sector and supporters to lobby Government to ensure disabled children and their families have the services and support they need to lead ordinary lives

<http://www.edcm.org.uk/>