

Parents NEWSLETTER

Supporting Newport parents and pupils with visual impairments, hearing impairment, communication and sensory needs.

Dear Parents and Carers,

The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on the design and preparation of our local Newport service which will begin in April 2019. This newsletter follows our previous letter to you issued in October 2018. We hope that you will find this update useful and that it provides you with confidence that Newport will provide a continued service to pupils with hearing impairments, visual impairments, communication and sensory needs. Further newsletters will be issued in the New Year.

Newport Education Service A background of success:

Newport Education Service has a strong reputation for moving with pace and providing excellent services. Newport has received good Estyn reports and is well respected by education and allied professionals and partners.

Newport has:

- A high level of experience in leading and managing specialist and outreach teams.
- A strong Inclusion ethos and has previously brought teams together successfully to ensure they are child centred and focussed on providing continuity of care, advice and support for all children and their families.
- A multi-disciplined Inclusion team which includes Educational Psychologists, a Special Educational Needs team, an Educational Advisor for children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN, Cognition

& Learning), an Educational Advisor for Behaviour and Autism and a Teacher Advisor for ALN. This team is managed by a Head of Inclusion. Our new service will work hand in hand with these professionals to support your children.

- Twelve Learning Resource Bases (LRBs) attached to mainstream schools, two special schools and a Specific Language Impairment Base for the region. As a local authority we also fund placements for children and young people with hearing, visual and sensory communication needs in schools outside Newport. Many children and young people attend Nant Celyn Primary School and Cwmbran High School in our neighbouring local authority which has resource bases to support Hearing Impaired children and young people.
- A central Education Service that knows its schools well. Communication and engagement is excellent. Our Headteachers work with us to co-construct services which will meet the needs of all pupils.

- Its own Early Years team which supports and trains maintained and non-maintained nursery settings to support pupils with complex needs. This team also includes an Early Years Advisory Teacher who is a specialist in Early Years ALN.
- An Educational Psychologist who supports and advises provision for pre-school pupils.
- Regular and effective contact with all school based ALNCOs (School leaders in charge of ALN /

Additional Educational Needs Coordinators), with regular Cluster ALNCO meetings. A training menu for ALNCOs, teachers and teaching assistants is offered to meet the needs of schools and their pupils.

- An excellent network of support from health colleagues and the voluntary sector. These important partners will continue to support and advise us as our local team grows.

Future Staffing:

Over the past few months we have been liaising with Torfaen County Borough Council to consider TUPE arrangements. This means that staff currently employed by SENCOM who are working more than 50% of their time in Newport would be eligible to be transferred to Newport City Council.

Newport City Council will advertise a variety of job roles to support our new service in the next few weeks. Any staff who are currently employed by SENCOM will be provided with an automatic interview to a matched job description.

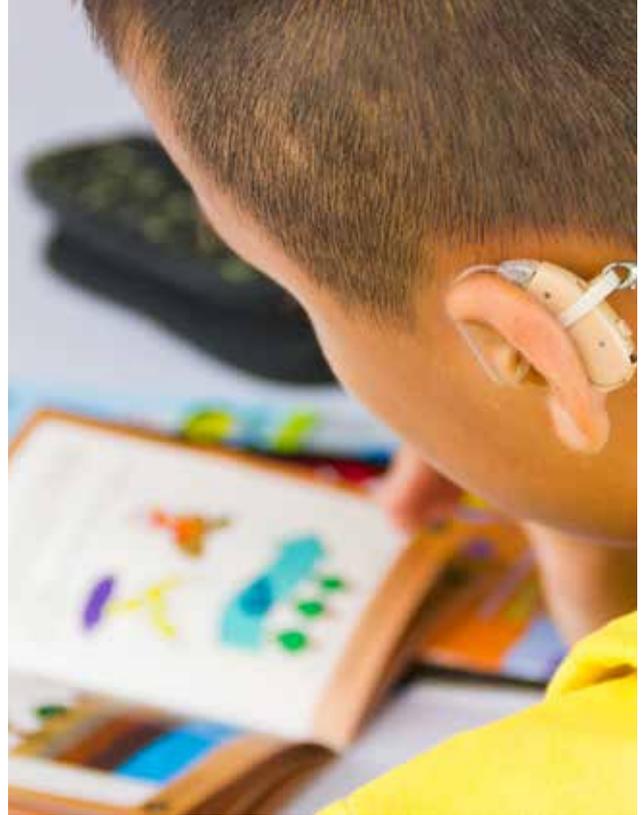
The intention is to fill all vacancies for our new team by the end of January 2019. Early recruitment will allow us some transition planning time with staff starting in their Newport position. We will also bring staff to parent workshops to meet you and talk through the future service.

The new team will be based in Newport's Civic Centre and will sit alongside our Special Educational Needs (SEN) officers, Educational Psychologists and ALN Teacher Advisors to provide a seamless service.



Our new team will also include:

- Two Teacher Advisors who will have a specialist teaching qualification for the deaf or for visual impairment, who will assess the needs of pupils and recommend appropriate support. They will also teach specific skills to the pupils and train school staff to provide continuing support.
- A Teacher Advisor for Communication who will support and advise schools on interventions for pupils with speech and communication needs and provide training and advice to schools and families.
- Two specialist Teaching Assistants who will support the development of pupils' skills and monitor and review progress.
- A Habilitation Officer to support in the community and school environment.
- An Audiological Technician to ensure any required technology and equipment is available and in good working order.



Supporting a range of needs:

As with any service, it is important to ensure that pupils with the highest level of needs receive the highest levels of support. This principle will continue to be applied. In January we will establish a multi-agency steering group to consider how the service will operate on a day to day basis. This group will contain Headteachers and ALNCOs who are currently in receipt of SENCOM services and understand the needs of their pupils, in addition to parent representation. This will ensure that we go forward in Newport with a fully collaborative and person centred approach in line with our already well established inclusive philosophy. In preparation for our revised service, we have looked at successful models which operate on a single local authority basis. This has helped us to inform our planning.



Pre-school Support:

We are committed to ensuring that we support pupils early in their lives. We are working with our colleagues in health, social care and the voluntary sector to ensure that positive experiences and support continues to be available to families in Newport. We are sure that this will develop over time and our aim is to ensure that we give access to those parents and carers who may not be able to attend groups outside Newport. We already have a number of very successful support groups available for parents of children with a range of additional needs and anticipate that a specific group for parents and carers of children and young people with a sensory need would be offered in the same way.



Questions:

As you will be aware, there are dates advertised on the Newport City Council website for a question and answer session for Newport parents who wish to attend. These sessions will be held between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Tuesday 19th February and 5.00pm and 7.00pm on Wednesday 20th February 2019 in the Civic Centre. If you wish to attend either of these sessions please use the email address provided or telephone the City Contact Centre on 01633 656656

Inclusionadmin.support@ newport.gov.uk

If you have any other queries please use the email address above and include your telephone number if you wish somebody to contact you in person.

The proposed decision to withdraw from SENCOM and begin a Newport based service is noted as a part of the Newport budget proposals for 2019/20 which can be found at; **www.newport.gov.uk/budget**

Comments can be sent to:
changing.services@newport.gov.uk