



DATE: 11 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children with an EHC Plan

The lockdown announced by the Prime minister on the 4 January is not how we wanted to start the new year. Despite this, we hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well.

We are in the eye of the storm with this pandemic. We desperately need to drive infection rates down, and to give the time and space to our critical services to deliver the care they need for both Covid and non Covid related conditions, and to allow the rollout of the vaccine at as fast a pace as possible.

The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. Only leave the house when absolutely necessary. People need to stick to the rules, and ask themselves just because they can do something, that does not mean they should. Please: be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

We are very aware of how broad and blunt the use of the word 'vulnerable' is; it has become a catch-all word that includes children with an education, health and care plan (EHCP). As such, all children attending special schools are deemed vulnerable. Whilst special schools will try to make provision to as many pupils as possible, they will only be able to make the provision that their individual circumstances allow (based on risk assessment and staffing capacity). Many of our settings are currently experiencing challenges to facilitate the delivery of high-quality remote learning alongside safe on-site learning when the workforce is reduced through illness and self-isolating. This situation may require school leaders, as a last resort, to prioritise the return of children based on individual need and on the safety of the school.

We wish to remind you that your child should stay at home if it is appropriate to do so. This will lower the number of households mixing and reduce transmission of the virus. If by keeping your child(ren) at home you need additional support, please contact your school and they will work with the local authority to support you.

To reduce community transmission, we need to ensure that the number of children and young people accessing the offer of provision in a school or college is kept to the lowest number possible.

Whether or not your child's education setting is putting in place the rapid testing programme right away, it is very important that we reassure you that all settings will be continuing to

Liverpool City Council

Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1AH
W.liverpool.gov.uk



THE WORKPLACE
WELLBEING
CHARTER



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020

regularly review and seek to put in place all the protective measures recommended by Public Health England and the Department for Education to reduce the risk of transmission. These will include social distancing, hand washing, good ventilation, use of face coverings as appropriate, and ensuring people with symptoms do not attend. These remain the most effective ways to reduce the spread of the virus, even with rapid testing in place.

We ask that you continue to show the same patience and compassion to leaders and staff in our settings that you have demonstrated throughout this pandemic. We have learned from the first two waves that if we pull together as a city, with everybody playing their part, we can and will get through this.

Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

Matt Ashton
Director of Public Health

Steve Reddy
Director of Children and Young People's Services

In response to the current coronavirus pandemic, Liverpool Local Authority's SEND Support Services would like to offer advice and support to our settings and families during this difficult time.

Liverpool Parent and Carer Forum – LivPaC - Email:- livpac@hotmail.co.uk Facebook:- LivPaC – Liverpool Parent and Carer Forum Twitter:- LivPaCL8

LivPaC is a group of parents/carers of child/young people with SEND who work in participation with education, health and care services to ensure the services they plan and deliver are fit for purpose and that they meet the needs of children, young people & their families across our city. We empower parents and carers to have a voice and to ensure that their voice is heard.

SENISS Helpline: 07591837693

If your child has special educational needs and you are wanting to know more on how to support their learning at home then please ring for professional advice, support or practical strategies.

Monday: 1pm – 4pm, Wednesday: 9am – 4pm, Friday: 9am – 12pm

Alternatively, you can email your concern to seniss@liverpool.gov.uk

Educational Psychology Service Helpline: 0151 233 5978

If you are concerned about your child's emotional wellbeing or managing their behaviour then please ring for professional advice, support or practical strategies.

Monday to Friday: 9am – 4.30pm

Alternatively, you can email your concern to epsadmin@liverpool.gov.uk

Speech and Language Helpline: 07540707541

If you need advice or support regarding your child's speech and language then please contact Christine Taylor, Principal Speech and Language Therapist.

Tuesday to Friday: 9am – 12pm

Alternatively, you can email your concern to christine.taylor@liverpool.gov.uk

ASD Training Team: 07522800193/07515501854

Advice and strategies for families of children and young people with autism or social communication needs.

Monday to Friday: 9am – 12pm

Alternatively, you can email your concern to ASDtrainingteam@liverpool.gov.uk