

Local Area Newsletter



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



The Big Relaunch: Local Area Newsletter

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and much more

Inclusion Summit 2024

The fifth Inclusion Summit was held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at the Royal Windsor Racecourse in Windsor. It was an amazing opportunity for professionals in education, health and the voluntary sector to come together with parents and carers to discuss the progress and steps we can take to make the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), a place of inclusion for all children and young people (0 to 25) with special educational needs and disabilities.

The Inclusion Summit was co-produced by SEND Voices RBWM (our parent and carer forum), Achieving for Children (AfC), the Independent Advice and Support Service (IAS), Children and Young People's Integrated Therapy Service (CYPIT) and schools.

The day included:

- over 160 attendees
- twenty exhibitors in the marketplace
- four different workshops
- a performance by the children from Manor Green School



The marketplace was a bustling environment with 20 stalls, made up of different services and all providing information on the support they can provide families and professionals. The marketplace included Busy Buttons holiday and after school activities, Children and Young People's Disability Service and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), Dogs for Autism, Family Action, GEMS, Parallel and the Local Offer. This document has more information on the stalls.

This year, there was a selection of workshops on SEND support, the Local Offer, emotional regulation, Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies and Person-Centred Path (PCPath) that attendees could attend after the morning presentations. These provided in depth information and the opportunity to ask questions specifically about those topics. To see the presentations from the day, please visit the Inclusion Summit webpage.

The Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies Team joined the Inclusion Summit on the Berkshire Healthcare Health Bus to share service updates, top tips and what support is available for service users and education partners via the CYPIT universal offer. These include updated advice on the online resource and a range of interactive online workshops covering early language strategies, sensory processing and handwriting (with more coming soon). You may have also seen the team also get out and about on the Health Bus to deliver some of their workshops live. For more information, please see the CYPIT website.

Councillor Amy Tisi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Windsor said 'It's been absolutely fabulous today. A really buzzing event. The marketplace was just wonderful, with everybody chatting and talking to each other and networking. And then I saw an absolutely amazing performance by pupils from Manor Green School which was wonderful and it ended the event on an absolute high.

Talking to parents here today, they have been saying that they found it really valuable to have the talk and see different people's perspectives.

So overall it's been a fantastic event.'

At the end of the Summit, thirty children from Manor Green School performed the song 'Moment of Truth'. They were simply outstanding! Their smiles whilst they performed were infectious and the lyrics of the song were so true for the event, and what we across the borough wish to achieve.

'It's about reaching out, closing up the distance
Instead of hate, celebrate all the ways we're different
I am optimistic, yes, I do believe
We have the power to make this world a better place
But if it's ever gonna change
We gotta come together, me and you
In a moment of truth.'

Here is a video featuring highlights of the day, including a performance from Manor Green School pupils: <u>Inclusion Summit 2024</u>

Feedback from parents, carers and professionals about the event:

'Great event. Loved the marketplace and Manor Green was the icing on the cake - so joyful and a great reminder through some of the young people what inclusion is all about. Really well organised event and really interesting as well. Thank you.'

'It was refreshing to see an entire group of professionals representing a local authority, parents and charities all sharing a very forward thinking plan to support disengaged young people.'

'Thank you, I found it very helpful to support my son in his learning. Plus it was really uplifting to see the children's performance at the end.'

If you were able to attend this year's summit, we would be really grateful if you could complete the below online feedback form:

AfC RBWM 2024 Inclusion Summit Feedback Form

Below, you can find some photos from the event.





















SEND Voices RBWM

What do we do?

We give a voice to families who have a child or young person with SEND. We work in partnership with the local authority and decision makers to ensure that these views and experiences are heard and understood. Our aim is to improve the lives of all our children and young people with SEND.

How do we do this?

By listening to our members and ensuring our membership is diverse. We do this through:

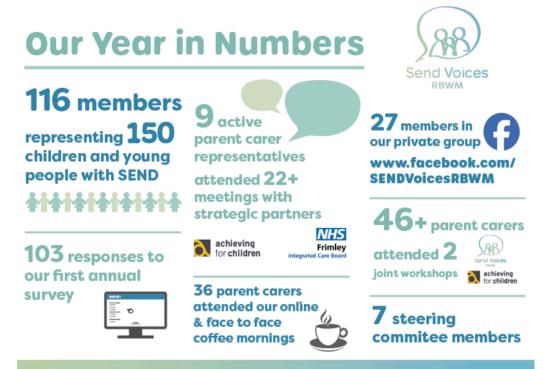
- events
- training courses
- consultations and surveys
- information sharing

Join us, become a member

All parents and carers of children and young people (aged 0 to 25 years) with any SEND, living or accessing services in RBWM, are welcome.

Professionals and practitioners who work with children and young people with SEND such as SENCos, teachers and therapists are welcome to become associate members.

Membership is free. To become a member or for more info, please email info@svrbwm.org.uk.



The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Register: Sign up

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Register is a list of children and young people from Windsor and Maidenhead, who have special educational needs or a disability. All local areas must have a register by law, but it is your choice if you would like to complete it.

Parents, carers or guardians can register on behalf of a child or young person. If you are a young person, you can register yourself if you are over the age of 13. To be able to be added onto the register you must live in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and be under 25 years of age.

Why should you register your child or young person?

The SEND Register helps the borough support children and young people with disabilities or complex needs by:

- giving you relevant information, advice and support that is targeted directly to your child or young person's needs
- giving you information from other agencies which specialise in working with children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities

It also provides the following benefits:

- the register accurately reflects the range of disabilities and special needs of the resident population aged 0 to 25 years
- having a better understanding of your needs, the register helps us to plan services for the future of all children and young people with special needs

For more information on the the SEND Register and how you can sign up, please go the the Local Offer or scan the QR code





Local Offer relaunch

The redesigned SEND Local Offer website was launched on Wednesday 7 February at the annual Inclusion Summit event.

The redesign of the website was based on feedback to make information more engaging, simpler to navigate and easier to search. The website follows web content accessibility guidelines and is fully optimised for mobile devices.

The SEND Local Offer is a comprehensive guide to services and support for children and young people aged 0 to 25 years with SEND and their families. People are clearly signposted to information including: SEND support in education, health and social care services, activities for young people and their families, support for carers, young carers, and siblings, post-16 education and training as well as the Special Educational Needs and Disability Register.

The redesign also includes the AfCinfo website. This part of the website covers childcare, school admission policies, procedures for children in employment and entertainment, family hubs, safeguarding and child protection as well as support for young people leaving care.

- Lin Ferguson, Executive Director of Children's Services and Education at RBWM, said:
 "I am thrilled that we have launched our redesigned SEND Local Offer and AfCinfo
 website after listening and responding to feedback from our children, young people and
 families. The updated Local Offer is a more comprehensive, accessible and user friendly
 version, and we will continue to review its impact."
- Councillor Amy Tisi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, said: "This popular website includes lots of important information for local families, so ensuring it stays engaging, easy to navigate and up-to-date is important. Achieving for Children, our children's services partner, has listened to feedback and done a great job in refreshing the online presence. I'd encourage families to check it out."

Add your voice to our 'New to SEND' section on the Local Offer

We want to help you feel supported if you've been told that your child has, or might have, SEND. The <u>Local Offer website</u> is already full of information so it can feel slightly overwhelming trying to navigate it. This is why we want to develop a 'New to SEND' section to help you locate key advice. As we begin our work on this section, we want to hear from you so that the needs of parents and carers are reflected. Please complete <u>this form</u> to share what's important to you.

Visit the SEND Local Offer



Visit AfCinfo



Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)

Preparing for Adulthood is the stage of a young person's life when they move through teenage years and into adult life. Planning for adulthood should start early on (no later than at age 14) and should focus on a young person's aspirations, interests and needs. This preparation helps with:

- becoming an adult and achieving independence
- understanding the changes to the services that help young people

To help develop young people's independence and plan for adulthood, four key areas are covered:

- living independently
- employment and training
- community inclusion
- health

The transition stage can include, depending on individual circumstances:

- transition from children's to adult specialist services
- transition from school to further education college, higher education or employment, training or apprenticeship
- transition from college or training to employment and/or adult services
- transition from paediatric to adult health services
- transition from living at home to supported accommodation and
- leaving care

Who provides adult social care?

- Optalis provides adult social care in partnership with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council
- The eligibility criteria for adult services is not the same as the criteria for children's services. So, if you are eligible for social care as a child or young person, you may no longer be eligible for the same services as an adult. Or, different services may be more suitable for you. You can find information about the eligibility criteria for adult social care on the Optalis website. If you are not eligible for adult services, you will be given information about other sources of support and advice.

Timings

- Transition planning usually begins in Year 9 (the school year in which a child has their 14th birthday).
- The PfA process is when professionals will consult with you and your child or children to consider if they may need specialist support during transition and into adulthood from the age of 18 years.
- Other young people may need specialist health support including therapeutic input, continuing healthcare or specialist community health services.
- If a young person has an education, health and care plan (EHCP) they may need support in education which will be discussed and reviewed during transition. The EHCP can be maintained until the young person is 25 years old.

For more information, please see the Local Offer page.



Health

What are annual health checks and how can young people (aged 14 and above) with a learning disability access them?

- Annual health checks are available free to people aged 14 and above with a learning disability. This health check will help to monitor your young person's health and could help signpost to other specialist services. It is completed once a year and is arranged with your GP surgery. To gain access, please join the Learning Disability Register.
- All people with a learning disability (even if it is mild) can be added to their GP practice Learning Disability Register.

Please complete the <u>learning disability register request form</u> and give it to your GP surgery (the GP surgery should be part of the Frimley Integrated Care System).

What are reasonable adjustments and how can I request reasonable adjustments in healthcare settings?

- A reasonable adjustment is just a small change that makes things easier. Things like extra
 time with your doctor, giving you easy reading information or more support to
 understand. The law says that all health services need to make changes so that everyone
 can use the services.
- Complete the <u>form</u> so changes can be made to make it easier for you to use the healthcare services. Once completed, please give this to your GP surgery so that it can be added to your notes.

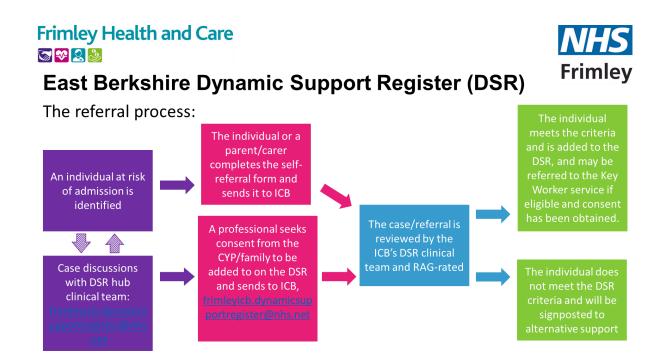
What is the dynamic support register (which now has a self-referral route) and what support opens up for autistic people and those with a learning disability of all ages?

- Dynamic support registers (DSRs) are the mechanism for local systems to identify children, young people and adults (with consent) who are at risk of admission to mental health inpatient services without access to timely dynamic support. They provide the tool to:
 - Use risk stratification to identify people at risk of admission to a mental health hospital
 - Work together to review the needs of each person registered on the DSR
 - Mobilise the right support (for example, a Care Education and Treatment Review, referral to a key worker service for children and young people, extra support at home) to help prevent the person being admitted to a mental health hospital.
- The DSR enables systems to identify adults, children and young people with increasing and/or complex health and care needs who may require extra support, care and treatment in the community as a safe and effective alternative to admission to a mental health hospital. Additionally, they play a role in ensuring that people's needs are included in commissioning plans, financial plans, service delivery and development.

Referral onto the dynamic support register:

• As well as being referred by professionals, individuals can now self-refer to their local area DSR.

Please see below:



For more information on health services for children and young people with SEND, please visit the <u>Local Offer health page</u>.

Public consultation on new provision for children and young people with SEND

Parents, young people, community groups and others are invited to comment on plans to open further facilities for pupils with special educational needs, which will allow even more children with special educational needs to attend a local school. RBWM is consulting on four proposed projects to enhance provision for children and young people with SEND, using £1.4m from the Department for Education. Many local children and young people with EHCPs are currently educated outside the borough. Expanding the local supported education offer will allow more of them to benefit from attending a school or college closer to home, if they choose.

The four proposed projects, developed with the schools and college involved, are:

- extra post-16 places at Berkshire College of Agriculture. This will include new
 accommodation to expand foundation and supported intern provision at their Burchett's
 Green site, to support young people with disabilities into paid employment
- a new facility at Churchmead School, Datchet (either a resource base or a SEN Unit) for children with EHCPs, where the primary need is autistic spectrum condition (ASC) but the child can, with support, attend a mainstream school
- a new sixth form at Forest Bridge Special School, Maidenhead to allow the school to offer post-16 places for young people with EHCPs, where ASC is the primary need
- a limited number of additional places at Manor Green Special School, Maidenhead to allow more children and young people with complex, profound and multiple learning difficulties to be educated locally

The public consultation runs until midday on Friday 26 April 2024; further information is available via the live consultation on the borough's website here. This includes links to the ensultation and downloadable versions of the consultation document and response form. Participants are asked whether they support each proposal, their preferred type of facility at Churchmead, and to suggest any additional options or ideas for further consideration by the council.



Easter activities: where and when?































Event, activities and websites	Where?	When?	Do you need to attend or can you just book for your child or young person?	How to register
Camp Mohawk	Highfield Lane Crazies Hill Wargrave RG10 8PU	Friday 29 until Sunday 14 April excluding 5, 8 and 12 April	Parents or carers will need to attend	Registered families will receive information and invitations via email. Unregistered families, please email booking@campmohawk. org.uk
Busy Buttons	Yards Shopping Centre, 8-9 King Edward Court, Windsor SL4 1TF	Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 April Monday 8 to Friday 12 April	N/A	Please book via this link
Thames Valley Adventure Playground - Family activities	Bath Road Taplow Maidenhead SL6 OPR	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday	Parents or carers will need to attend	Please call on 01628 628599
Coral Reef Waterworld SEN sessions for all family members	Nine Mile Ride, Bracknell, RG12 7JQ	Wednesday 20 March at 3.30pm Wednesday 3 April at 8am Wednesday 10 April at 8am Wednesday 17 April at 3.30pm	Children over the age of 8 do not need to be accompanied by an adult	Please book via this link or call on 01344 862525
FUEL Children who receive benefit-related free school meals are eligible to book free sessions	Multiple locations	School holidays	N/A	Please see this link

Places where kids can eat for free or £1 during the 2024 Easter holidays



Asda Kids eat for £1 all day every day at Asda cafés, with no adult spend required.	Morrisons Spend £4.49 at a Morrisons Cafe and get one free kids meal all day, every day.
Tesco Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p and above from Tesco cafés. Applies Monday to Friday during half-terms in 2024.	Gordon Ramsey restaurants Kids under eight eat free all day, every day at selected restaurants.
Sainsbury's Café Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11.30am every day.	Travelodge and Premier Inn Buy one adult breakfast from £8.99 and up to two children eat breakfast for free.
Pausa Café at Dunelm stores Kids get one mini main, two snacks and a drink free with every £4 spend. Applicable after 3pm.	Whitbread Inns Two kids under 16 eat free with every adult breakfast purchased.
The Real Greek Kids under 12 eat free every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult.	Bella Italia Children eat for £1 with any adult main. Applies Monday to Thursday, between 4pm to 6pm.
TGI Fridays Kids eat free when 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase an adult's main meal. (App required)	Bills Two kids can eat free all day during weekdays with one adult main.
Ikea Kids mac and cheese and a soft drink for 95p, or any other kids meal for £1.50 valid Saturday to Thursday.	Dobbies Garden Centres For every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for free every day.
Sizzling Pubs Kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal. Applicable Monday to Friday, 3pm to 7pm.	Hungry Horse Kids eat for £1 on Mondays.
Beefeater and Brewers Fayre Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult.	YO! Sushi Kids eat for free Monday to Friday, 25 March to 12 April for every £10 spent on food by an accompanying adult. Children aged 12 and under. One free kids meal deal bento box per child.

Activities available in and around Windsor and Maidenhead:

- Thames Valley Adventure Playground Website
- Jungle Mania (SoftPlay) Website
- Science Museum (Turn it up event) Website
- Story and rhyme time, weekly on Mondays from 10.30am to 11am at Windsor Library -Website
- Braywick Court Sprites: fun football and fantastic gymnastics Website
- Autism Berkshire for Adults Website
- Pan disability football for 8 to 11 year olds, Mondays 6pm to 7pm at Wexham School -<u>Website</u>
- Teen disability football, Wednesdays 5pm to 6pm at Salt Hill Park Website
- Clip'n'Climb, climbing sessions for young people with SEND Website
- Jump In trampolining SEN session Website
- Slough Ice Rink, level 2 additional needs ice skating lessons for 5 to 16 year olds Website
- Bracknell Trampoline Centre, additional needs sessions, Saturdays at 12.30pm and 1.30pm - <u>Website</u>
- Building for the future <u>Website</u>
- Chance to Dance Stars CIC Website
- 4Motion CIC dance for 12 to 21 year olds, Thursdays during term time Website
- Moo Music for 0 to 5 year olds Website
- Make/Sense Theatre Website
- GEMS Bear Cubs for 5 to 10 year olds Website
- The Look Out Discovery Centre Website
- Maidenhead United FC Community Trust, Sundays for 5 to 12 year olds and Mondays for 13 to 16 year olds - <u>Website</u>
- Farm Buddies Website

Max Card: What is it?

The Max Card can be provided to children, young people and young adults with additional needs (0 to 25 years) living in RBWM, whether it is a physical, sensory, or a learning disability.

The Max Card is a credit card size card which can be shown to certain organisations as proof of your child or young person's disability.

Why should you register your child or young person?

By registering for a Max Card, the information you provide also helps us to:

- maintain the SEND Register
- support our planning for future services and identify any gaps in current service provision for children and young people with additional needs
- ensure that families with a child or young person with additional needs are kept fully informed of issues that may affect them, and to advise them of relevant new services and opportunities

It also provides the following benefits:

- This is a service offered by Achieving for Children, through the Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS), and there will be no personal cost to families for this card.
- Families will also benefit from discounts at multiple attractions nationwide. A full list can be found on My Max Card however please do not register through this website.

For more information on Max Cards and how you can sign up, please go to the <u>Local Offer</u> or scan the QR code





Spotlights

Sarah Moran | Deputy Director Social Care

How did you get into the role?

My mum was a foster carer for over 30 years with Islington Council and so I grew up with lots of different foster children in my home. This made me aware from a very young age about the challenges that some children face and that not all children have the best or easiest start in life.



I quickly developed a sense of injustice and wanted to be part of the solution. I worked as a carer for disabled adults as a student and then at 21, I secured a job as a social work assistant in the City of London. I loved that job and learnt a lot. I then went on to complete my master's in social work in 2005 and here I am 18 years later as your deputy director.

What do you enjoy about the role?

I always said I would never become a director as I thought it would mean that I would be further away from practice and I would miss contact with families and staff....truth is I was also very scared of being responsible for getting it right for so many families and staff. I am so pleased that I didn't allow my doubts and fears to hold me back as I now see what a privilege it is to be in this role. I have the ability to influence practice and culture which impacts our families in a way I didn't think was possible before being in this role. The last 18 months have been challenging, but rewarding. I love my job and I love working with you all to keep our children safe and supported.

An interesting fact about yourself?

I love musical theatre and had dreamed of being in a West End musical, but realised that being a working actor came with far too much financial instability, which is not something I am built for. I still love going to the theatre and getting lost in that world. It really is the best feeling ever.

Katie Worley | Associate Director Special Educational Needs

How did you get into the role?

I first became really interested in supporting children and young people with SEND whilst working across various health services. I worked in NHS and NHS commissioned services for about 18 years. Prior to this role I worked as the designated clinical officer for SEND for Frimley ICB. I got to work with Slough, Bracknell Forest and RBWM local authorities and I really enjoyed working together and learning more about education and all the different services and ways in which they support children and young people. I really liked the services and the team in RBWM, so when the opportunity came for me to join them, I took a big brave step and made the move.



What do you enjoy about the role?

Meeting so many inspirational people. I have really enjoyed meeting with children and young people and their families. I also really enjoy going into our schools and meeting all the different people there and learning more about their roles. I really dislike sitting still and being behind a desk, as I like to get out and about to meet people. I am quite the chatter-box and I genuinely really enjoy talking to people about all the ways in which we can work together to ensure our services keep improving. I want to make sure we get it right for all our children and young people with SEND.

An interesting fact about yourself?

This was a tricky question. But, I absolutely love shoes - especially really glittery and sparkly ones. You will often spot my shoes, before you spot me!

Abbreviations and commonly used terms

- Achieving for Children (AfC) Community interest company providing children's services in Windsor and Maidenhead.
- Annual health check A free check-up of your overall health.
- Assessment coordinator or annual reviews officer The individual working within the SEND Team at Achieving for Children who coordinates education, health and care needs assessments, and the creation and maintenance of education, health and care plans.
- **Children and young people** Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Children and Young People's Disability Service (CYPDS) The social care team supporting children with disabilities within RBWM.
- Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT) NHS team encompassing occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy.
- **Department of Working Pensions (DWP)** Responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy.
- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** A payment to help with care and mobility needs if you're living with a disability.
- **Dynamic support registers (DSRs)** The mechanism for local systems to identify children, young people and adults who are at risk of admission to mental health inpatient services.
- Education, health and care needs assessment (EHCNA) A statutory process undertaken by the local authority (Achieving for Children) to determine what support a child or young person needs. This might result in the issue of an education, health and care plan.
- Education, health and care plan (EHCP) Education, health and care plan.
- **Educational setting** Where a child or young person is educated: early years settings, schools or colleges.
- **EHCP annual review** The review that is held each year to monitor the progress the child or young person has made towards achieving the intended outcomes in the education, health and care plan.
- Emotional literacy support assistant (ELSA) A specialist teaching assistant providing targeted and time-limited intervention support to pupils who have social, emotional and mental health needs.
- **Emotionally related school avoidance (ERSA)** A term referring to pupils who do not attend school, often having prolonged absence due to underlying emotional reasons.
- IAS Service Information, Advice and Support Service.
- MASH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (also known as SPA) is the single point of contact for all safeguarding concerns about children and young people living in RBWM.
- **NEET** young people not in education, employment or training.

- Occupational therapist (OT) Supports children and young people with physical or sensory needs.
- **Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)** The process of moving from childhood into adult life. It is used by professionals to describe the changes in services when a child becomes an adult. This transition can happen at different times for different people.
- Preparing for Adulthood education engagement officer Does short pieces of targeted
 work with young people (aged 16 and above) who need additional support with
 transition into their next educational provision, and with young people who are not in
 education, employment or training (NEET) to re-engage them with educational or training
 placements.
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) Local authority in Berkshire, south east England.
- **Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)** A specialist teacher with an additional qualification in special educational needs.
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or special educational needs (SEN).
- **Single Point of Access (SPA)** Single point of contact for all safeguarding and wellbeing concerns regarding children and young people (also known as MASH).
- Speech and language therapist/ therapies (SALT) Supports children and young people who have difficulties with speech, language and communication, and swallowing.
- **Transition social worker** Supports the transition out of children's social care into adult services.

Helpful resources

Website	Number	Email
Autism Berkshire	01753 373244	info@theautismgroup.org.uk
Activities and Clubs	N/A	N/A
<u>Disability Register</u>	N/A	disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk
<u>GEMS</u>	01753 373244	gems.4health@nhs.net
IAS (Information, Advice and Support Service)	01628 683182	ias@rbwm.gov.uk
<u>Local Offer</u>	N/A	local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Max Cards	N/A	maxcard@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Slough - NotJUST A Store	07768 656 973	N/A
SEND Voices	N/A	info@svrbwm.org.uk
SPA (Single Point of Access)	01628 683150 option 2	MASH@achievingforchildren.org.uk



If you would like to provide feedback on this local area newsletter edition, please email disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk