



SEND News

Welcome

To our July 2025 issue of SEND News.

SEND News is published by Blackburn with Darwen Council, especially for people working with children and young people with SEND in education settings in the borough.

Key highlights of this edition include:

- Introducing the new EP Packages of Support
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health offers for Children, Young People and Families in BwD.
- Curriculum Framework for Vision Impairment.
- Inclusion 2028 Information for schools.
- SEND Parent Carer 'Let's Talk' session in your school

Help us to help you to provide the right support at the right time!

As always, it's really important that we get this newsletter right for you, so please let us know if you have:

- any burning SEND questions you'd like answers to (we may not have all the answers, but we'll do our best to find someone who does)
- particular topics you would like to have covered
- examples of SEND best practice and good news stories that you'd like to share

We also want to hear your ideas on how our services can support you (e.g. are there any areas that would benefit from some training, knowledge building or the sharing of guidance material). Let us know by completing and returning the feedback form that is included in every edition.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Holt'.

John Holt, Service Lead - SEND

RAG rating (Red=Really Important / Amber=Action if Possible / Green=Good to Know)

Introducing the new EP Packages of Support

[New EP Packages of Support.](#)

For further information please contact:

educationalpsychology@blackburn.gov.uk

www.bwdservicesforschools.co.uk

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health offers for Children, Young People and Families in BwD

The THRIVE Framework, developed by the Anna Freud Centre and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, is an approach to delivering mental health services for children, young people and their families which is integrated, person centered & needs led.

The THRIVE model conceptualizes need in five categories with emphasis placed on prevention and also the promotion of mental health and wellbeing across the whole population.

[POAP \(Plan on a Page\)- Barnardo's](#)

[POAP -Kooth](#)

[POAP- Spring North Parenting Support](#)

[POAP -Spring North Peer Support](#)

[POAP-ADHD NW](#)

Curriculum Framework for Vision Impairment

A new set of short, accessible CFVI guides is now available aimed at those working in education who are non-specialists in the field of vision impairment (VI).

Each guide supports better understanding and effective collaboration between specialists and non-specialists.

There are guides for teachers, support staff working with students with VI and for those in schools responsible for monitoring provision and planning around statutory and non-statutory documentation that reflect the needs of children and young people with vision impairment.

They are now available for download from RNIB's website as nation-specific Accessible PDFs. Visit: <https://www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/education-professionals/cfvi/cfvi-for-educators-non-vi-specialists/>

Inclusion 2028 Information for schools

Find out about a new grant to make your physical education more inclusive for pupils with SEND.

[Inclusion 2028](#) is a new grant to support schools to make Physical Education (PE), sport and physical activity more inclusive for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

The grant funds a national network of 50 lead inclusion schools to provide you with advice, guidance and training.

Free bespoke resources are available via the **Inclusive Education hub**.

SEND Parent Champion Scheme earns national recognition

Blackburn with Darwen is celebrating a major national achievement as its SEND Parent Champion scheme, supported by Family Hubs, gains recognition at the Coram National Parent Champions Awards 2025.

Two of our Blackburn parent champions have been recognised for their outstanding work supporting families of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Diane Price and Sarah Sumner were awarded at the 2025 Parent Champions Awards, run by Coram Family and Childcare.

SEND Parent Carer 'Let's Talk' session in your school

Thank you to those who expressed an interest in our 'Let's Talk' sessions at the SENDCo induction day at Ewood Park on 1/4/25.

Please can you let us know dates and times you would like these SEND Parent/ Carer sessions in your school and we will be in touch to confirm. Please email Catherine.reilly@blackburn.gov.uk

Early Years SEND Update

Referral information for the new academic year 2025-26

Children moving into Year 1.

- Children with an EHCP: Continue to follow advice and strategies within the EHCP. Set SMART targets to work towards the EHCP outcomes
- Children without an EHCP: Continue to follow advice and guidance.
- For further support or recommendations for children (with or without an EHCP) you will need to refer to the relevant SEND SS team.

Children who have had Portage

If children have had portage involvement, you do not need to make a further referral for EY SEND SS. Handovers will take place between the portage worker and the area advisory teacher (AT), where the AT will usually visit the child jointly with the Portage worker or phone calls with parents will take place.

You will need to follow the portage advice and guidance; ensure you are completing the APDR cycles and email your area AT for further input when needed.

Children who have been involved with Specialist SEND Practitioners (SSPs)

Following the success of our SSP transition visits in the last academic year, SSPs will be out in schools supporting the transitions of some of our children with SEND as they move from pre-school into their reception year. These visits are to handover specific strategies and adaptations which will support children to access the learning on offer in schools. During these visits relevant documents are shared with staff such as EP reports and advisory teacher reports. You should have received a letter regarding this. If you have not responded to this, please do so as soon as possible. All correspondence to these

letters should be sent to EY SEND. Please complete the feedback forms following these handover visits so that we can evaluate how these visits impact our children and settings.

How to make a new referral to the Early Years SEND Team

New referrals being sent through during this summer term will not be picked up by the Advisory Teachers until the start of the new academic year.

For new referrals in the Autumn term. Please ensure children have had a sufficient settling in period, and a 6-8 week Assess, plan, do, review (APDR) cycle has been completed.

Referrals will NOT be accepted if APDR documents have not been adequately reviewed and parents views have not been included. It is important to show how children are being supported in school and how parents have been consulted before making a referral into our service.

Once full APDR cycles have been completed, please use our online referral system.

Early Years SEND Support Service | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

ALL referrals require a **handwritten** signature from a parent/guardian. This is in ADDITION TO the usual online referral with evidence of the graduated approach (one cycle of 'Assess, Plan, do, Review').

Once the referral has been received, an Advisory Teacher will contact you within 10 working days to discuss a mutually agreeable telephone appointment time.

We also have an Advice and Guidance Line on Thursdays during term time from 11-2pm which is available to staff in settings and parent/carers. Tel 01254 585700. This Advice Line does not require you to have parental permission, and you can discuss individual children anonymously or general SEND difficulties you are experiencing in your setting. **The advice line will open again on Thursday 11th September 2025.** The advice line is only monitored between 11am and 2pm. Phone calls outside of this time are unlikely to be answered. **We cannot accept referrals through this Advice and Guidance line.**

Contact Details

Early Years SEND Support Service Contact Information		
<p>Referrals for Early Years SEND Support Service (each referral will require evidence of one cycle of assess, plan, do, review as well as the 'wet' signature form) Early Years SEND Support Service Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council</p>	<p>Early Years Advice Line (This Advice Line does not require you to have parental permission, and you can discuss individual children anonymously or general SEND difficulties you are experiencing in your setting.) We cannot accept referrals through this Advice and Guidance line. Thursdays 11am-2pm (term time) 01254 585700</p>	<p>Local Offer: Early Years SEND Support Service Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council</p>
<p>EY Lead Teacher: Bridget Collinge Direct line: (01254) 587966 Email: bridget.collinge@blackburn.gov.uk EY SEND Team Manager (Portage) Joanne Kelly Joanne.Kelly2@blackburn.gov.uk</p>	<p>EYSSP Team Leaders Tracy Griffin tracy.griffin@blackburn.gov.uk</p>	<p>Other enquiries: EYSEND@blackburn.gov.uk</p>
<p>Area Advisory teachers: Gemma Carr (Darwen) Gemma.carr@blackburn.gov.uk Joanne Edwards (West) Joanne.edwards@blackburn.gov.uk</p>	<p>Samantha Widdup (East) Samantha.widdup@blackburn.gov.uk Magda Abbotts (North) Magdalena.Abbotts@blackburn.gov.uk Pamela Clough (all areas) Pamela.Clough@blackburn.gov.uk</p>	<p>BwD Early Years SEND Facebook Page</p>

Reduced timetables for Reception children

As a SEND Support Service, **we do not recommend part time or reduced timetable for any children** (unless there are exceptional circumstances which call for adaptations to the timetable rather than reductions). Routines are important for all children, particularly children with additional needs. Change in routines can be unsettling and disruptive and should be avoided where possible. Starting on a part-time timetable involves multiple changes in a routine which is difficult for children to understand and can cause children to be unsettled for a longer period of time.

Where an EHCP is in place for a child, that funding element is there to ENSURE children are accessing their right to full time education. The Statutory Assessment team must be informed when children are not accessing full-time education.

SEN Code of Practice (2015) "Schools and settings must not discriminate against children for a reason arising in consequence of their disability... they must make reasonable adjustments... to ensure that disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers." This is supported by the Education Act 1996.

Funding

SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

- REFERRALS MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE – [Inclusion Funding for children with high needs | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council](#)
- Ensure all supporting documents are attached and fully completed including updated development levels.
- Make sure the targets match the review information and that it's clear what the child's needs are.
- You can only claim for children who are receiving their age-related funding. If parents are paying for the place, you are not able to claim SENIF.
- There are now 3 different age brackets for SENIF: 9 months-2 years, 2-3 years and 3 - 5 years.
- Now paid in 3 instalments of £299 a term.
- Referrals will not be accepted after the deadline.
- Next deadline: Autumn term 2nd November 2025

Disability Access Fund

- This is paid once per year at £910.
- Please send a copy of the child's Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Award Letter to earlyyears.funding@blackburn.gov.uk by the final headcount deadline.

Polite Reminders:

- For children who are immobile, a request can be made to Early Years SEND for an AT to assess the child and complete moving and handling training for setting staff. It is the responsibility of the senior leadership team to ensure all staff who are moving and handling children have the correct training. You can discuss this with your area AT or email EYSEND@Blackburn.gov.uk to make a request for this.
- As part of the APDR cycle, regular SEN review meetings should be held with families to share and discuss strategies and targets, as well as planning for children's next steps. Professionals should be invited to these.
- Any requests for EHCPs in the Early Years will be discussed with settings once an Advisory teacher has seen a child, if this is required. The EHCP process and EP referral should not be completed without the consultation of the Advisory teacher. In almost all cases, the Advisory teacher or Team Leader will attend meetings and discuss this process with families.
- **A reminder that schools are NOT to ask parents where the children are up to with the EHCP process and what level of funding they will be receiving. Levels of funding is confirmed by the EHCP Panel themselves. Asking parents places undue worry on them.**

Training

Face to Face Early Years training is advertised on the [Blackburn with Darwen Learning Website](#). Search for classroom courses and type in Early Years to locate our training. If you have any questions/queries, please email: bwdlearning@blackburn.gov.uk

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026
Early Years SEND SENCO Autumn Term Cluster Thursday 25 th September 4-6pm Microsoft Teams	Early Years SEND Introduction to Autism Wednesday 14 th January 2024 1-4pm Livesey Family Hub	Early Years SEND Understanding and supporting children's sensory needs. Tuesday 28 th April 9.30-12.00 Livesey Family Hub
Early Years SEND SENCO training including APDR and Developmental Journal Wednesday 17 th September 9:30-2:30 Livesey Family Hub	Early Years SEND Brick therapy Thursday 22 nd January 12-3pm Livesey Family Hub	Early Years SEND SENCO Summer Term Cluster Thursday 7 th May 4-6pm Microsoft Teams
Early Years SEND Co-regulation in the Early Years Tuesday 7 th October 1-4pm Livesey Family Hub	Early Years SEND SENCO Spring Term Cluster Thursday 22 nd January 4-6pm Microsoft Teams	Early Years SEND Complex learning needs in a mainstream setting (PMLD) Tuesday 9 th June 2025 09.30-3.00 Livesey Family Hub
Early Years SEND Safer People handling Tuesday 14 th October 4-6pm Livesey Family Hub	Early Years SEND Attention Autism awareness and techniques Wednesday 28 th January 9.30-3pm Livesey Family Hub	
Early Years SEND Introduction to Makaton Thursday 23 rd October 1-3 pm Livesey Family Hub	Early Years SEND Using paper-based symbol charts to support communication Tuesday 10 th February 1-4pm Livesey Family Hub	
Early Years SEND Sensory circuits Thursday 13 th November 9.30-12.00 Livesey Family Hub	Early Years SEND Makaton level 1 Tuesday 24 th February, Tuesday 3 rd March, Tuesday 10 th March, Tuesday 17 th March. <i>Times to be confirmed</i> Livesey Family Hub	
Early Years SEND Complex learning needs in a mainstream setting (PMLD) Tuesday 18 th November 9:00-3:30 Livesey Family Hub	Early Years SEND Attention for Learning - Stage 4 and beyond Wednesday 25 th March 1-4pm Livesey Family Hub	
Early Years SEND Getting Connected (based on The Curiosity Programme) Monday 24 th November 9 – 12 Livesey Family Hub		
EarlyBird (by invitation only)	EarlyBird (by invitation only)	EarlyBird (by invitation only)



Keep up to date with our service by following our facebook page.

[Blackburn with Darwen Early Years SEND Support Service.](#) 

Any queries can be sent to EYSEND@blackburn.gov.uk

Tell us what you think

Please use the [attached](#) form to let us know of any ideas you have to make SEND News better, your suggestions for future articles and to highlight any SEND training needs you feel are needed locally.

We will also use this section of the newsletter to invite you to take part in Blackburn with Darwen SEND consultation activities and to let you know of any national consultations you may want to take part in.
