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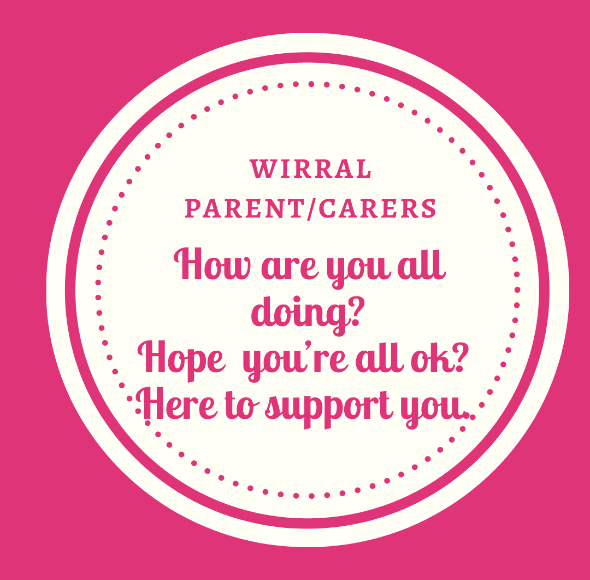
Wirral SEND Services

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PARENT/CARER EDITION

**AUGUST 2020**



Welcome to Edition 4

Hi Everyone,

I know from talking to you just how tough this summer holiday period, more than any other school holiday is likely to be for Parent/Carers. COVID 19 has brought us many challenges and whilst a few outdoor activities are beginning to start up the vast majority are either cancelled or happening on- line this summer. We really hope this summer edition of the SEND Snapshot goes someway to helping you find out what is available and how you can make the best of a difficult few weeks added on top of what’s been a long four months already. Don’t forget to take a look at the What’s New section of the Local Offer website. Any summer holiday activities we become aware of are added and shared via our Twitter account **@lowirral**.

For ease click on this link to take you to the summer activities we’ve found for all children and young people in Wirral. [**https://localofferwirral.org/whats-on-in-wirral-this-summer/**](https://localofferwirral.org/whats-on-in-wirral-this-summer/)

In this edition, we are pleased to welcome new contributions from Koala NW (formerly Homestart), Love, Jasmine and the Children’s Dietetic Hospital Team.

Whilst COVID 19 has caused us lots of issues, it has also helped us all focus on sharing what we have and working together. It’s made us work more creatively and it’s great that we are engaging with so many new services as well as being introduced to new Parents and Carers offering their support.

Thank you for your positive feedback and e mails. I’m so pleased that you feel well supported and updated with the information we’ve been sharing. Wirral’s Local Offer website and social media feeds via Twitter and Facebook will continue to signpost you and offer lots of information to support you and our COVID 19 support section is an example of good practice by the Council for Disabled Children and we were proud to represent Wirral families.

For now, sit back and take a read of what we have in place to support you.

**0-19 Health and Well-being Service - School Nursing**

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We continue to offer a duty role as usual and have had over 4,000 telephone contacts alone from parents during the period from 31st March and 30th June 2020. We have also continued to make referrals for those parents who have concerns e.g. dietetics, audiology, and ophthalmology.

To ensure we are able to identify and refer on for any unmet health needs, and also for the early identification of needs, we have continued to offer birth contacts, 4 – 8 week reviews, 9 – 12 month reviews and 2 – 2.5 year reviews. These contacts have been via telephone contacts and other technology (AccRux).

The ADHD pre-diagnostic pathway was put on temporary hold due to our service not being able to offer face to face contact for QB tests and as classroom observations were unable to be completed due to school closures. All those on the ADHD waiting lists were sent a letter explaining the ‘hold’ situation and were also sent letters signposting to services who could offer support whilst waiting for the pathway to re-commence. Commissioners have been kept well informed and the risk of potential risk identified. The ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder)and DCD (Developmental Co-Ordination Disorder) referrals have been accepted and actioned as relevant information has been received. We are currently in the process of planning our restoration of the ADHD pathway and once we have finalised our strategy, our aim is to recommence QB testing in the near future Our challenges include the use of the equipment/cleaning and estates access due to social distancing.

Special school nursing service has continued and in fact provision increased during the lockdown where schools have been open for some of the holidays. Quality improvements have been identified and introduced specifically re safeguarding review health assessments to be more approachable and engaging for children identified with SEND. This has been a fantastic piece of work to

complete during COVID and has received recognition from the Designated Safeguarding Nurse.

We have delivered a universal offer for our school based immunisations across the area opening up community partnership relationships which have enabled us to offer the HPV programme to the year 8 group. We are currently on track to have offered the programme to over 2,000 children with risk assessments for pre-bookable appointments, social distancing and the use of PPE introduced to allow this to go ahead. Pleasingly, we have received excellent feedback from families. Venues used include the Hive and Victoria Central Hospital with plans to open a venue at Bromborough children’s centre.

The current position for review health assessments across the service is excellent with RHAs (review health assessments compliance recorded as - 97% under 5s, 100% for over 5s and this is a really good position to be in at this time.

We have offered an increase in virtual contacts and since 9th June have looked to increase the face to face contacts as a stepping up process. We have offered face to face contacts for birth visits for priority groups, first time parents, BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic), those breastfeeding and all families with a safeguarding status.

If a family is not offered a face to face contact for the birth, we will ensure that they are offered a face to face for the 4-8 week so that all families will be seen in the postnatal period.

Our 9-12 month contact continues as in a virtual format at this time and the children that have not been seen since lockdown are being invited to a clinic space for a weight review/general review discussion. We are operating a pre-bookable slot at St Catherine’s with a plan to increase the clinic offer at children’s centres.

Our 2-2.5 year reviews are all virtual with some partnership working with early years and plans to ensure all children seen.

 School nursing service remains part of the central safeguarding team at this time with support offered as required, the school age immunisation team have offered community based sessions and this has been a successful offer for the HPV programme for current year 8 children.

All safeguarding contacts and support continue.

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Description automatically generated**We have introduced a virtual timetable in partnership with early years and this has been a huge success with over 12000 children reached. We have then developed an online ‘parents to be’ programme and I have shared the links below along with our other online resources supported by our partners brook and Barnardos and Koala NW– formerly Homestart. The links for the website and resources are below [**https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/wirral-0-19-health-and-wellbeing-service/**](https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/wirral-0-19-health-and-wellbeing-service/)

**Headlines from the 0-19 service**

* During the redeployment of some of our teams, they have been supporting telephone consultations, one example was  where a nurse called a family, they had been eligible for shielding support, no one had been in contact and they had limited social support, the nurse was able to link with food banks, Local authority food deliveries, arrange for an NHS volunteer to collect the families prescriptions and feel like there was a place to contact if they felt they were struggling. The parent was very thankful for the opportunistic contact and kind actions of the nurse – there were many examples of wonderful practice of support for others during difficult times. Nurses have also been redeployed to areas such as supporting District Nursing, St Johns Hospice and nursing homes as well as supporting in house services within the 0-19 service.
* ADHD QB testing has now recommenced with some changes to processes to ensure risks to children and young people are kept to a minimum.
* Our Special School nurses have continued to work during the pandemic even continuing during some of the holidays. They have now having a long awaited rest during the summer in readiness to welcome children back to school in September. They are very excited to see them all after missing so many children and young people.
* Parents can call **0151 514 0219** if they need help or support during the holidays and speak to the Duty Team.

**Contact: Lindsey Costello, Service Lead Wirral 0-19 Team**

**E mail:** [**lindseycostello@nhs.net**](mailto:lindseycostello@nhs.net)

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**ADHD**

The ADHD service is currently meeting to discuss potential new ways of working and exploring changes to working practice due to COVID 19. The neurodevelopmental nurses are continuing to do telephone consultations and have not yet resumed face to face appointments.

**Contact: Jan Smith on 0151 514 2519 or e mail** [**jan.smith19@nhs.net**](mailto:jan.smith19@nhs.net)

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**ADDvanced solutions**

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We are now offering virtual Community Network Groups and webinar Learning Workshops for parents and carers of children and young people living with neurodevelopmental conditions pre, during and post diagnosis and also to the professionals who support them while we are unable to deliver our face to face delivery.

We continue to offer 1-1 consultations via the phone 0151 486 1788, email [**info@addvancedsolutions.co.uk**](mailto:info@addvancedsolutions.co.uk)and through our open Facebook page - ADDvanced Solutions Community Network and ADDvanced Solutions Community Network CIC our closed Facebook group for parents and carers. Our phone lines are open Monday - Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm.

**Contact: Vanda Reeves, Director Community Network Development. E mail:** [**V.Reeves@addvancedsolutions.co.uk**](mailto:V.Reeves@addvancedsolutions.co.uk)

**ASC Team**

The team are working from home. Please contact us via email using [**SESS@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:SESS@wirral.gov.uk)**.**

**Contact: Sue Jamieson Quinn, Senior Educational Psychologist**

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**Autism Together – Children & Family service**

Children and Family Service –Autism Together

Groups held on Wednesday pm,

Session begins with 1:1 on-line session with a sibling (aged 6-18 years) of a child with ASD – Time: 3.45pm – 4.45pm.

Followed by online groups held for Children and young people aged 8-13 years. On-line sibling group from 5.30pm – 6.30pm and Chill n’ Chat group (for children with Autism) from 6.45pm – 7.45pm

For further details or to book a place, please contact Karen Costain on 0151 666 9960. The clubs will be running:

Week commencing 3/08/20

Week commencing 10/08/20

Week commencing 17/08/20

**Contact: Karen Costain E mail:** [**Karen.Costain@autismtogether.co.uk**](mailto:Karen.Costain@autismtogether.co.uk)

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**CAMHS**

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Here in the CAMHS Learning Disability Team we’ve been thinking about how we can continue to offer help to our families whose children present with challenging behaviours and mental health concerns. Since early 2019 we were delivering Challenging Behaviour Workshops each month to parents and carers.

Those parents and carers that attended gave some really great feedback, so the team felt really sad when they had to stop delivering these workshops in March, due to Covid-19 and social distancing restrictions. Many parents and carers were waiting to be able to attend the workshops, so the team had to get their thinking caps on and consider what could be done instead, during the current situation.

The Wirral CAMHS Learning Disability Team has therefore developed a series of videos; they cover the areas that would have been discussed in the workshop, albeit in a more condensed format. We hope they help with an understanding of challenging behaviour, why it happens and what we help. The videos talk about becoming behaviour detectives for the individual child or young person, and then based on this understanding of the functions of the behaviour, developing helpful strategies and approaches. These videos have now been shared with the families who were waiting to attend and will soon be added to our MYMind website [**https://www.mymind.org.uk/**](https://www.mymind.org.uk/)

**Community visits and outpatient appointments**

Theses have taken place using phone calls, tele-conference and video conference. Through this type of appointment, the team are continuing to offer holistic and person centred support to the children and young people open to them. Parents and carers have reported a high level of satisfaction with the level of contact and support they have received. We have started to see some families again face to face at our clinic with social distancing measures in place, and in gardens when this is needed.

Wirral CAMHS are part of the new **24/7 mental health helpline** is open to people of all ages who require urgent support and are residents of Cheshire West, Cheshire East and Wirral.

If a child or young person’s mental or emotional state quickly gets worse or deteriorates, this can be called a 'mental health crisis'. In this situation, it is important to get help quickly.

Parents/carers and young people can call 0800 145 6485 and our dedicated local staff will support them to access the help you need. The phone line is free to call, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is open to people of all ages – including children and young people.

**Team Email:** [**cwp.telephonemessagesld@nhs.net**](mailto:cwp.telephonemessagesld@nhs.net)

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**Children with Disabilities Team**

Here in the Children with Disabilities team we have had a challenging time across all aspects of our service, and have been working hard to try and ensure that all our young people continue to receive a level of care that they need.  The pandemic has hindered all aspects of these young people’s lives, from not being able to attend their educational provision, to not being able to access their social clubs, with perhaps the most testing issue being the limited access to our respite facilities which so many of our families use.  There has also been a huge impact upon our ability to have summer holiday provision in place, only having a total of 3 weeks available this summer, with places filled almost immediately.

More recently, we are pleased to say that we have begun to enjoy face to face meetings with our young people, ensuring that appropriate risk assessments are completed, and correct PPE is taken.  When not possible to hold meetings within family homes, we have looked to enjoy the outdoors with our families, ensuring that confidentiality is being maintained on all occasions.  Where this has not been possible, we continue to strive with the technical abilities we possess, holding virtual meetings, and virtual visits to our families’ homes.  It has been a difficult time for everyone, and we have been very fortunate to have the wonderful Family Support Service that have been going above and beyond their remit to support our most vulnerable families. We look forward to more things returning to some form of ‘normal’ as we move forward and will continue to place our young people at the forefront of all our thoughts regarding services.

**Contact: Peter Stanley, Advanced Social Work Practitioner.**

**Continence (Childrens) service**

We are starting slowly to resume our face to face at clinic sessions with COVID-19 precautions in place, we are initially seeing new clients as we have 100 or so to be seen.

We are still available for queries and advice by phone during the summer and we are around Mondays to Fridays

Useful websites to be aware of: [**http://www.eric.org.uk**](http://www.eric.org.uk)**and** [**bowel-bbuk@disabledliving.co.uk**](mailto:bowel-bbuk@disabledliving.co.uk)

**Team email:** [**childcontinence.wirralct@nhs.net**](mailto:childcontinence.wirralct@nhs.net)

**Telephone: Tel: 0151 514 2825**

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**Crea8ing Careers**

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We work as a non-profit community interest company. During COVID we’re supporting Wirral families offering a variety of activities to keep us all connected. Follow our upcoming sessions via our Facebook page [**https://www.facebook.com/Crea8ingCareers/**](https://www.facebook.com/Crea8ingCareers/)

Take a look at what we’re offering for the children every Thursday during August.

[**https://localofferwirral.org/summer-activities-provided-by-crea8ing-careers-thursdays-throughout-august/**](https://localofferwirral.org/summer-activities-provided-by-crea8ing-careers-thursdays-throughout-august/)

This summer we are pleased to be working in partnership with The Positivitree and The Sensory Shack to offer a summer programme through the 6 week summer holiday period. Details are on the Local Offer website. [**https://localofferwirral.org/summer-holidays-2020/**](https://localofferwirral.org/summer-holidays-2020/)

**Contact: Lynne Howe, Director. Mobile 07719790320**

**E mail:** [**lynne.howe@crea8ingcareers.com**](mailto:lynne.howe@crea8ingcareers.com)

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**DCO (Designated Clinical Officer)**

We are continuing to ensure the health needs are included for the education health and care plan assessment process. The central point of contact remains available to all 9am-5pm Mon – Fri for health queries in relation to SEND/EHCP Tel: 5142672 or 07795413940.

The DCO attended a regional online webinar for SEND Co-production. Discussions were held on examples of best practice during COVID. Lots of sharing of great resources and contacts.

 **Contact Elaine Mooney (DCO)**

**Email:** [**emooney@nhs.net**](mailto:emooney@nhs.net) **Direct dial: 0151 514 2672**

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**Diabetes team (Paediatric)**

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the diabetes team were looking at different ways in which we could support and train staff in schools, as it was becoming increasingly difficult to provide training in individual schools in a timely manner.  We therefore planned to use a similar model to many of our colleagues across the northwest by arranging training workshops delivered at Arrowe Park Hospital in

a group situation by bringing teachers together in planned sessions across the year.  The coronavirus pandemic has also pushed us in this direction.

Therefore, from this coming academic year we will be providing a series of education workshops for teachers, which will include general information about managing a child with diabetes in school, including diet and exercise.  The information will enable school staff to complete a health care plan for a child with diabetes.  We will also be providing practical workshops for injection technique, blood glucose testing, glucose sensors and insulin pump therapy.  We have developed some standardised health care planned for children with diabetes and these will be available from the paediatric diabetes team.

We will be prioritising schools who have children new to school with diabetes.  For example starting reception, a new junior school or secondary school, or those who have been newly diagnosed during the lockdown period.  These schools were invited to an educational workshop on 9th July, in preparation for the children starting school in September.

For schools who have a child already in school, moving up a year, we will be offering further education workshops on the morning of 17th September and 13th October.

To contact one of the paediatric diabetes nurses, please ring the nurses office number on **0151 604 7163 or email on** [**wuth.paeddiabetes@nhs.net**](mailto:wuth.paeddiabetes@nhs.net)

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**Dietetics (Community)**

The Community Children’s Dietetic Service has been stepped down as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, and some staff have been redeployed to other roles. Services continue as they are for now with all referrals still being accepted.

We are in the process of updating our webpage on the Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust website, with additional information and resources to support families and referrers while waiting to be seen. Referrals to the service can be made via Consultant, GP, or Health Visitor.

**Team telephone: 0151 5142827**

**E-mail:** [**wchc.childrensdietetics@nhs.net**](mailto:wchc.childrensdietetics@nhs.net)

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**Dietetics Service (Hospital)**

The Hospital Children’s Dietetic Service continues to accept referrals via the Paediatricians and Neonatal consultants. We are continuing to provide a normal service to the children’s ward and neonatal unit.

We are continuing to do multidisciplinary clinics for patients with cystic fibrosis, diabetes and multiple/immediate allergies.

Urgent referrals continue to be prioritised and seen either face to face or via telephone.

Growth monitoring for our patients can be done via children’s outpatients if required.

Referrals to the service can be made via telephone, letter or cerner if they are under a WUTH consultant.

Team telephone: 0151 604 7491/0151 604 7790

Team email :[**wih-tr.PaediatricDietitians@nhs.net**](mailto:wih-tr.PaediatricDietitians@nhs.net)

**Contacts: Vicky James Professional Lead/Clinical Lead Allergy & Gastroenterology**

**Emma Quayle Clinical Lead Cystic Fibrosis & Neonatal**

**Rona Cookson Clinical Lead Diabetes**

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**A picture containing drawing, food

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A really busy time for us organising/supporting Transition meetings for children going into F1 and F2 in schools. We will then progress to the transitions from home to school.

We are still not able to carry out Portage home visits, but the Portage workers are continuing to phone and email parents. They are also sending out ideas and activities packs via the Children Centres. We are looking into doing chats with parents and children via Teams so that faces can be seen, and the children’s new skills shared. We look forward to restarting home visits when it is safe for the children, families and staff.

The SEND Officers have continued to contact settings and parents to support 100+ children into school. Thank you to all the settings that have remained in contact with the vulnerable SEND group of children by either having them back in their settings or if the setting is closed some have supported the families via phone and email.

We are currently recruiting to fill our vacant SEND Officer post over the next few weeks.

The Early Years SENCOs cohort number 3 have completed their 12 sessions and are busy completing their assignments. A massive well done to the group who continued despite COVID and were very interactive and insightful during the sessions. We aim to meet when safe to think of the future. We want to have a celebration event for them and their managers in the future to recognise their hard work and commitment to SEND.

The Team are starting to plan our courses for the next year live as well as via the internet. We have produced clips for My Child Can Facebook page as well as booklets and activity sheets to share with settings and parents. We are also adding new content to the Local Offer so keep your eyes open.

Have a lovely summer if you are on holiday. We are working but taking some leave as well.

Any queries please email me via [**eysend@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:eysend@wirral.gov.uk)

Thanks Penny and the Early Years SEND Team

**Contact - Penny Bishop, Early Years SEND Manager**

**Email:** [**pennybishop@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:pennybishop@wirral.gov.uk)

**Mobile: 07826905206**

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**Education Psychology Team**

**Update from the EP team: ELSA project success**

Eighteen months ago, the EP team implemented a project to support children and young people’s social and emotional well-being in school. A launch event was held for the Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) project in March 2019; senior leadership teams from primary schools across Wirral attended this event and the level of interest was overwhelming.

Thirty-seven primary schools in Wirral have participated in the ELSA project; this involved support staff attending 6 full-day training events and five supervision sessions facilitated by the Educational Psychology Team.

As a team, we have been inspired by the levels of creativity and commitment of the ELSAs. The success stories shared in supervision are evidence of the positive impact that Wirral’s ELSAs are having on children and young people’s well-being. ELSAs will continue their excellent work in schools in September, with continued clinical supervision from the EP team. Congratulations to our forty-eight fully accredited ELSAs- you know who you are!

Melissa and Rachael (ELSA project leads), on behalf of the EP team

The team have added lots of helpful content to help Parent/Carers and school staff with children returning to school in September. This information is available on the Local Offer website. [**https://localofferwirral.org/listing/wirral-educational-psychology-team/**](https://localofferwirral.org/listing/wirral-educational-psychology-team/)

Keep well and safe.

**Contact: Catherine O’Connor, Principal Educational Psychologist.**

**Email:** [**catherineoconnor@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:catherineoconnor@wirral.gov.uk)

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**Epilepsy**

Our epilepsy clinics are starting to return to a ‘new normal’. We are seeing some children face to face, but some appointments are being carried out by phone.

Parents should receive a letter letting them know that they either have a face to face appointment (and advising them of any restrictions) or to expect a phone call (on or around the day of their appointment)

Some children have failed to attend for a face to face appointment, and parents have subsequently told us that this was because a family member has been shielding.

We would always encourage parents to contact us if this is the case as we can arrange a phone consultation rather than them missing the appointment.

Children’s Epilepsy Team

Consultants – Dr Pauling and Dr Derwas

Epilepsy Specialist Nurses – Jenny O’ Brien and Jayne Murphy

**Direct line – 0151 604 7672 extension 2187**

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**Health Services in School**

Under the current COVID conditions, we are providing a leaflet offer which will still be useful post COVID

Attached are a series of leaflets that our young people, teachers and parent/carers have found really helpful.

Follow this link and see page 12 for the full range of leaflets offering a range of support. [**https://localofferwirral.org/june-edition-of-the-covid-19-parent-carer-send-snapshot/**](https://localofferwirral.org/june-edition-of-the-covid-19-parent-carer-send-snapshot/)

**Contact: Michelle Langan, Health Services in Schools (HSIS) Team Leader. E mail:** [**michellelangan@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:michellelangan@wirral.gov.uk)

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**Healthwatch **

Healthwatch Wirral #BeacuaseWeAllCare

**Have you or a loved one left hospital for any reason during COVID-19? Tell us your experience.**

To respond to coronavirus, hospitals on Wirral had to quickly change. Tell us how this has affected the care you or your loved one has received.

If you’ve been receiving care in hospital there can be lots to think about when you’re getting ready to leave, such as any support you will need to help you manage your health and wellbeing.

During the coronavirus pandemic the usual processes hospitals follow to discharge you from their care changed to help free up beds. Because of this if you’ve been in hospital recently you should have:

* been discharged within two hours, once you no longer need hospital care
* had your care and support needs assessed once you have left hospital
* been moved to the first available bed in a care home, if you cannot go home
* had any further care or support you need fully funded by the NHS

While these changes have successfully got people out of hospital and helped the NHS manage the demand created by coronavirus, we don’t know how the new processes are working for both patients, their families and healthcare professionals.

If you or your loved one is currently in hospital, find out what you should expect when being discharged in our advice and information article about leaving hospital.

**Why should you share your experiences of care?**

NHS and social care staff are doing everything they can to support people through this pandemic, but they need your help to spot issues to make sure everyone receives good care.

Healthwatch are working with the British Red Cross to listen to your experiences of leaving hospital, so we can help the NHS and social care services understand how the changes brought in during COVID-19 are affecting people’s health and wellbeing - both positively and negatively.

This is why we launched our campaign #BecauseWeAllCare, to encourage everyone to support the NHS recover by providing feedback about health services.

**Tell us your views**

Speak out to tell us what happened when you or your loved one was discharged from hospital to improve care for everyone. #Spare5 to play your part in supporting the NHS to get back on track sharing our survey with your friends, neighbours and networks.

#Spare5 to take the survey **[**[**https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/tell-us-about-your-experience-leaving-hospital-during-covid-19-pandemic**](https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/tell-us-about-your-experience-leaving-hospital-during-covid-19-pandemic)**]**

Healthwatch Wirral are currently updating our website to include an online feedback centre where you can share experiences of all your health and social care services. Keep checking our website and speak to us: [**https://healthwatchwirral.co.uk/speak-out/**](https://healthwatchwirral.co.uk/speak-out/)

Want to talk to someone in person about your experiences about your services? Here at Healthwatch Wirral we are all #Spare5 Ambassadors and are here to listen to you. We can also provide you with advice and information about local health and care services.

**Either call: 0151 230 8957 or Email:** [**info@healthwatchwirral.co.uk**](mailto:info@healthwatchwirral.co.uk)

**Contact: Micha Woodworth, Project Manager.**

**Email:** [**Micha.Woodworth@healthwatchwirral.co.uk**](mailto:Micha.Woodworth@healthwatchwirral.co.uk)

**Home Education**

The Home Education Service has now closed for the Summer break. We reopen on Tuesday 1st September 2020. Requests for service and enquiries can still be made by email either via the [**schooloffice@wirralhometeach.co.uk**](mailto:schooloffice@wirralhometeach.co.uk)or [**jforsey@wirralhometeach.co.uk**](mailto:jforsey@wirralhometeach.co.uk)

Before breaking up we welcomed individual pupils and a group of 3 pupils for the last 3 weeks of term. In addition, a small number of

pupils felt confident enough to visit the base at Hilbre with the intention of accessing their lessons there in the new school year!

**Contact: Jackie Forsey, Head of Service, Wirral Home and Continuing Education Service**

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**Inclusion**

The Behaviour and Exclusions Coordinator, Linda Dobbing is available via email to answer any queries with regards to the law for behaviour/exclusions or any parents wanting to know specific information re exclusions. Linda will try to answer questions and resolve any issues as the first port of call.

I am also available and do have some contact with parents when pupils have been excluded and parents need to speak to someone about it or when I am challenging the school over the exclusion.

All queries should go through Linda in the first instance at [**lindadobbing@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:lindadobbing@wirral.gov.uk)

Please note that Inclusion staff cannot offer advice to parents/carers. We can only inform them of statutory guidance.

**Contact details: Anna Dollard, Inclusion Manager**

**E mail:** [**annadollard1@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:annadollard1@wirral.gov.uk)

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**Koala NW**

Great news! The fab folk at Koala have just received confirmat**A picture containing drawing

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That means they can start taking new referrals from families that want support from September – Families can self- refer or a professional can do it on their behalf.

**Contact: Bev Morgan, CEO**

**M** **07810340097**

**E**[**bevmorgan@koalanw.co.uk**](mailto:bevmorgan@koalanw.co.uk)

**W** [**www.koalanw.co.uk**](http://www.koalanw.co.uk/)

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**Learning Disability Service**

Wirral University Teaching Hospital are committed to improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities for people with learning disabilities and or autism. It is recognised people with learning disabilities may face barriers around access to hospital and may require reasonable adjustments to allow equal access. The Learning Disability Service can provide support with ensuring the needs of people with learning disabilities and or autism, their families have reasonable adjustments.

Arrowe Park Hospital has a registered learning disability nurse who can offer support to young people, families, carers, and professionals around access to hospital.

Arrowe Park Hospital have been working in partnership with Claire House Children Hospice and Wirral Adult Hospice to support with the transition from children to adult services. We recognise this can be a difficult time for young people and their families. The transition project has involved young people, their families and health and social care professionals working together to prepare for adulthood, which has allowed families to express and voice any thoughts or concerns they have for change in services.

If you require any support or have questions around the learning disability service at Wirral University Teaching Hospital, please see link below with full details of the service.

[**https://www.wuth.nhs.uk/our-departments/a-z-of-departments/learning-disability-and-autism-team**](https://www.wuth.nhs.uk/our-departments/a-z-of-departments/learning-disability-and-autism-team)

Learning disability and awareness training was provided for all hospital staff in July and was really well received.

**Contact: Lauren Binks, Learning Disability Liaison Nurse**

**Email:** [**lauren.binks@nhs.net**](mailto:lauren.binks@nhs.net)

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**Local Offer**

We have been delighted with the national recognition we’ve received from the Council for Disabled Children. They audited Local Offer websites around the country to assess the responses to COVID 19.

Wirral was picked out as an example of excellent practice and asked to deliver a webinar for LA & Health practitioners. It was a wonderful opportunity for Wirral and the session was turned into a case study and shared around other local authorities.

Each week we’ve continued to add lots of new information to the website and to our social media feeds. Since the last SEND SNAPSHOT, we’ve added a new section at the top of the home page entitled Partnership and Co-Production. [**https://localofferwirral.org/partnership-and-co-production/**](https://localofferwirral.org/partnership-and-co-production/)

Last week Poppy and I took part in a North West SEND Co-production on-line event. Wirral was the only local authority to have representatives from Health, SEND, Youth services, Youth Engagement and the Local Offer. This acted as a further reminder that COVID has brought us together and allowed us to be better prepared for SEND provision and joined up working post pandemic.

We’re excited for the next chapter and are looking forward to working with our parent/Carers and young people to listen, learn and deliver co-produced services that we can all be proud of.

Engagement is now up by 35%! So many services and organisations (some old friends, some new) are getting in touch to share resources and contacts.

We are delighted to have this level of support from our partners and to celebrate this we have created our Friday Partnership award in recognition of the difference being made by folk working ‘with us’.

Remember to take a look at the website - [**https://localofferwirral.org/**](https://localofferwirral.org/)

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generatedOur Twitter account **- @lowirral**

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated Our Facebook page – **The Local Offer Wirral**

Finally, I thought you might like to have a look at this. It’s called an Infographic. I was sent it last week and it’s a great way to visually display information without using loads of words. It certainly shows how busy our NHS colleagues have been during a three-month period in lockdown.

What do you think?

(See next page)

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**Contact: Sally Tittle**, **SEND Participation & Engagement Lead**

**E mail:** [**sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk)

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**Local Offer (Youth Engagement)**

I have been representing Wirral at the SEND@YOFO – this is in partnership with Youth Focus Northwest. We meet every Wednesday for 1 hour and complete a task around being a SEND young person during lockdown and how it has affected us differently in our various areas of the North West. Why not get in touch if you fancy being involved? I am working on getting our youth services onto social media platforms. I am also focussing a lot on the Local Offer Website adding new information daily and updating services information. Have you had time to read my blogs? I’d love to hear from any other young people willing to write a guest blog.

We’ve been trying to find as many summer holiday activities to share with you. It’s really hard this summer isn’t it because of COVID. Have a look on the website or our Twitter page to see what is on offer.

As you may know I am part of the Youth Voice Group (YVG) and the SEND Youth Voice Group, I have continued to attend those meetings which are now online. It is great to see everyone’s faces and helps us feel connected with one another. It’s amazing to see how much people have grown in confidence now we’re having to be being creative online at home. Developing our independence skills through, not only dance, but our personal life skills, a lot of the group have been taking on new challenges such as cooking, long walks, making dances for the group and living independently. We have been discussing our parliament motions, considered the possibility of this having to be online this year and created some exciting choreography for a rather special project.  More details to follow…

A little update about me… I have been in this role for a little over a year now and every day is just as exciting as the first, I have watched professionals realise the importance of working co-productively. I have also grown in confidence and developed my professional work skills. Having Sally as a manager has been amazing as she knows how to support and develop me.

A little progress each day adds up to big results. I am so happy to work for Wirral Council. They encourage, support and value my input and I feel honoured to be the voice of young people with SEND in Wirral.

**Contact: Poppy Cain, SEND Youth Engagement Officer**

**E mail:** [**liacain@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:liacain@wirral.gov.uk)

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**Love, Jasmine**

Love, Jasmine is still providing support to families who have lost a child.  Our adult counselling service is continuing using zoom or telephone and we are working towards a return to face to face counselling in September for both adults and children.  Our parents support groups and coffee mornings will remain online for the foreseeable future.  As well as providing monthly support groups using zoom, we have also set up a closed Facebook page for the families that we support so that families can support each other through child loss. Our holiday home at Ribby Hall, Jasmine’s Retreat, is re-opening in August for bereaved families and we are currently re-booking all those families who had stays with us cancelled during the lockdown.  We hope to re-open applications to other families later in the year. Our website holds more information [**www.lovejasmine.org.uk**](http://www.lovejasmine.org.uk/)

**Contact: Rob Lapsley**, **Co-Founder & Director**

**E mail:** [**rob@lovejasmine.org.uk**](mailto:rob@lovejasmine.org.uk) **Office Mobile:  07566 225 253**

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**Multi-Sensory world **

We are a family business running Multi-sensory World [**www.multi-sensoryworld.co.uk**](http://www.multi-sensoryworld.co.uk)We started the business because we wanted families to have support and be shown ideas of things to do with sensory toys. Rather than liaise with generic sales people, we wanted to be able to advise customers on the range of available sensory products and help them discern which are better for different issue. We understand and have knowledge and first-hand experience of the products. A lot of our products are tried and tested by our boys. We have a Facebook group and are always posting new ideas and fun stuff to do with our kids. It's called Multi-sensory World- Special needs. Wirral customers can organise local pickup (socially distanced) or delivery by emailing [**clare@multi-sensoryworld.co.uk**](mailto:clare@multi-sensoryworld.co.uk) or alternatively we can post orders.

**Contact: Clare Meaney,** [**clare@multi-sensoryworld.co.uk**](mailto:clare@multi-sensoryworld.co.uk)

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**Next Chapter**

We are delighted to be able to offer an on-line summer activities programme. See flyer on the next page for more information.



**Contact: Claire Owens, E mail:** [**Claire@nextchapternwcic.co.uk**](mailto:Claire@nextchapternwcic.co.uk)

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**Orrets Outreach**

The Orrets Outreach Teams have now stopped for the summer holidays, however, we are still sharing lots of updates through our Facebook, Twitter and Website pages and someone is always available to answer questions about SpLD, whether the child is on our programme or not.

For specific enquires please contact me **Cathy Cotgrave, Head of Outreach Services:** [**cotgravec@orretsmeadow.wirral.sch.uk**](mailto:cotgravec@orretsmeadow.wirral.sch.uk)

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**Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy service**

Most of the Physios and OTs are based at Cherry Tree House, Clatterbridge. Please call if you have any concerns 0151 514 2525. Most of our contact with families is over the phone or by video call. There are staff in the office Monday-Friday 8-5 please get in touch if you need to talk about anything.

Try and keep active, if your child has received a therapy program please try and keep it fun! Lots of songs for the younger ones and games for young and old.

Most of all keep safe!

**Contact: Jane Fieldhouse, Team Lead Early Years Children's Physiotherapy, AHP. E mail:** [**janefieldhouse@nhs.net**](mailto:janefieldhouse@nhs.net)

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**Respiratory (Asthma & Allergy) Paediatric service**

PLEASE NOTE - When attending Arrowe Park Hospital there are now specific entrances and a one-way system. Everybody will need to be wearing a mask so it is good to inform parents about this so that they can prepare the children for it as they may find it frightening.

Appointments

Currently we are reviewing all patients by phone consultation. If you have an appointment with us please understand that it is very difficult to keep to the time slots as we have so many patients,  but we will try our best to ring you on the day of the appointment or over the following days. Do make sure that we have your updated phone number it is also useful if we have your email address so that we can send you supporting information.  You will be sent a letter after the consultation that summarises the conversation and a copy will go to the GP. Also, when we call you, the number will register on your phone as a ‘private number’.  If there is no reply, we will leave a message on the voicemail for you to ring back.  If we do not hear from you, we will send you a letter to see if you still need the appointment.

If your child needs to be seen or needs to have a test this will be arranged either on the day of the appointment or for another day and you will have separate instructions on where you need to attend so that we can ensure that we keep everybody safe with social distancing.

**Hay fever**

This is the time of year when the grass pollen levels are high, and many children and adults will be suffering from hay fever.  This is very uncomfortable for the person who suffers and can cause itchy runny eyes, nose and sneezing.  If you have asthma too, it can worsen your symptoms and you could find yourself needing your blue inhaler more often.  You need to monitor this carefully and if your child needs their blue inhaler more than every four hours it is important that you contact the GP straight away for a review of your child’s chest before it develops into an asthma attack.

You can buy over the counter medicine called antihistamines from the supermarket or chemist quite cheaply.  You can discuss this with your local Pharmacist if you are not sure. We would recommend a non- drowsy antihistamine such as Cetirizine or Loratadine. This comes in a syrup form and in tablets. We would avoid piriton or chlorphenamine as this can be very sedating and can cause a hangover effect which can add to the overall discomfort of hay fever. We recommend that the non-drowsy antihistamine is given every day and usually in the morning before symptoms start.  If you give the medicine after the symptoms start it prevents the onset of the itching and sneezing. It is safe to continue to give the medicine every day throughout the grass pollen season which starts at the end of May and continues until the middle of July.  If you still get symptoms despite taking one dose, you can safely take a second dose within 24 hours.

Nasal steroid sprays act as preventers and can be used in addition to the antihistamines if not fully relieved by taking them.  For most benefit, the sprays should be used from when symptoms start and continued regularly throughout the pollen season. They are not always tolerated by children, but they are very effective if there are still symptoms despite taking the daily antihistamines.  If you use a nasal spray it is important that they are given correctly.  Please see the website below gives you directions for administering nasal spray and inhalers.

You can also buy eye drops to relieve itchy watery eyes, but they need to be given several times per day to be effective.

You can receive a pollen count on most weather forecasts, and you can receive notifications about local pollen on the met office weather app.

It is very difficult to avoid pollen in the high pollen season but here are a few hints that may be helpful

* avoid being outdoors in the early morning and evening, or after a thunderstorm when pollen count is highest
* sleep with the bedroom window closed
* keep car windows shut when travelling
* travel to beaches rather than open grassy areas during the pollen season
* after going outside before bed, wash hands, face and hair remove and wash clothes.
* Avoid hanging clothes on washing lines during high pollen count days
* take holidays in regions with lower pollen counts than home

This link will take you to a website that will demonstrate how to use nasal spray and how to use inhaler using a spacer.

[**https://allergynorthwest.nhs.uk/resources/how-to-use-medication/**](https://allergynorthwest.nhs.uk/resources/how-to-use-medication/)

**Contact: Rebecca Bryson, Pediatric Respiratory Nurse Specialist Asthma and Allergy**

**E mail:** [**claudine.bryson@nhs.net**](mailto:claudine.bryson@nhs.net) **Telephone: 0151 604 7673**

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**Safe Families for Children**

Have a look at this presentation which tells you all about our service and how we can help you and you can help others by joining our fab group of Volunteers.

[**https://localofferwirral.org/safe-families-for-children-wirral/**](https://localofferwirral.org/safe-families-for-children-wirral/)

**Contact: Sarah Broadbent, Senior Family Support Manager**

**Mobile: 07469354076. E mail:** [**sarahbroadbent@safefamilies.uk**](mailto:sarahbroadbent@safefamilies.uk)

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**SEND Team**

THE SEND team are working throughout the summer period and processing all the summer term reviews and any statutory assessment cases.

**Contact: Ben Blake & Victoria Whitton, SEND Managers**

**E mail:** [**benblake@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:benblake@wirral.gov.uk) **&** [**victoriawhitton@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:victoriawhitton@wirral.gov.uk)

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**SENDIASS**

Parent/Carers we are open during summer and still able to provide the following:

• IAS in mediation - Zoom

• IAS in SEN support meetings – Microsoft teams

• IAS support with social care (CIN) – Microsoft teams

• IAS for mediation/tribunal preparation

• IAS via telephone and email

In addition, we have also attended/will be attending team meetings/coffee mornings via Microsoft teams/zoom for the following:

• PCPW (Parent Carer Participation Wirral)

• Career Connect

• Social Care

• The Positivitree

• ADDvanced Solutions

• Schools

**Contact: Manager, Becky Heskey, 0151 522 7990 Option 2**

**E mail:** [**ias@wired.me.uk**](mailto:ias@wired.me.uk)

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**SEND Resolution service**

Service is still active.

Complaints/concerns should be sent via email in the first instance to

[**sendresolution@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:sendresolution@wirral.gov.uk).

**Contact: Lyndzay Roberts SEND Resolution Officer,** [**sendresolution@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:sendresolution@wirral.gov.uk)

**Tel: 0151 691 8262**

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**A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generatedSEND Youth Matters**

During COVID 19 we have adapted our sessions, wherever possible, to be accessible on-line. These have run successfully over the last few weeks and the young people are enjoying the interaction with their friends, youth workers and to have the opportunity to engage. If you are aware of any young people who would benefit from joining in, then please ask them or their Parent/Carers to get in touch and we’ll do what we can to help. To join the sessions listed below the young people need to e mail me to obtain the link.

Creative Youth Development

* SEND YOUTH VOICE GROUP have been meeting weekly and looking at how COVID19 has affected their lives. They are exploring what can be done to improve their lives as things move forward.

Their issues will be raised with services via the Young People’s Action Group in early June. You can join this group if you are aged 11-25yrs. Email [**selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk) for more info.

* One of the members of the SEND YVG has created a dance task for young people to learn. This is hopefully going to be sent out to young people and groups as an at home activity with the chance of being this being filmed as a performance piece.
* We have online DANCE and DRAMA WORKSHOPS for young people with SEND. To access, please email [**selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk) or [**jamiegreer@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:jamiegreer@wirral.gov.uk) for more info. All ages welcome.

**SEND YOUTH VOICE GROUP** – Using dance, drama and crafts as a way of looking at issues for SEND young people. The group are a voice group for the SEND young people in Wirral, working with services, organisations and professionals to challenge, change and improve the world around them. Sally & Poppy join these weekly sessions to offer support and a friendly face to the young people.

**Sessions runs from:**

6-7 pm for under 18’s

7-8 pm for 18+

7-8 pm for 21+

**Children Looked after Junior group** - A group for children looked after and who have a disability. Fun, with dance, drama and crafts. This session runs on a Saturday morning from 10-11am for age groups 8-14yrs.

**New**: We have the sessions on a Saturday 11-12pm up and running for 7-14yr olds. (and for Children Looked After 10-11am) This will be ongoing across summer

**Contact: Seline Wakerley, Participation & Engagement, Creative Youth Development Team/Dance**

**Email:** [**selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk)

**Mobile: 07867465913**

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**Sensory Service**

 If children have faulty hearing aids over the summer, parents should ring Paediatric Audiology to discuss arrangements for a replacement. Paediatric audiology will then discuss arrangements for this.

Sundries i.e. Batteries, tubing and stick and stays can be posted, unless a full box of cochlear Implant batteries are required, these will need to be collected.

If a child requires new moulds, please contact Paediatric Audiology and although they are unable to offer impressions at this point, they will get previous mould re scanned and a process called " double dipping " should make this one size bigger.

Paediatric Audiology can be contacted on 0151 5142512/ 0151 514 2511 and their email [wih-tr.PaedAudio@nhs.net](mailto:wih-tr.PaedAudio@nhs.net) is being checked daily:

The Vision and Hearing Support Teams will be working alongside schools and setting when the new autumn term begins. If you have any concerns, please contact:

Head of Sensory Service, Peter Davies [pjdavies@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:pjdavies@wirral.gov.uk)

Hearing Support Team – Helen Midda  [helenmidda@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:helenmidda@wirral.gov.uk)

Vision Support Team – Vanessa Ikin [vanessaikin@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:vanessaikin@wirral.gov.uk)

Referral documents and useful links are on the Local Offer

[**https://localofferwirral.org/listing/sensory-service/**](https://localofferwirral.org/listing/sensory-service/)

**Contact: Peter Davies** **Head of Sensory Service**

[**pjdavies@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:pjdavies@wirral.gov.uk) **Tel: 07787261001**

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 **Shiny Stone**

Heads up for Parent/Carers

We are hosting various training modules on Selective Mutism this November. (20th, 21st and 22nd). The training will be delivered by Maggie Johnson and will be held at the Village Hotel.

All details including how to book are on the Local Offer website.

[**https://localofferwirral.org/selective-mutism-training-with-shiny-stone-and-maggie-johnson/**](https://localofferwirral.org/selective-mutism-training-with-shiny-stone-and-maggie-johnson/)

**Contact: Sara Hirst-Watson, Director E mail:** [**admin@shinystone.org**](mailto:admin@shinystone.org)

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**Social Care – Children’s Services**

Social workers continue to work from home and are continuing to undertake face to face visits and completing direct work with families.

Social Care are continuing to work closely with colleagues within Health and Education to ensure children with additional needs receive timely and proportionate responses.

Social Care are currently looking at supporting children/young people to have a smooth transition back to school in September.

In terms of activities for children/young people the following have been identified:

* Short Breaks Service
* Carers Trust for All – offering a 7 days a week service although reduced numbers due to social distancing – more suited to children with less complex needs.
* Belvidere Club
* Edsential free summer holiday activities – Click on the link below.

[**https://edsential.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Edsential-Summer-Holiday-Activities-WIRRAL-2.pdf**](https://edsential.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Edsential-Summer-Holiday-Activities-WIRRAL-2.pdf)

**Contact: Alison Watson, Designated Social Care Officer for SEND**

**E mail:** [**alisonwatson@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:alisonwatson@wirral.gov.uk)

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**Specialist Support Team-Children and Young People who have Physical and Medical Needs**

The current academic year has drawn to a close. Schools have been and will continue to be busy preparing for all children to return to school in September, including those with medical/physical needs, some of whom will have previously been shielding. Individual Health Care Plans will have been updated for those children who require one and risk assessments carried out to ensure that the children can return to school in a safe way.

The Specialist Support Team for Pupils with Medical/Physical Needs has been busy throughout the summer term helping schools to plan and prepare for new pupils starting with them in September and

those who are returning after the partial school closures. The Team has been organising specialist equipment, additional funding, training, and building adaptations that may be needed for individual pupils. The Team has linked in with parents, school staff and Health colleagues to support transition and make sure that children’s additional health needs can be met is a safe way whilst they are in school. Colleagues in Health have found new ways of delivering training and assessing for equipment that takes account of social distancing measures.

**Contact: MPN manager, Julie Hudson**: [**Juliehudson@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:Juliehudson@wirral.gov.uk) **07799417210 or Jayne Catton:** [**Jaynecatton@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:Jaynecatton@wirral.gov.uk) **07901 511 323**

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**Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) service**

Most of the Speech and Language Therapists in our team are working remotely providing telephone and video consultations to support the children and young people known to our service. If you need to contact a speech and language therapist, the best way to do this would be via email to our central email account - [**wchc.childrenssaltteam@nhs.net**](mailto:wchc.childrenssaltteam@nhs.net)

We have updated our page on the trust website to include resources for families and schools to support children’s speech, language and communication development. There are also a range of speech programmes to support speech sound development with videos of therapy examples for additional support [**https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/self-care-resources-and-support/**](https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/self-care-resources-and-support/)**.**

**Contact: Team Leaders: Abbie Kyffin & Kate Gallagher**

**Email:** [**wchc.childrenssaltteam@nhs.net**](mailto:wchc.childrenssaltteam@nhs.net)

**Direct dial: 0151 514 2334**

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**The Positivitree**

We continue with our busy schedule of activities and are delighted so many Parent/Carers are joining us.

**Monday & Tuesday** virtual yoga (limited spaces so sign up quickly...and only virtual until our friends in parks and countryside give us the green light to do an outdoor session)

**Wednesday** family picnics with Crea8ing Careers

**Wednesday** is also CAMHS support group with Mind Over Natter at 7pm.

**Thursday** morning is our general parent support group/coffee morning 10.30-12 via Zoom.

**Thursday & Friday** fitness and nutrition with Wirral Health Project (limited spaces left now)

This summer we are pleased to be working in partnership with The Sensory Shack and Crea8ing Careers to offer a summer programme through the 6 week summer holiday period. Details are on the Local Offer website.[**https://localofferwirral.org/summer-holidays-2020/**](https://localofferwirral.org/summer-holidays-2020/)

**Contact: Rachel Daley,** [**rachel@thepositivitree.com**](mailto:rachel@thepositivitree.com)

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**The Sensory Shack**

We continue to provide respite for all children with additional needs, behaviour issues and for children in care. Our sessions were quickly filled and we wish we could help more families.

For info: The cost is £15 per hour and users can bring siblings.

We are open to self -referrals. We wear full PPE and have daily extra COVID cleans provided by a cleaning company.

We are based at Unit 16 Beechwood Drive CH43 7ZU

This summer we are pleased to be working in partnership with The Positivitree and Crea8ing Careers to offer a summer programme through the 6 week summer holiday period. Details are on the Local Offer website. [**https://localofferwirral.org/summer-holidays-2020/**](https://localofferwirral.org/summer-holidays-2020/)

**Contact: Sinead Holden: Mobile 07858588037 and by e mail** [**thesensoryshackwirral@gmail.com**](mailto:thesensoryshackwirral@gmail.com)

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**Wirral Mediation & Disagreement Resolution service**

The service is open through the summer holidays. Due to covid-19 Mediations/Disagreement Resolutions are currently delivered through video conferencing such as Zoom

Team Email:[**mediationadmin@wired.me.uk**](mailto:mediationadmin@wired.me.uk)Tel: 0151 522 7990 (option 2)

**Contact: Natalie Johnson, Mediation Service Manager**

**Email:** [**iasmanager@wired.me.uk**](mailto:iasmanager@wired.me.uk) **Mobile: 07841203132**

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**Wirral MENCAP**

****Wirral Mencap provides services and opportunities for people with a learning disability and their family carers.

Support is still being offered during the COVID 19 outbreak.

There are online activities all accessible via our Facebook page.

We have a bank of ready to go (trained, DBS checked, willing and eager) befrienders for people with a learning disability.

They are available to befriend via phone and email throughout the Covid-19 situation, and possibly beyond.

Our Information & Advice Service is still taking your calls so if you need help with anything get in touch!

This service can offer information, advice and support with any issues you might have with things like social care, housing, welfare benefits, wills and trusts, being a carer. We can help with paperwork, meetings and understanding your rights

You can call or text on **07597986437**

**Contact: Tina Phelan, Information and Advice Manager**

**E mail:** [**cphelan@mencapwirral.org.uk**](mailto:cphelan@mencapwirral.org.uk)

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**Wirral Mental Health Support Teams**

Wirral Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) have been developed to work within schools across Wirral to support the emotional health and wellbeing of the borough's young people. The service builds on the existing work of Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's (CWP) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), providing advice to schools, young people and their Carers delivering evidence-based interventions for mild to moderate mental health difficulties and supporting the development of mentally healthy schools.

The teams now have their own [**Wirral MHSTs page**](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/UUJrdEh1OERMTDAvSzMrTFVTUW5oc0N6M1lrejhSMkFuWlpBRnVZTzlKUzB3WUo4QlBqblZMTUVNaHo4dzR5emhZcVpjUDVyZ04yTzEyVnNFa3ZwREFvMGVOSnVoTzdQejlVanVLOWliTFVtZDJrSXZiN3o3bWJ4a2RVQys4M0hpSUVSMFE9PQ/UUI4dA) on the MyMind website where you can find out more about the service and access the fortnightly newsletters which are sent to Wirral schools. The team have also put together a short animation explaining a little more about the roles within the service. Please [**click here**](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/UUJrdEh1OERMTDAvSzMrTFVTUW5oc0N6MDVFeHF3WFhrcG9CSi8xWnZvUE42NFljRmRTd0VPbz0/UUI4dA) to access the video. There are plans to produce a video for children and young people soon. The team are also planning to make use of the existing MyMind Instagram and twitter feed over the coming weeks as a way of sharing resources that may be useful for professionals, children, young people, parents and carers.

Currently MHST’s are available within 53 primary schools in Wirral, however, following recent success in a further bid for funding the service will be extending its provision to even more schools over the coming months.

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Hope you’ve found this summer holiday edition useful. We will be taking a break over the holiday period to re-charge our batteries in readiness for the autumn term and so we hope the range of information added to the Local Offer website will offer you the support and signposting you need whilst we are away.

If you have any suggestions as ever, would love to hear from you. Drop us an e mail [**localofferwirral@wirral.gov.uk**](mailto:localofferwirral@wirral.gov.uk)

Take care of yourselves and enjoy the summer.

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated

**Sally & Poppy**