

A newsletter for Croydon parents and carers who support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

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## Preparation for Adulthood Feedback Survey – Have your voice heard!

Have you taken part in the Preparation for Adulthood Multi-Disciplinary Protocol Feedback survey? We have now been live for a month and have received some positive feedback that suggests that we are on the right path.

To ensure that we create a comprehensive document that supports our young people transitioning into adulthood, we would really appreciate it if you could take part in the survey.

<https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/project/668>

The survey closes on the **27<sup>th</sup> November 2020** so follow the link and have your say.

## Council for Disabled Children

Council for Disabled Children (CDC) have created a **Family Support page** on its website, which includes information about the new government restrictions.

Parents or carers of disabled children may continue to access respite care to support them in caring for their disabled child. Where activities are being provided solely for this purpose, they are able to continue.

## What does it mean for families?

For families the guidance sets out that:

- Parents are able to form a childcare bubble with another household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under
- Out of school activities and wraparound care can continue for registered childcare and to provide respite care, including for vulnerable children
- Parents or carers of disabled children may continue to access respite care to support them in caring for their disabled child
- Early years settings and childminders remain open, and parents of under-5s can continue to use these settings as normal
- Parents will be able to access other childcare activities (including wraparound care) where reasonably necessary to enable parents to work, seek work, attend education or training, or for the purposes of respite care for carers
- Youth support services, including 1-1 youth work and support groups, may also continue to operate
- Early years, schools and other education settings continue to operate as before
- Home tutoring and elective home education can continue to operate.

The link to the Council for Disabled Website for further information is:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/family-support>

## Online safety for your child: tips and useful website links

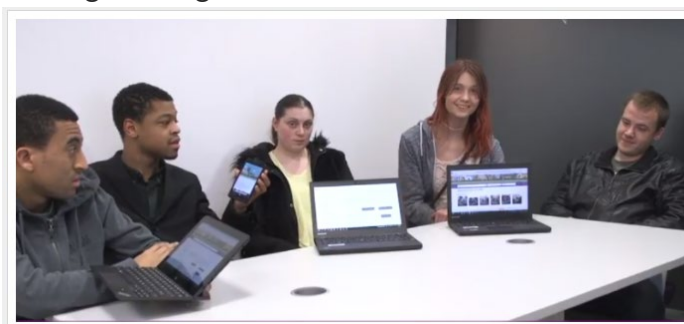
*By Anna Ljumovic, School Improvement Adviser and safeguarding trainer*

I hope these tips will help you in supporting your child online and help you in supporting them to develop confident use of the internet and to do so safely.

Most of my tips are from the NSPCC site but I have added a couple of points in case they are of use. Below the tips are links to useful websites. I

can recommend the [ThinkUKnow](#) site which is funded by the National Crime Agency to develop online safety for children.

- Think about the language of the internet – what does it mean? Help your child understand what the key terms mean. Are the key messages in language that is too complex to understand and could they be made more straightforward? (Such as 'Don't share personal



*information on line – what does that mean and how could it be made clearer and easier to understand?*

- Reassure your child that you're interested in their life, offline and online. Recognise that they may be using the internet to research homework as well talking to their friends
- Ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online or apps they're using so you can understand them
- Be positive but also open about anything you are worried about. You could say "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here"
- Ask them if they're worried about anything, and let them know they can come to you
- Ask them about their friends online and how they know they are who they say they are.
- Listen for the reasons why your child wants to use apps or sites you don't think are suitable, so you can talk about these together
- Ask your child what they think is okay for children of different ages so they feel involved in the decision making
- In addition of course, keep your parental controls up to date
- Have conversations about "what is a friend" and "who is a friend" to help your child distinguish between them. You know your child best so try to find a comparison that may help them understand that someone who they don't know is not an instant friend. It could be compared, for example, to someone trying to sell you something. What is the cost? etc
- By being open about wanting to help, encourage a 'Here to help' 'Let's try together' and "Better check first". approach
- Familiarise yourself with how your child can report something – it is very easy! You will see the logo on the Child Exploitation and Online Safety (CEOP) site - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> Look for the logo!

In addition, all the following websites have very helpful pages for parents:

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>
- <https://www.childnet.com/>

## Children's Occupational Therapy

The role of the children's occupational therapist is to maximise each child's individual potential at home, school and at play, working in partnership with the child, their family and other professionals.

In Croydon, the Children's Occupational Therapy Service is based at the Crystal Children's Development Centre, however the occupational therapists work in a variety of settings including mainstream and special schools, nurseries, playgroups, the child's home and Croydon University Hospital. Our team of children's occupational therapists have specialist skills and training to enable them to provide an assessment and intervention service aimed at meeting each child's individual needs.

We are continuing to see children face to face including virtual workshops throughout these challenging times.

We have an open referral process, any professional, agency or parent/carers are able to refer to our service. Please contact 020 8274 6854 or email [ch-tr.croydonchildrensot@nhs.net](mailto:ch-tr.croydonchildrensot@nhs.net) to request a referral form and referral criteria.

The general occupational therapy service will work with children who have special needs in the following areas:

- Co-ordination difficulties (particularly fine motor coordination), including developmental coordination disorder
- Complex handwriting difficulties
- Sensory processing
- Self care, such as feeding and dressing
- Seating and specialist equipment
- Splinting for chronic conditions
- Following an assessment, a variety of therapeutic interventions may be recommended, depending on the capacity of the service and the needs of the child. This may include:
  - Programmes for home / school to implement
  - Advice and strategies to address the identified areas of difficulty
  - Advice on suitable equipment for home or school to purchase to address child's needs.
  - Treatment sessions at home or clinic – these are predominantly offered to children under 5 years and those with a physical disability, for a short period of time. Ongoing direct treatment sessions are not offered.

Involvement of parents / carers and school / nursery (where applicable) is an integral part of the intervention and commitment to this by the parent / carer is essential. Use of advice and strategies will need to be carried out by others who work with the child e.g. parent / carer and school, so please bear this in mind when you refer a child.

## Parents in Partnership update: Transition project

PiP (Parents in Partnership) are very pleased to run a Transition Project for parents/carers of young people aged 13 years and upwards. This is to increase awareness of what the transition process is, when it starts and what opportunities are available for your young person once they leave school.



The first four transition sessions will be held in November and December 2020. All the sessions are free and we do hope you can attend as many as possible.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, these sessions will be held online via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Both of these apps can be downloaded for Android or IOS.

**Please let PiP** know if you have any difficulty accessing Zoom or Microsoft Teams and they will do their best to help you.

Please contact Tansy Muller at PiP at [tansy.muller@pipcroydon.com](mailto:tansy.muller@pipcroydon.com) to let her know which of the ten sessions you are interested in attending so you can be sent an invitation to Zoom/Microsoft Teams in a separate email nearer the time.

You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions but it is important to have your email contact details and which session/s you are hoping to attend so that you are sent the relevant links in good time.

The sessions are as follows.

Title	Details	Date and time
Decision Making Workshop	<p>MENTAL CAPACITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is mental capacity and who assesses mental capacity</li><li>• What affects mental capacity</li><li>• Different levels of capacity for different things</li><li>• How the Mental Capacity Act 2005 affects us</li></ul> <p>POWERS OF ATTORNEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is a Power of Attorney?</li><li>• Lasting Powers of Attorney explained</li></ul> <p>COURT OF PROTECTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What it is and what it does</li><li>• When and how to contact them</li><li>• Timescales and their charges</li></ul>	Monday 23rd November 2020 from 10:30- 11.45am via Zoom

Title	Details	Date and time
Benefits	*Information to gain an understanding of Personal Independence Payment and Universal Credit *To know how to become an appointee if necessary *To understand the importance of keeping their child's money separate when they become 18 and may need a financial assessment 3	Thursday 26th November 2020 from 09:45am – 1pm with a comfort break in between plus time at the end for Q&As. This session will be held via Microsoft Teams
Sexuality, Puberty and Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult Conversations</li> <li>• Ability to make decisions</li> <li>• Contraception</li> <li>• Consent</li> <li>• How to talk with your child/young person about sex and relationships</li> <li>• Strategies for teaching your child about puberty and the changes to their body as they develop</li> </ul>	Wednesday 2nd December 2020 from 1pm - 3pm including a short comfort break.
Transition to Adult Services and The Care Act 2014		January 2021 via Microsoft Teams (details to be confirmed)
Further Education and Employment Choices		January 2021 via Microsoft Teams (details to be confirmed)
Becoming Independent		February 2021 via Microsoft Teams (details to be confirmed)
Managing Mental Health Issues		February 2021 via Microsoft Teams (details to be confirmed)
The Criminal Justice System and Young People with Additional Needs		March 2021 via Microsoft Teams (details to be confirmed)
Parent Experiences of Transition		March 2021 (details to be confirmed)

## Bereavement support

Children's Grief Awareness Week runs from 19 to 25 November 2020.

You can find information and support for bereaved children at

<https://curriculumblog.lgfl.net/2020/11/child-grief-awareness-week-2020/>



This includes links to support and information specifically for children with SEND.

## Get in touch

**Croydon SEN Enquiries:** [senenquiries@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:senenquiries@croydon.gov.uk)

### SEND Local Offer

Services, advice, information and what's on in and around Croydon

[localoffer.croydon.gov.uk](http://localoffer.croydon.gov.uk). Email us at [localoffer@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@croydon.gov.uk)