

SEND Update

5th July 2024

Tom Procter – Head of Contracts and School Organisation/Interim
Assistant Director Strategy Commissioning Partnerships

Clare Dudman – Head of School Improvement

Clare Devane – Head of Service Transformation Programmes

Karla Finikin – Head of SENDIS

Sukpal Uppal – Participation and Engagement Manager

Agenda

- SEND Conference – Clare Dudman
- SENDAP Strategy Action Plan – Karla Finikin
- Ofsted Annual Visit – Clare Dudman
- Provision Update – Tom Procter
- Short Break Review – Clare Devane
- SENDIS Data – Karla Finikin
- Merton Participation and Engagement - SEND CYP and the Youth Advisory Forum – Sukpal Uppal

SEND Conference

Themes:

- Understanding Co-production
- The Launch of the SEND Strategy

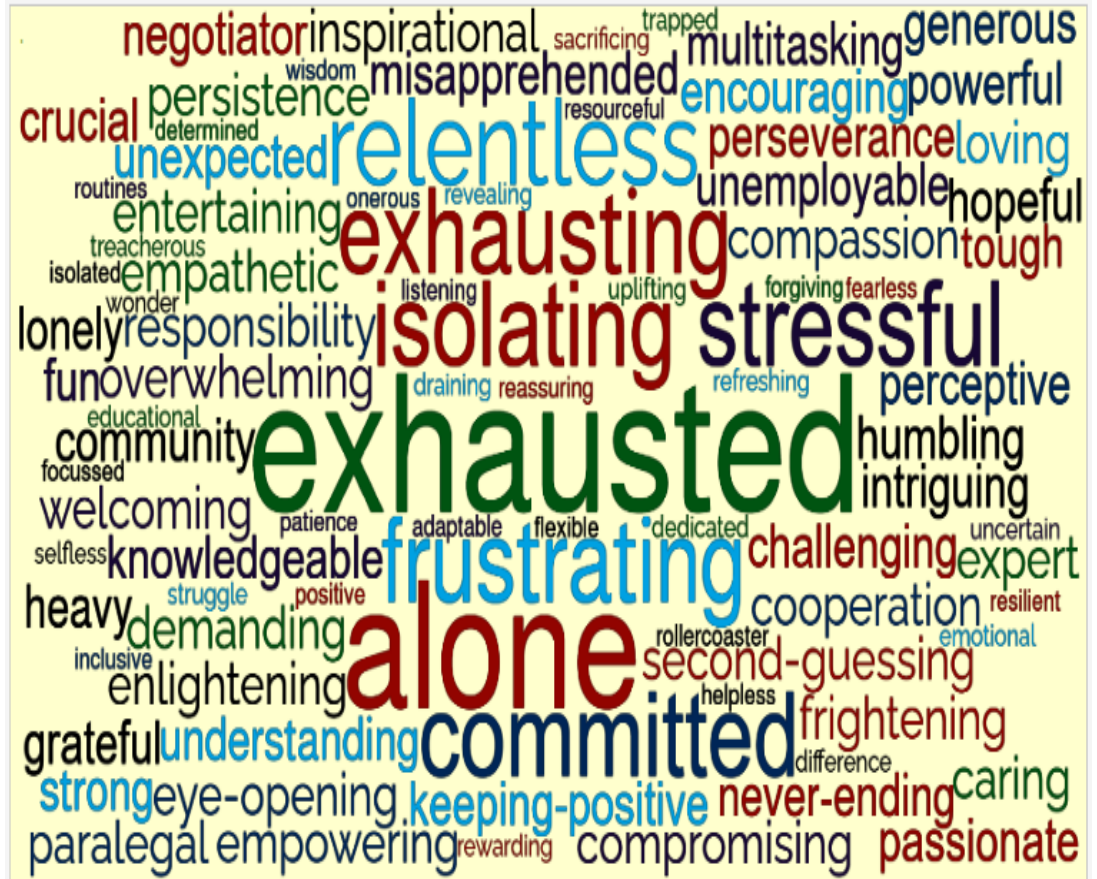
163 people in attendance

Held at Tooting and Mitcham Football Club

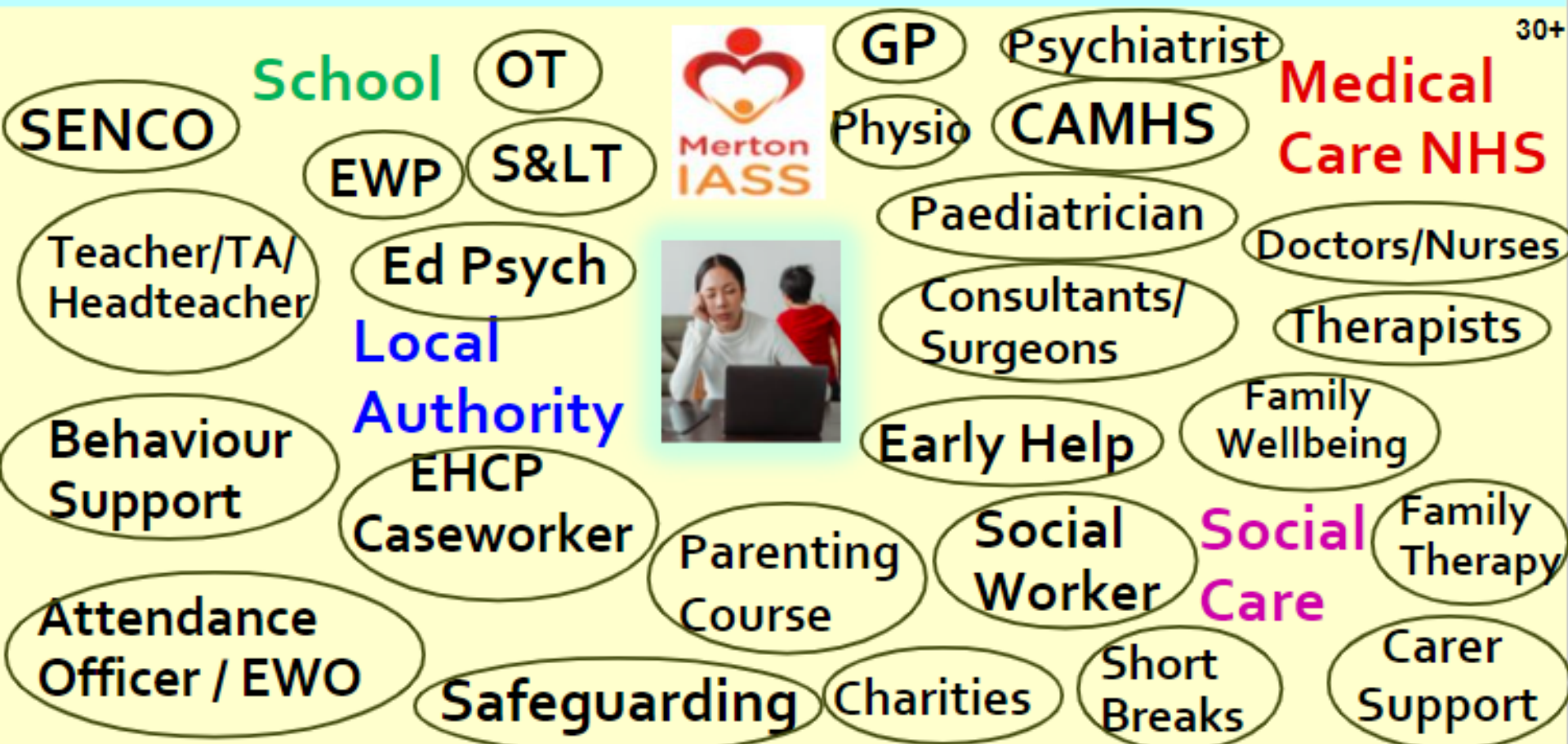
Keynote Speech – Understanding Co-production – Michael Surr of NASEN

- The term co-production is only used once in the SEND Code of Practice (2015) in the context of The Local Offer - *“Local authorities should do this in a way which ensures that children, young people and parents feel they have participated fully in the process and have a sense of co-ownership. This is often referred to as ‘co-production’.”* (4.9)
- Co-production should always be underpinned by a way of working that has the child, young person and their families at its core – person-centred working.
- It is a moral imperative - all of us want our children and young people to succeed and thrive so that can become successful, independent and happy adults.
- It's about working with, not doing to – golden threads include transparency, involvement, inclusion, decision-making, collaboration, and participation
- Barriers include time/capacity, fear, funding, communication, understanding, knowledge of system

Hearing from Kids First - Living as parent of a child/young person with SEND



What is the co-production experience for a parent of a child with SEND?



Co Production Wish List

- Seeing the child behind the paperwork
- Hearing the CYP Voice, as well as parents
- Holistic / joined up thinking
- Co-Production as the Golden thread
- Valued Lived Experience
- Trust and Respect
- Honesty and Transparency
- Empathy and Understanding
- Trauma Informed Approach
- Consideration for the Right Environment and Atmosphere
- Effective Intention, Implementation and Impact
- Accessible, Inclusive and Equitable
- No Blame Culture
- Proactive Co-Production
- Timely Communication
- Parents' voice welcomed at senior and strategic levels
- Solution based approach for families
- Early intervention and clear pathways
- **Getting the Right Help, in the Right Place, at the Right Time.**



Breakout Group 1 – Co-production

Streamline system of referrals – schools to do pediatric referral rather than signed of by GP.

After school provision.
Curricular provision requires funding – e.g EHCP child has support in school but not for anything else outside of school hours..

Centralised online system so that parents/professionals can all access reports for a child.

Joint training – health/education/social care – learning/shadowing

Co-produce a transition framework for the lifetime of a child.

Real focus on co-production in EHCP reviews to help reduction in assessment delays,



Breakout Group 2 – Working Together

Streamline system of referrals schools to do pediatric referral rather than signed of by GP.

Yearly 'ordinarily available' workshops for parents to provide more clarity and support.

Look to the broader range of services that can support that van support YP's and families.

Facilitating a forum (maybe in schools) where parents/carers can come for support and advice.

Post 16 provision + curriculum.
Extra-curricular provision on supporting independence

Empathy & understanding. Are we asking parents how they would like to be communicated with?

Involve parent/carers and improve trust between parent/carers and schools/local authority.

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I found the breakout groups...

[More Details](#)

Extremely useful	54
Somewhat useful	28
Neutral	3
Somewhat not useful	1
Not at all useful	0





Launch of SEND AP Partnership Strategy

Our Ambition

"In Merton, children and young people with SEND are valued, visible and included in our communities, and enabled to thrive and feel fulfilled in all areas of their lives, and at every stage of their development."

Listening and responding
to children and families

Providing the right help

Clear and honest
communication

Equity

Inclusion

Doing things on time

Working in partnership

Professionals learning
and developing together

Staying Safe - Enjoying and Achieving - Becoming Independent

Being Healthy - Getting Involved - Having a Say - Connection

Our Priorities

1. Children and young people receive the right support at the right time.

2. Children and young people are enabled to learn skills that will enable them to lead lives that are as independent as they wish

3. Children, young people, families, and professionals listen to each other, communicate effectively, and work together for shared understanding.

Comments from attendees on the Launch of the SEND Strategy



"Hearing about Merton's plans was really useful and insightful."



"The Merton Strategy item was informative and was the most useful thing I took away from the conference."



"The Merton Strategy is helping to keep SEND at the forefront. I look forward to hearing how the action plan is progressing."

How did you find the SEND Conference overall?

[More Details](#)

● Excellent	36
● Good	44
● OK	6
● Needs improvement	0



Opportunity to network parents and professionals
parents and sharing experiences colleagues discussions professionals and parents
ideas and network different people **Networking** Breakout group
different perspectives
parents item different parents professionals and parents
Meeting other professionals parent experience
SENCOs and parents parents and colleagues

What attendees
liked most about
the conference.

- *"Meeting parents and colleagues and sharing experiences."*
- *"It was great that parents, carers, and professionals were all in the room together and that we were mixed on the tables so truly inclusive."*
- *"Networking and understanding different people's roles within the system."*
- *"Breakout groups and discussion - it's eye-opening to talk to SENCOs and parents."*

How attendees felt the conference could be improved for the future

9 respondents (11%) answered **better** for this question.



"Some problems with venue –some people not able to see/ hear well"

"Perhaps more input from young people."

"Get some keynote speakers in from mental health service and health providers."

"Provide more opportunities for people to rotate to different tables."

Further comments from attendees

"There was so much energy in the room, it was great."

"My voice was heard."

"Great event. The energy in the room said it all, and the fact that people did not leave at the end also said a lot."

"There was a good mixing of people on tables."

"Well done. Professional and invigorating."

"So thankful to have good chairing and structure to the conference and everyone's voice could be heard."

Moving forward

An agreed and allocated budget is needed for face to face SEND Conferences. Money needs to be spent getting food, keynote speakers, accessibility, and sound right.

Secure date and venue for next year more in advance to avoid last-minute rebookings.

Bigger venue that is all inclusive – demand was more than we could cater for at Tooting and Mitcham FC. Chaucer Centre would be too small.

A more young person/health-centred theme for next year

Merton SEND AP Partnership Strategy ACTION PLAN

- Sitting beneath each area of the four year strategy are actions which are currently being addressed.
- Highlights for this year so far include:
 - More Ordinarily Available Guidance training for schools
 - Review of the Mental Health in Schools work
 - Launch of the shortbreaks review
 - Holiday, Activity and Food Programme offer for children with SEND is increasing
 - Local provision is continuing to expand (West Wimbledon ARP, more places in Perseid school)
 - Extended Designated Clinical Officer time from the Integrated Care Board
 - Relaunch of the Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) programme
 - Extension of supported internships offer ('Project Search') – to start in September

Annual Ofsted and CQC Visit – Clare Dudman

- Under the new (since January 2023) SEND inspection arrangements, Ofsted and CQC have a meeting every year with leaders of the local area SEND partnership
- For Merton local area this will be happening next week.
- Kids First Steering Group will be presenting in that meeting.
- Presentation of recent developments; next steps for development.

SEND Provision Update – Tom Procter

- Merton Special Free School – Orchard Hill College Academy Trust (OHCAT) are the confirmed Academy provider. Site still confidential and opening on permanent site won't now be until September 2027 so we are looking at temporary site options
- Liberty School ARP opening in September to replace the closing Stanford School – will remain on Stanford premises to October half term to provide sufficient time for building works
- Perseid Lower School expansion works expected to start in August 2024
- Cricket Green 6th Form - extra places for September 2024

Project Plan for Short Breaks Review – Clare Devane

- Assessment Stage – May through to August 24. Assessing the existing offer, pathways and processes to access, communication and promotion methods and understanding the short break requirements of children and young people with disabilities and their families.
- Planning Stage – July through to November 24. Developing strategies to address the identified need, challenges and issues, including resource allocation and service design.
- Implementation Stage – November 24 through to August 25. Moving forward with the redesign and new contracting arrangements.
- Monitoring and Review Stage – from September 25 and throughout the contracting period. Checks and assurances that the agreed performance targets and outcomes of Merton's Short Breaks offer continue to be met.

Consultation

Phase One: 8th July until 18th August 2024.

Objective is to find out the views of parents and carers, children and young people with disabilities, and the professionals and providers working with them on the current social, leisure and play opportunities available and suggestions for change.

There will be a range of techniques used to gather views:

- *Online surveys*
- *In-person discussion groups for parents*
 - 17th July, at 10am, at the Chaucer Centre
 - 18th July, at 6.30pm at Raynes Park Library
 - 22nd July, at 1pm at the New Horizon Centre
- *Online discussion groups for parents*
 - 19th July at 1pm
 - 23rd July at 6.30pm
- *By phone*
- *Engagement sessions for children and young people facilitated by providers and the Participation and Engagement Team.*

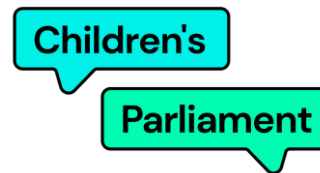
Consultation contd.

- Publicising the consultation through:
 - *Kids' First membership list*
 - *Disabled Children's Register mailing*
 - *Families known to the Children with Disabilities Service*
 - *Families known to the Short Breaks Team*
 - *Asking schools and other settings to publicise to their appropriate parents and children and young people*
 - *Merton Youth Partnership*
 - *Merton Connected*
- Phase two: October 2024
- Objective will be to find out the views of parents and carers, children and young people with disabilities, and the professionals and providers working with them on a set of proposals about the future short breaks offer.
- We could have a more targeted approach with the use of focus groups or adopt the same approach as for phase one of the consultation.

Merton Participation and Engagement



Service for all children and young people



- Launched in the academic year of 2023/2024, following visits and consultation with Headteachers and SEND school councils
- Forum is made up of students from the three SEND school councils
- Views and feedback from the group is shared with relevant teams across the Council such as the SENDIS team, School Improvement team and Education Inclusion

Merton Participation and Engagement



Delivery of the Youth Advisory Forum:

- Five sessions facilitated since September 2023, with two sessions being in-person at the request of young people
- Over 25 young people engaged through their school network
- Young people have contributed to the Children & Young People's Plan and attended the SEND Governance Board to share their views and experiences with senior decision makers across Merton
- Key areas of focus have included travel and accessibility, EHCP feedback forms and young people's rights and entitlements



Merton Participation and Engagement



Next steps:

- Decision made to continue the Youth Advisory Forum, and to work with colleagues in Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs) to ensure we hear from young people within those settings
- All Youth Advisory Forum's will take place in person at the request of young people; dates and times to be shared with school colleagues
- Further work to be explored, to ensure we are hearing from young people who are Electively Home Educated and in residential settings



