WBC Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Team Covid-19 Parents Q&A's - April 16th 2020



Is the SEND team still working?	Yes, the team are working from home and your caseworker can be contacted direct via email or SEN@wokingham.gov.uk Remote working has however slowed, some processes down.
Is the SEND Panel still reviewing requests for assessment and EHCP plans	Yes, the panel is currently still meeting (virtually) to consider EHC needs assessments (EHCNA's) and make decisions on whether to issue an EHC plan.
What is happening to the EHCP process?	Wherever possible the EHCP process is "business as usual", although things may be a little slower. Various communication methods are being used including Skype, WhatsApp, Microsoft teams, so that meetings can be held virtually. At present, DfE guidance is that there is no change to statutory timescales, the SEND service are working very hard during these difficult times to ensure these are met.
Are annual reviews still happening?	Yes, wherever possible we are conducting these through phone, Skype etc
What is happening to physio, OT or speech and language that my child normally gets at school?	We have had the following information from Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust: "CYP with existing EHCPs" Support for these CYP will be prioritised in terms of clinical need and where it is possible to do so support will be offered by telephone and video consultation. This will enable CYPF staff to provide support and reassurance to families and to signpost to resources including the CYPF online resource for further advice. We will be informing families and young people currently receiving care from our services of these plans and specifically those for their child and will also provide them with details of how to access support and further information via our website: https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk "
I am struggling with getting my child to do school work at home what should I do?	Please speak to your school to get help. If you are unable to contact school and your child has an EHCP please contact the SEND Team via email: SEN@wokingham.gov.uk
As my child school is closed am I responsible for section F in their EHCP?	No, parents are not responsible for fulfilling the outputs in Section F of an EHCP
My child has an ECHP and I chose to keep my child at home but	Yes, please contact your school to arrange this.

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now I need a break, can I send them to school on the odd day? If I choose to send my child with an ECHP to school, will there be transport available?	If your child young person previously received transport then this should still be available. For further information, please contact; schooltransport@wokingham.gov.uk
We are not coping at home and my child's school is closed what can I do?	Please speak to your school about options. If you cannot contact them please contact the SEND Team via email SEN@wokingham.gov.uk and we will discuss with you options for your child.
Can SENDIASS still help me with reviewing a plan?	Yes, the SENDIASS team are working from home and can be contacted on sendiass@wokingham.gov.uk The Sendiass team are available to give parents advice, help to complete paperwork and review plans etc.
I am really worried that my child is falling further and further behind, what can I do?	It is understandable that you would be concerned given these unprecedented circumstances. If you are worried speak with your school to help ease your concerns.
We are currently in the process of consulting with schools for my child's ECHP, is this still happening?	Yes at the moment schools are responding to consultations. However it may well be slower than usual if they have a lot of staff sickness. Also bear in mind that it won't be possible for schools to come and observe children as they would normally, nor will it be possible for parents to visit.
My child is starting at a new setting in September, will the lack of school now, affect that placement?	No, if you have a named setting already in your ECHP, this placement will still go ahead in September. If you are currently, trying to change placements, you will need to contact your case worker.