

Kent Parent Partnership Service Bulletin

Issue 3 March 2013

WELCOME to the third issue of the Kent Parent Partnership Service Bulletin. This quarterly bulletin is designed for parents* and professionals who have an interest in articles and news relating to the education and development of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or disabilities.

Kent Parent Partnership Service (KPPS) is an arms-length organisation that provides free confidential, impartial advice and support to families of disabled children and children with SEN.

We aim to empower parents and families to make informed choices and take positive action about their child's education. This is achieved through telephone and email support, face-to-face meetings, training (of both parents and professionals) and support in the community.

What Does KPPS Do?

- Give impartial information and advice around Special Educational Needs (SEN) issues
- Provide a county-wide telephone helpline (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
- Offer support in preparing for and attending meetings
- Help parents prepare relevant paperwork
- Support parents and carers in resolving disagreements with school and the Local Authority
- Signpost to other statutory and voluntary services
- Offer training opportunities for parents and professionals

Funding Formula Reforms

The DfE have set a challenging timetable for implementation of the funding reforms from April 2013. All LAs will need to provide the DfE with confirmation of the factors to be used in their local funding formula and provisional funding rates. As part of the funding reforms there is a requirement for LAs to model the changes to budgets in 2013-14 for all LA schools and Academies (all academies that converted since April 2008). All the data to be used in the calculation of school/academy budgets will now be provided by the DfE.

The funding reforms cover three main areas:

- 1) The simplification of Primary and Secondary School funding formulas
- 2) Further delegation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding to schools
- 3) Reform of funding for High Needs pupils in Special Schools, Specialist Mainstream Provisions, High Needs SEN pupils in Mainstream Schools, PRU and pupils in Hospital Education

For more information visit <http://www.education.gov.uk/> (type "funding reform" into the search box)

Kent Parent Partnership Drop-Ins

We offer countywide drop-ins to enable parents to discuss their child's education and support. Please visit www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kpps to see the latest list of drop-ins occurring in your area.

* Please note: Parent is used throughout this document to describe all those adults with parental responsibility.

Supporting families of disabled children and children with special educational needs.

School Appeals

The Local Authority will try to offer parents the school place they most want, but may not be able to do this. If more people want places at a school than the school has room for, it uses its admission criteria to put children in priority order to decide which of them should be offered places. Parents can appeal for a place at any (or all) of the schools requested but were not offered. Appeals information can be found on

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/school_education/applying_for_a_school_place/secondary_school_places/secondary_school_appeals.aspx

	Offer	Appeals deadline	Appeals to be heard by
Secondary	1 March 2013	16 April 2013	19 June 2013 (40 school days)
Primary	5 April 2013	14 May 2013	16 July 2013 (40 school days)

Appeals lodged after the deadline will be heard within 40 school days of the appeals deadline or 30 school days of being received, whichever is the later date.

Contact the admissions team on 01622 696565 or email them : kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk

Join Our Distribution List!

This information bulletin will be distributed electronically on a quarterly basis. Its function is to raise awareness of issues relating to children and young people with SEN or disability. It will act as a signpost for parents, key workers and professionals to locate relevant help and support. It will also offer an additional method for organisations who work in the SEN field to publicise their work.

If you would like to receive this bulletin on a regular basis please sign up to our email distribution list by contacting Guy Bartlett.

If you have any contributions for the next bulletin please let us have them by 20th May 2013.

Contact Guy Bartlett (guy.bartlett@kent.gov.uk)

Children & Families Bill update

The Children & Families Bill has been sent to Public Bill Committee. The Committee is expected to meet next on a date to be announced.

The Bill was debated at second reading on 25 February 2013. The House of Commons voted for the Bill to be sent to a Public Bill Committee that will scrutinise the Bill line by line.

The Committee is expected to report by 23 April 2013.

The Children and Families Bill Committee is now accepting written evidence: To have your say on the Bill you may wish to visit :

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2013/february/have-your-say-on-the-children-and-families-bill/>

KPPS will provide further updates as they become available. More information about the Bill can be found at www.ipsea.org.uk



Contact Us

If you would like to find out more about our service or request support please contact us.

Helpline Telephone 01622 755515

Office Telephone 01622 350640

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy we cannot accept responsibility for the precision of information in this publication.