

Winter Edition Bury SEND Newsletter



News about our Local Offer & SEND Service

Please subscribe to the Local Offer mailing list:

✉ Email: SEND.Localoffer@bury.gov.uk

BURY2GETHER is Bury's Parent Carer Forum and parents or carers of children and young people with SEND up to the age of 25 can get in touch with us.

Find out more at www.bury2gether.co.uk

You can get in touch by email:

bury2gether@gmail.com



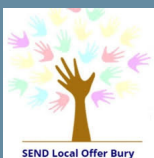
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Bury
Council

LET'S
do it!
Shared success
across Bury

NHS
Greater Manchester
Mental Health
NHS Foundation Trust



Winter Edition

Bury SEND Newsletter

Introduction- Our Priority Leads

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Local Offer newsletter.

We're sorry that it has been three months since the last newsletter and we know our communications to our community has not been good enough. It has been too long, particularly following the inspection and strengthening our communication with you is one of our priorities.

There has been a lot happening on the improvement journey that we are all on.

The council, health service and our education and community partners are working together to make sure those improvements are being made, and that your child and family receive the services they deserve.

At the end of last year representatives from the Department for Education were in town to carry out a six-month stock take of the work taking place.

We were pleased they recognised the progress in Bury in responding to the recommendations following the Ofsted inspection, and we are grateful to all partners for their contribution thus far.

However, we know we have much more to do and particularly we understand we need to build on the solid platform created to make sure children young people and families are beginning to feel the system is working more effectively.

The representatives also made recommendations for progress to be made with the plan.

In particular this includes making sure we communicate with you in a more appropriate and timely way.

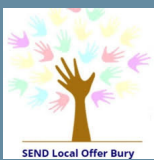
We are committed to continue to work with all agencies including council, NHS partners, education providers, and many others as well as children, young people, parents and carers to make the progress we all recognise is required.



Jeanette Richards
Executive Director Children
and Young People



Will Blandamer
Executive Director, Health
and Adult Care



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Local Area SEND Improvement Update

You may be aware that in February 2024 Bury Local Area had an Area SEND inspection undertaken by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

As a result of the inspection, The Local Area SEND Partnership were required to produce our SEND Local Area Priority Impact Plan (PIP). This outlines our continued commitment to enhance SEND Services and outcomes for our Children and Young People and improve the lived experience of our families.

The local area remains subject to ongoing monitoring visits. Including 'deep dive' activities and 'Stocktake' monitoring visits from representatives from the Department for Education and NHS England.

'Stocktake visits' from the Department for Education (DfE) typically refers to an assessment visit and are designed to review the progress and performance of the local area in respect of the delivery of the agreed SEND Local Area Priority Impact Plan (PIP). The aim is to ensure that the local area is on track with their improvement plan and to provide further guidance if needed.

In December, our first stocktake visit took place and advisors from the Department of Education and National Health Service England did a review of our progress against the Priority Impact Plan.

This happens in all Local Area SEND systems where widespread and/or systemic failures have been identified after about six months following the inspection report and the Improvement Notice being issued.

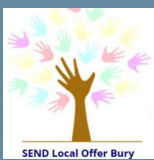
You can read about this on our Local Offer website by following the link below:

[Bury SEND Stocktake Letter](#)

As a Local Area Partnership, we fully appreciate that the first six months have focused on implementing actions per the improvement plan. The next phase is to embed these into systematic changes and ensure sustainability.

We acknowledge that the impact of these changes is not yet being felt by our parents, carers and their families. This will be a major focus for us leading up to our next stocktake visit, anticipated in July 2025.

We will continue to work in partnership with you all to seek your opinions and feedback.



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Priority Impact Plan

During the summer, we worked hard with parent/carer forum BURY2GETHER and our partners to put together the Priority Impact Plan for Bury's SEND services.

Our focus is to drive these improvements forward so that you see changes as soon as possible.

The aim is to make sure that we use the resources we have, to best meet the needs of our children with special educational needs and disabilities.

You can find out more about the latest that is happening on the Local Offer website:
www.bury.gov.uk/social-care-and-support/child-care-and-support/children-with-disabilities/bury-send-local-offer

Priority Action 1

The SEND strategy continues to be implemented to improve the lived experiences of children and young people with additional needs.

Priority Action 2

Partners to work together to improve the early identification of children and young people with additional needs.

Priority 3

Improve the quality and availability of support for children, young people and their families while they wait for specialist assessments.

Priority Action 4

Improve preparation for adulthood from the earliest ages for all children and young people with SEND in Bury.

Priority Action 5

Set up and implement a strategic approach to high-quality transitions between education providers for children and young people with SEND from birth to 25.

Priority Action 6

Further improve the quality of the statutory Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan process.

Area for Improvement 1

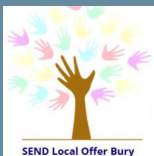
Improve communication to professionals, parents and carers and children and young people

Area for Improvement 2

Continue to develop suitable alternative provision for children and young people as part of 'Education Otherwise Than At School'

Area for Improvement 3

Work to create a partnership-wide strategy for developing staff.



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Bury SEND Newsletter

Updates from Deborah Glassbrook

Hello to you all.

The SEND Improvement and Assurance Board (also referred to as SIAB) members have continued to meet every month so there have been a total of 6 meetings now. Board members include representatives from all political parties highlight the importance of working together.

There continues to be support and challenge in relation to the 6 Priority Impact Areas and the 3 Areas of Improvement as I described in the newsletter that was sent out in October.

We have now had 3 rounds of discussing these (6+3 as we call them) and have been tracking progress of the actions that are within the Priority Impact Plan or the IP as we often refer to it.

You can see the plan here on the council's website:

www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/Bury-Priority-Impact-Plan-FINAL-without-names.pdf

I am pleased to say that there has been good progress on the majority of the actions and where the actions haven't been completed or timescales haven't been met there have been understandable reasons.

Let me explain, sometimes doing the work within the PIP has led to a greater understanding of something, which has then resulted in some other actions needing to be completed before the original ones can be achieved – this has been the situation in relation to Priority impact Area 1 about developing the SEND Strategy, for example.

Where this has been the case the actions and timescales are being reset to make sure that any additional work is completed and that the end product, process or change is of a good quality and can lead to the impact and outcomes that children, young people and their families need.

We are delighted that there is now project management support for the improvement journey and servicing of the SIAB which will make everything so much more streamlined, trackable and risk assessed.

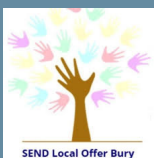
There is now the capacity to use colour coding – Red, Amber and Green (known as RAG rating) for each of the actions, a SIAB Risk Register and the development of how SIAB will monitor the difference being made (also called impact) using Impact Milestones.

Red- No progress

Amber- Partial progress

Green- Good progress

continues on next page...



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Updates from Deborah Glassbrook

... continued from page 4

These tools will strengthen the work of SIAB and support the improvement journey.

It has been really wonderful to meet with the young people's group called the Change Makers on a monthly basis in between the SIAB meetings and to have their feedback about the 6+3 and the work of the Board at the SIAB meetings – sometimes this is them attending the meetings and other times their views and contributions come from feedback via the Youth Ambassador.

It is so important that we learn even more from the young people with lived experience so that the work, changes and improvements being made are meaningful and sustainable.

A big thank you to them for their amazing commitment and such influential feedback.

I wish you a happy Spring and look forward to updating further in the next newsletter.

Warmest wishes, Deborah

Deborah Glassbrook,
Independent Chair of SEND Improvement and Assurance Board

Inquiry about the SEND system

Thank you to everyone who came along to a session with MP James Frith and shared their views and experiences.

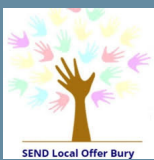
The Parliamentary Education Select Committee is currently holding an inquiry called 'Solving the SEND Crisis'.

Your views are important and will be

shared with the Committee by the MP.

If you want to keep up to date with the work of this inquiry, you can find out more here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8684/solving-the-send-crisis/>



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Bury SEND Newsletter

Our communication and engagement with you

We know that our communication with you is very important and improving this is one of our priorities.

We recognise that we still have a long way to go in our improvement journey but we are committed to strengthening our communication with you and this newsletter is an essential part of our efforts.

As well as hearing from Bury2Gether, it is important for us to hear directly from parents, carers, and young people about their experiences. We want to make sure that you are placed at the heart of our decision making and we are setting up ways to facilitate this.

Bury Local Offer

The Bury Local Offer is the main way of finding out about the support available to you about the services and support that is available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND).

Its purpose is to help families access information about the services that are available to them. We are continuing to develop our Local Offer in line with your feedback and advice. It is seeing increased usage but we recognise it needs development. You should expect to see improvements to our Local Offer website appearing in the coming months.

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/social-care-and-support/child-care-and-support/children-with-disabilities/bury-send-local-offer>

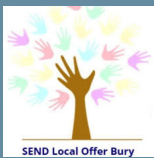
Please subscribe to the Local Offer mailing list by: **Email: SEND.Localoffer@bury.gov.uk or Tel: 0161 253 6087**

BURY2GETHER

Bury2Gether is Bury's Parent Carer Forum and parents or carers of children and young people up to the age of 25 can get in touch with us.

Find out more at www.bury2gether.co.uk and you can get in touch by email: bury2gether@gmail.com





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Bury SEND Newsletter

Meet Rosie Wright

One of the most important aspects of our improvements has been ensuring we have the right staff in place to support families, schools, and volunteers across the borough.

We have been able to recruit a new SEND Communications and Engagement Officer, Rosie Wright, filling the role that has been vacant since last spring.

Here Rosie introduces herself:



I am delighted to assume the role of SEND Communications and Engagement Officer and I am looking forward to working with you all.

My background is rooted in education and before joining Bury Council, I worked in multiple schools across Greater Manchester; supporting to oversee and manage the implementation of high-quality SEND provision.

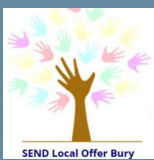
I am passionate about ensuring that the work we do is child-centred at its core and that we actively value the voices of our parents, carers, young people and children.

I am eager to get to know each of you and to work together to ensure that your lived experiences play a fundamental role in shaping our continued efforts.

I understand that effective and inclusive communication with all stakeholders is absolutely vital to supporting Bury's journey of improvement and I am committed to achieving this and contributing to our shared success.



Rosie Wright,
SEND Communications
& Engagement Officer



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Bury SEND Newsletter

Meet Scout Stirling

Our SEND and Inclusion Ambassador

Scout Stirling is our fantastic SEND and Inclusion Ambassador.

Scout works closely with our young people with additional needs to ensure that their voices and experiences are heard and valued.

By actively engaging with our young people, Scout bridges the gap between our young people's lived experiences and the SEND strategies and services we offer in Bury.



This collaborative approach ensures that our programmes and policies are tailored to meet the unique needs and aspirations of the young people we serve.

With a BA in Illustration and an MA in Design for Health and Wellbeing, Scout's academic background forms a robust basis for her innovative methods. These creative approaches lie at the core of Scout's work, enabling her to design and coordinate groups that create valuable opportunities for positive youth development.

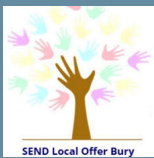
A notable recent success has been The Change Makers group, where Scout has gathered young people who are passionate about affecting change in SEND strategy and support.

The Change Makers have already started reviewing our Priority Action Plan, sharing their thoughts, and outlining the changes they would like to see. Please contact Scout at s.stirling@bury.gov.uk if you would like to know more.

In her role, Scout continues to bridge gaps and build connections, ensuring that our young people with additional needs are met with understanding and compassion. Scout's work not only highlights the importance of inclusive practices but also sets a precedent for future initiatives within the council.

Stay tuned for more updates and insights from Scout as she continues to advocate for and support our young people with additional needs.

Together, we can make a difference!



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Bury SEND Newsletter

SEND services and support

Bury SEND service comprises multiple teams across education, health and social care that work collaboratively to support our children, young people and families in Bury. Our SEND service consists of ...

Our **SEND Support Service** continues to offer guidance to educational settings to ensure the inclusion of children and young people at SEN Support Level.

We support Bury's Inclusion and Outreach Offer through both targeted universal and specialist support.

This includes a CPD programme for school SENCO's and support for Primary Locality Area meetings and Secondary Inclusion Partnership meetings. Our work is rooted in Section 6 of the SEND Code of Practice and aligns with Bury's Local Offer and Graduated Approach Toolkit.

The Visual Impairment (VI) & Hearing Impairment (HI) Service continues to support our children and young people in their settings and offers termly fun Youth Group activities for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

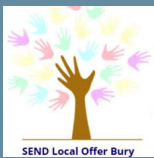
In the autumn term, we enjoyed a social evening at Radcliffe Markets and a morning with Manchester City in the Community, playing sports at the Etihad campus.

Last month, the group had a fantastic time at Hollywood Bowl, and the students successfully raised funds for future activities. We eagerly anticipate our spring events!

Our pre-school group is currently on hold due to low numbers, but this is regularly reviewed and will hopefully restart soon.

The EHC Team understand the importance of timely communication with our families and professionals, so we developed the duty line, as a first step to improving this. Your calls continue to go to the general enquiry line (0161 253 5969) and Coordinators and Assistants will continue to respond to your enquiries, wherever possible. If you need to speak to your assigned officer and are unable to reach them, you will be offered contact from the duty officer the same day.

We continue to make all efforts to recruit staff and to make sure we have a stable SEND team to support you and your families.



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Bury SEND Newsletter

School and College Transport Team

We apologise for the ongoing issues with transport to and from school. We are working on plans to ensure that any day to day challenges are communicated with parents more swiftly.

In this edition of the newsletter, we provide an update on the steps we are taking to address these problems, as well as some of the challenges we encounter.

Travel Co-ordinators

Two new Travel Co-ordinators were appointed to the vacant posts within the team and joined us last September. They are both settling in very well whilst continuing to learn and develop in their roles. Many schools and parents will have spoken to Jack and Marie and they've been complimented for their work.

Escort Recruitment

Unfortunately, we continue to face challenges with recruitment and having vacant routes. We are currently operating 6 routes requiring a pupil escort morning and afternoon, one route which needs a pupil escort for the afternoon session only, and 3 routes requiring cover on Monday afternoons only.

The team manage a small pool of relief escort staff who will be deployed to cover vacant routes wherever possible.

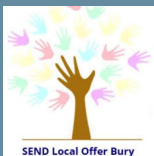
We currently have two new escorts undergoing training and have appointed a further seven escorts who are currently going through the onboarding process. Two have confirmed start dates in the next two weeks, the remaining candidates have some outstanding checks to be processed.

We are doing as much as possible to recruit new staff with job adverts for both permanent and relief staff consistently advertised on Facebook, Indeed and X alongside Greater Jobs.

Cancellation of Routes

Unfortunately we had to cancel a number of routes during January, mainly due to escort or driver sickness. Every effort is made by our contractors to provide cover for driver unavailability, and to provide an alternative vehicle when this can be sourced.

We absolutely appreciate the impact that cancellation of transport has on our children, young people and their families and are sorry that this has happened.



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Our new look!

You may have noticed that our newsletter has taken on a new look!

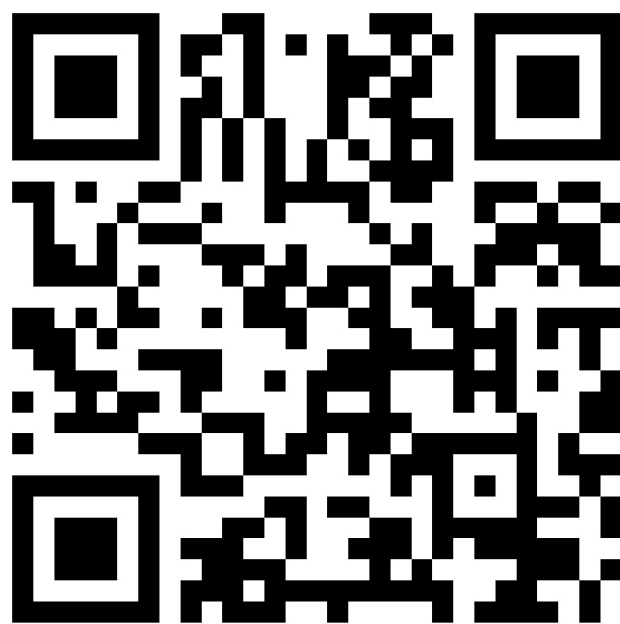
We have carefully chosen a redesign for some of our SEND materials to ensure that they are in keeping with neurodiverse friendly design standards and accessible to as many of our readers as possible; this includes changes to the colours, fonts and text sizes that we use.

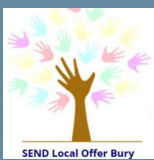
These changes are based on some of the research available about neurodiverse colour preferences and dyslexia friendly materials.

We are committed to making our newsletters increasingly accessible and relevant to our parents, carers and families and we would appreciate your feedback on this.

We would love to know what you think about our newsletter and what you do/do not want to see included in future issues. If you would like to contribute to improving this newsletter, please tell us what you think by **scanning the QR code** or following the **link below**:

<https://forms.office.com/e/X5M4aZJn3R>





Winter Edition

Bury SEND Newsletter

What's on?

Parent and carer engagement sessions

11 March 2025, Parent/Carer Engagement SEND Hub, 7pm-8.30pm

Wendy Young, Head of Service (Special Educational Needs (SEND) & Inclusion) for Bury will be attending an engagement session for parents and carers at the SEND Hub, Radcliffe.

Wendy is the strategic lead for SEND and has responsibility for a number of SEND Services in Bury, including the Statutory Assessment and Review Team, Educational Psychology Service, Sensory Support, Outreach and SEND Support. This is an opportunity to meet Wendy, who joined Bury Council around 7 months ago, and find out about the work that she is undertaking in which to contribute to our SEND Improvement journey.

If you would like to come along go to the Bury2Gether booking page:
<https://bookwhen.com/bury2gethertic/e/ev-sowd-20250311190000>

27 March 2025, Online Sessions, 7pm-8.30pm

Further information will be available through the Bury2Gether website:
www.bury2gether.co.uk

What's on?



BURY2GETHER'S TRAINING HUB

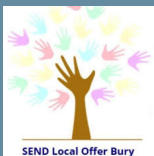
BURY2GETHER is offering training workshops for parents/carers of children and young people with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). No diagnosis needed.

- **Transition to Secondary School WITHOUT an EHCP**
Tue 11th March, 10.00am - 12.30pm
For parents/carers whose child DOES NOT have an EHCP. Free (with 50p booking fee)
- **SEND Law and Young People (Post-16) - IPSEA**
Tue 22nd April, 9.45am - 2.45pm
Presented by IPSEA for parent/carers wanting to understand SEND law as it applies to over-16s. £10 (subsidised by National Lottery funding - usually £65). If you want to attend but the cost prevents you from doing so, please email bury2gether@gmail.com
- **Transition to Secondary School WITH an EHCP**
Tue 6th May, 12.00pm - 2.30pm
For parents/carers whose child HAS an EHCP. Free (with 50p booking fee)

Strictly by advanced booking only - book at www.bookwhen.com/bury2gethlercic

**All training is delivered at The Bury SEND Hub,
Westminster Avenue, Radcliffe, M26 3WD**





Winter Edition

Bury SEND Newsletter

What's on?



BURY2GETHER'S TRAINING HUB



IPSEA
Independent Parental Special
Education Advice

BURY2GETHER is hosting a one-day training session facilitated by IPSEA to provide SEND Law and young people (post-16) funded by Contact on behalf of the DFE

This one day training is designed specifically for parents, carers and supporting family members of children who are approaching or above compulsory school age, or who are young people (post-16).

The course aims to provide attendees with information about the law on special educational needs and disabilities and the considerations that apply in the context of a young person, empowering families to secure the right education for their child as they transition towards adulthood.

This training covers:

- What your local authority and education setting should be doing to help
- The framework of the Children and Families Act 2014, including SEN support, EHC needs assessments, content of EHC plans and annual reviews
 - How the Mental Capacity Act 2005 may apply
- Social care duties, including the transition from child to adult social care
 - Transport duties relating to those over compulsory school age

The content is particularly relevant to those who are navigating post-16 education & training for the first time, as well as those who want to refresh their knowledge or gain a greater understanding of the law.

The cost of a ticket is £10.00 per adult attending.

Please get in touch at bury2gether@gmail.com if you may have difficulty paying this but would still like to attend, we would not want this to be a barrier to you attending

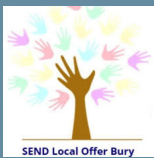
When: Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Time: From 9.30am-3pm.

**Where: The Bury SEND Hub, Westminster Avenue,
Radcliffe, M26 3WD**

**Strictly by appointment only - book at:
bookwhen.com/bury2gethercic**





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Bury SEND Newsletter

What's on?

14th - 15th March

20 25

Bee Inclusive's 'Bee Visible' Art Exhibition

Bee Inclusive have been working with local children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to develop art work which is being showcased to the public to highlight and celebrate disability arts and culture.

Join us at this free pop-up event taking place at The Met; home of Bury's Arts Association.

Friday 14th March

9am - 4pm Private bookings for groups & schools
6pm - 9pm Exhibition Opening, Invitation Only

Saturday 15th March

9am - 6pm Open to the public, ticket required

Tickets
Scan the QR code or visit
www.bookwhen.com/beeinclusive

THE MET

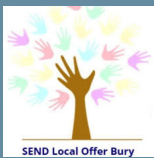
Bee Inclusive will endeavour to make this event as inclusive and accessible as possible. There will be a calm/quiet room set up adjoining the exhibition amongst other adjustments. A detailed accessibility document will be made available before attending the exhibition.





Funded by UK Government
GREATER MANCHESTER
GOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY
Bury Council
Bury Community Foundation


Funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund with support from Bury Council and Bury VCFA



Winter Edition


Bury SEND Newsletter

What's on?



Meet Bee Inclusive's
Hairdresser
CHLOE


HAIRCUTS
At The SEND Hub
Upcoming Dates:



Bee Inclusive

Sunday 23rd March 2025

Sunday 27th April 2025

BOOK NOW  www.bookwhen.com/beeinclusive

**PRIVATE
SENSORY ROOM
SESSION
£5
Book Online**



www.bookwhen.com/beeinclusive





