

## Ordinarily Available Provision – Zoom Update for Families

Date: 8th July 2025, 7.00 – 8.00pm and 10<sup>th</sup> July 11.00 – 12.00pm via Zoom

### Presenting:

*Helen Jackson-Brench – WBC Area SENCO*

### From SEND Voices Wokingham (SVW)

*Terri Walsh*

**Parent carers attending:** 16 + 7

**Meeting was opened with welcomes**

### Introduction on SEND Voices Wokingham

"We are the independent voice of SEND families, representing their experiences with the aim to improve day-to-day lives."

A Parent Carer Forum is a formal group of parent carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) who work with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to make sure that the services they commission, plan and deliver meet the needs of SEND children and families in their area.

### Helen Jackson-Brench shared a presentation on the new Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) Guide

See slides for more detailed information.

Ordinarily Available Guide is available here:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-families-and-young-people/send-local-offer/help-learning/ordinarily-available-provision>

More general SEND Information for parent carers is available on the SEND Local Offer: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-families-and-young-people/send-local-offer>



## **Questions & Answers from the sessions:**

### **Q – How is this being implemented into schools? What if it isn't?**

A - Area SENCo doing a roll-out across the Borough (more details on the slides). This will be supported by existing services including the LA Education Partnership Team. Please do use the guide for a conversation about support with your child's school.

You can also use SENDIASS to help you with issues around SEND Support in school:

<https://www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk/>

If you are not happy about its implementation your school will have a complaints process you can follow.

### **Q – How will you ensure that all schools, including Academies, do Ordinarily Available Provision**

A – The expectation is that all schools will do this including academies. 65 SENCOs were at the launch a week ago. Support and training will be offered to the schools by the Area SENCO. The LA Education Partnership team will also offer support/challenge to schools.

### **Q – Is the Foundry a mainstream school?**

A – No it is not. Foundry College will implement the Ordinarily Available and more for their pupils. Foundry College will help and support mainstream schools through the outreach services they provide.

### **Q – How will teachers have time to do all this? Will there be enough resources?**

A – Schools should be reassured; the Ordinarily Available provision is not complicated and is most of the strategies are easy to implement. Schools will already be implementing lots of the strategies. Many schools already doing this and more for their pupils. Some schools are using it as an audit tool to help them improve and be more consistent.

### **Q – What happened when an EHCP is refused and says needs can be met by Ordinarily Available Provision, but it is so much OPA. When is “too much” Ordinarily Available Provision that it is not possible for the school to provide it, what is the cutoff point?**

A – The OAP guide is not a tick-list where everything needs to be ticked off. The panel that reviews EHCP Needs Assessments and applications are aware that where there is lots of OAP being provided it may result in an EHCP being required. The needs of each child will be taken into consideration.

**Q – The Inclusion Quality Mark – will this be detrimental to the good schools who have it? Will they just become overwhelmed by SEND pupils as they are good at meeting need?**

A – This will be an important point we will consider when looking at this option. We would discuss this further with schools to ensure that they are happy with the process before implementing.

**Q – How does it work for children who mask in school?**

A – The OAP Guide would be a good way for parents to start conversation with school about what is happening at home and what might be put in place at school to help.

**Q – Should Assess, Plan, Do, Review always be done?**

A - Assess, plan, do, review is for children on the SEN register. It will depend on your child's level of need. If they are on the school SEN register then each school will have a SEND Policy which will include information about how they record the Assess, Plan, Do Review cycle.

Lots of things can be put in place at school without a referral for other services or a diagnosis.