



CROYDON
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SEND Local Area Newsletter

April 2024



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Croydon Inclusion Conference – 16th April 2024

The Croydon SEND and Inclusion teams are excited to extend an invitation to join us at the Croydon Inclusion Conference, a transformative event centred on collaboration, creativity, and inclusion in education.

CROYDON INCLUSION CONFERENCE

THE ACTION HERO TEACHER



WHEN
16TH APRIL 2024
9.30-4.30

WHERE
OASIS ACADEMY
ARENA
ALBERT ROAD
SOUTH NORWOOD
SE25 4QL

ADVANCE TICKETS
£50 per delegate or
£75 for two delegates
from the same setting

Please book your slots as soon as possible to secure your participation.

Join us for an inspiring day of collaboration and creative exploration as we delve into the heart of inclusion, centred around children and young people.

Engage in thought provoking discussions, witness groundbreaking initiatives and connect with like-minded individuals who are passionate about creating a more inclusive world for the next generation.

Highlighted Conference Topics

- SEMH: Transform Your Behaviour Culture
- Improving SEND Pupil Support Through Effective Resource Management
- Strengthening Training and Understanding for Effective Support of SEND Pupils
- Understanding the Impact of Emotional-Based Anxiety on Attendance and Flexi-Schooling
- Exploring Parental Involvement within a Holistic Family Strategy for our Pupils
- Understanding Autism in Girls: Recognising Unique Challenges and Characteristics as School Leaders

Keynote Speaker: Karl Pupé

Author of the award-winning book "The Action hero Teacher: Classroom Management Made Simple".



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Audience:

This conference is designed for Governors, Headteachers, Senior Leaders, and SENDCos.

Please book your space by clicking [here](#).

Croydon Holiday Activity and Food Programme

The Holiday Activity and Food team are pleased to share a significant enhancement to widening their programme access, creating a positive impact through the support they offer to children during the Christmas, Easter and Summer holiday periods.

What is the HAF Programme?

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is a Department for Education initiative that provides support to children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals during school holidays.

It offers a safe and nurturing environment for children to engage in enriching activities while ensuring they have access to nutritious meals. We are able to offer a small number of discretionary places to those deemed vulnerable or at risk over the holiday period. This could include:

- Vulnerable child / Child in Need (CiN) Plan
- A young carer
- A Child protection plan / known to social services
- At risk of school exclusion or Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA)
- Refugee status / asylum seeker

Please note this list is not exhaustive. Provision is for School Year Reception to year 11.

Please click the image below for information on the HAF Easter Programme.



New Referral Process:

We are welcoming referrals from agencies and services to support families who are most in need and/or have potential barriers to accessing this type of provision.



Referrals must be completed by a key worker known to the child/young person or family, and we will not accept applications from parents/carers or schools (where there is a separate process). Please note only a limited numbers of places are available.

Once a referral has been made for a child, they will be assigned a unique code for the Programme, which the parent/guardian or you as the professional, will receive. It will contain a link, and you must follow this to book provision over the holiday period.

Important Dates:

To ensure that all children can be allocated a code, [please complete this Microsoft Forms application](#) for each child by the referral **as soon as possible given the Easter Programme has already been launched and will take place from 2nd to 12th April.**

Explore and book Available Activities:

You can also explore the various activities available for the children as part of the HAF Programme on our dedicated webpage at: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food>

For further information, please do contact us at hafprogramme@croydon.gov.uk

SEND Inclusive Tennis – Norbury Park

Norbury Park LTC are launching new SEND tennis sessions for young people aged 12–16 years.

Sessions are delivered by a qualified coach who will focus on the fundamentals and key skills of tennis. Sessions are open to all abilities/disabilities including young people who are neurodivergent as well as who have learning difficulties, sensory and physical impairments and long term health conditions.

Please find more information below:

When: Saturdays (starting February 2024)

Where: Norbury Park LTC, SE16 4RZ

Time: 11.30 – 12.30 pm

Age: 12 - 16

Cost: £5 per session booked termly

Register here: <https://bit.ly/NorburyParkTennis>

Norbury Park LTC SEND Inclusive Tennis



- Pan-disability Inclusive tennis sessions for D/deaf, disabled and/ or neurodivergent young people
- All disabilities/ abilities welcome
- Sessions adapted to the needs of the group

- **When:** Saturdays
- **Where:** Norbury Park LTC, SW16 4RZ
- **Time:** 11:30 - 12:30 pm
- **Age:** 12 - 16
- **Cost:** £5 per session, booked termly



Register here:
<https://bit.ly/NorburyParkTennis>
Or scan the QR code



For more information, please contact:

 020 7993 9883

 Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.org.uk

Supported by:  

Croydon Health Services Occupational Therapy (OT) – Online Training


General advice and activities

Please see our early years, primary school and secondary school advice sheets (attached) which offer activity ideas and advice for schools/guardians/parents who are concerned about their child's functional development.

They are grouped in different stages for early years and school but individual ideas may be relevant to your child regardless of stage.



Before using the activity sheets, please read the "Introduction to Advice Sheets" guide as this will explain the importance and recommended frequency of repetition of the activities.

[Children's Occupational Therapy | Croydon Health Services NHS Trust](#)

Croydon Health Services 
NHS Trust

Occupational Therapy

Free online workshops for parents,
carers and education staff



Building Independence in Everyday Activities

- For children who struggle with age-appropriate skills.
- Aims to help you understand why your child is having difficulties.
- Provides knowledge and strategies to support your child to develop their skills.
- Focuses on improving: posture, arm/hand strength, focus, handwriting, typing, scissor skills, using cutlery, washing, dressing, toileting, toothbrushing, improving balance, ball skills and riding a bike.

Sensory Processing and How It Impacts on Everyday Activities



- For children with sensory processing difficulties affecting their ability to learn and develop age-appropriate skills.
- Explains the difference between tantrums, meltdowns, the 8 sensory systems and what sensory processing differences look like.
- Advice on: how to calm your child, how to modify the environment and useful resources.
- Includes a module on creating a supportive school environment.
- Focuses on: meltdowns, 'on the go' children, noise sensitivity, mouthing of non-food items, selective eating, toileting, dressing, hair/nail cutting and sleep.

Please note:

- These online workshops are broken down into bite-sized modules.
- Find the relevant modules for your child, access them at your own convenience and watch them as many times as you want.
- You will find practical advice and tips you can start using straight away.

To access the workshops, use the QR code or follow the link below:

www.croydonhealthservices.nhs.uk/childrens-occupational-therapy





Council for Disabled Children offer a number of free courses.

- Holistic Outcomes in EHCPs
- Information, advice and support
- Expert Parent Programme
- Social Care and SEND
- Focus on Health Advice
- Delivering Quality Annual Reviews
- Level 1: SEND Basic Awareness
- Level 2: SEND Basic Awareness
- The role of CAMHS in the EHCP Process
- Decisions, Capacity and an Introduction to Liberty Protection Safeguards
- Ordinarily Available Provision: Thresholds and expectations of schools and settings

Please click [here](#) to access the Training Catalogue.

SEND and Inclusive Education – Training Resources

Please click [here](#) for a Padlet containing a variety of information and resources to support various SEND needs.

This includes video training, reading materials, online courses and webinars, podcasts and website links.

There are some great resources here!





Croydon SENDIASS' workshops for parents and carers

Transport

- Eligibility and the application process for September
- Updated DfE Home to School transport Guidance (2023)

23rd of April, 2024
10 am - 12 noon

Mental Health and Young People

- How YP's mental health is supported at the schools?
- Local mental health services for YP.
- Mental Health and Law.

23rd of May 2024
10 am - 12 noon

Navigating SEND Transitions

- From early years to reception.
- Primary to secondary transition.
- Post 16. Transition to adulthood.

27th of June 2024
10 am - 12 noon

**Where: Carers Information Service, 24
George Street, Croydon, CR0 1PB**

To book your space:

Booking form



Croydon Kids SENDIASS Workshops

Navigating Transitions - 8th, 15th and 22nd May 2024 – 10.00-12.00 (Family Hub Woodlands Centre)

Resources about transitions are available on the KIDS [website](#).

For secondary transitions - [Practice survival guide \(kids.org.uk\)](#)

For post 16 - [Preparing for Adulthood with SEN.pdf \(kids.org.uk\)](#)

Schools have requested coffee mornings for their parents about transitions. The service is happy to deliver these at the schools for parent groups on request.

Contact details for Croydon Kids SENDIASS can be found below:

Phone: 020 8152 4558

Email: croydon@kids.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CroydonSendiass

Croydon Kids SENDIASS Drop-in Sessions

Croydon SENDIAS Service are holding face to face drop-in sessions at Croydon Carers Support Centre from 10am-12pm on Tuesdays (term time only).

For more information please see the attached [flyer](#).

Registered Charity No. 275936

Kids Disabled children say we can

**CROYDON SENDIAS SERVICE
FACE TO FACE DROP-IN SESSIONS AT
CROYDON CARERS SUPPORT CENTRE
FROM 10 AM TO 12 PM ON TUESDAYS
TERM TIME ONLY**

Croydon SENDIAS service offer independent, impartial, confidential and free of charge legal advice and support for young people (YP) and families who have children/YP with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND). If you need legal advice, support or assistance with :

- Requesting EHC needs assessment,
- Understanding EHCP process
- Annual review of EHCP process
- Appealing with LA's decisions
- Discussions and meetings with School/Local Authority on SEND/EHCP

Come along to the consultation sessions (session lasts up to 20min) on following dates:

- 16th 23rd 30th April
- 07th 17th 21st May
- 04th 11th 18th 25th June;
- 02nd 09th 16th 23rd July

For more information contact:
Email: Croydon@kids.org.uk
Phone: +44 20 8152 4558
Website: [Croydon SENDIASS - Kids](#)
Address: **24 George Street
Croydon
CR0 1PB**

Secondary Transfers

Your child's secondary school place will usually be confirmed by March giving you, your child's primary school and new secondary school plenty of time to plan and prepare to support as smooth as possible move to secondary school.



Planning and preparation at home could include:

- Talking positively about the move to secondary school, discussing the things that will be the same or the things that will be different.
- Encouraging your child to share any anxieties he/she may have about the move so that you can address these at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Getting a map of the school, to locate form room, science labs etc.
- Practising the journey to and from school, especially if this involves public transport.
- Looking at the school prospectus and/or website together to support familiarisation with the new school
- Attending any events the new school might be hosting such as a summer fayre to help to get know the school.

For further advice on ways to help your child prepare for a move to secondary school go to the [Croydon Local Offer: Moving to secondary school: Getting ready](#).



IPSEA – SEN Law Conference 2024



IPSEA, Douglas Silas Solicitors, and Matrix Chambers partnered to deliver the SEN Law Conference once again this year.

A copy of the conference pack containing all the presentations and the Noddy Guide is [available to download here](#).

If you'd like to rewatch any of the conference sessions, a recording of the day can be viewed [here](#).



Ofsted Big Listen – Open Consultation

If your work, your children, your decisions, your education, or your care are affected by what Ofsted do, then they want to hear from you.

How you can help

The Big Listen seeks views right across their work, from schools and children's social care to teacher training and early years. They want to explore the following four areas:

- reporting – how we report on our education and regulatory inspections
- inspection practice – the shape of our education and regulatory inspections, our ways of working and the craft of inspecting
- culture and purpose – the conduct of our inspections and the way we work
- impact – the consequences of our inspections for children, professionals, institutions and parents' choices

The Big Listen is structured to allow you to provide feedback on the areas of greatest interest and importance to you. You may only want to give your views on schools. Or you might want to share views on reporting across further education and teacher training.

To take the survey, please follow the link below (open until 11.59pm on 31 May 2024).

[The Big Listen \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)

Ofsted Big Listen – Children and Young People

This survey will open later this month. Subscribe using the link at the top of [this page](#) to get an email when it is launched.



Celebrating Success

An interview with Paul Funnell

Join us in congratulating Paul on celebrating **20 years** working in the Croydon Disability Youth Service.

Please tell us what your service delivers...

Croydon's Youth Disability Project wishes to ensure that children and young people have a sense of belonging, wellbeing, and self-worth and that they do not become socially isolated from their peers.

In addition, the Youth Disability Project gives parents/carers a short break whilst having the awareness that their child is looked after in a diverse, structured and nurturing environment.

We work with 8-25 year olds in after school and evening youth projects, as well as holiday schemes. Young people get to take part in activities such as sports, team games, music, cooking, sensory activities as well as being offered advice and support around friendships and relationships.

We also deliver the Croydon Pathways project at Waddon, which offers a person centred service designed to support Post 19 young people with SEND out of education and into local community-based adult services.

We work in partnership with Croydon College who offer the formal education component of the Pathways, as well as our partners in adults services.

Where are you located?

Waddon Youth Centre, 85 Waddon Way, CR04HY.

We occasionally use Bensham Manor school for holiday schemes, and community places for our delivery.

How can families access your service?

Referrals for holiday schemes are usually received through social workers or schools, but you can make a referral by contacting CYDP@croydon.gov.uk.

Referrals for the Croydon Pathways Post 19 come through the EHCP Coordinators.

Can you share with us how many children you may have worked with over the 20 years?

This is a good question and I've asked one of my colleagues for help. Wayne Stevens, who deals with a lot of our data and stats. Wayne has also been in the council's youth services for over 20 years, and with the Youth Disability Project for about 10 years. We reckon it would be in the 1000's, but I couldn't put an exact number on it.

Our yearly amount of individual contacts with young people has changed since Covid, and we now work with less numbers, but more with those with higher levels of need. Before Covid we could work with up to 290 different young people each year. Last year we worked with 178 different children and young people aged 8-25.



Can you tell us about when you began working in Croydon, including your career journey?

I started working as a volunteer, and then a part time youth worker in a Croydon SEN youth club in Purley Youth Centre from 1995 when I was doing a Social Care course at Selhurst College. I also worked as a part time leader in charge at a Mencap youth club, in adult day services, supported living accommodations, and as a labourer before seeing a bit of the world.

When I started full time in Croydon in 2003 it was as an Assistant Project Worker within the Youth Disability Project. Through the years I also worked in other areas of youth work in Croydon such as generic centre-based youth clubs and detached/street-based youth work around the borough. SEND youth work has always been my passion though.

I undertook my degree in Informal and Community Education whilst working in Croydon and have just progressed through the project from there.

Can you advise what some of the challenges have been over the years?

Well, the building we work in is a pretty constant challenge, although the roof doesn't seem to leak anymore! Facilities are a big issue and where we are based is ok but it is not really fit for purpose, and we cannot meet the needs of all who are referred to us due to the facilities, and staffing capacity.

However, I recognise the financial situation of the whole country, not just Croydon, so we do the best we can with what we've got.

Your job must be really rewarding, please tell us about some of your achievements.

There have been lots of positive and amazing outcomes for young people over the years. When we had the funding in the mid to late 2000's we were lucky enough to be able to take young people to France by plane, for a weeklong residential at a PGL site doing water sports-based activities. Some young people had never flown in their lives so it was quite an experience. Some of the reactions of the young people when we took off will stay with me forever!

We've taken young people through DofE Bronze awards, had family camping weekends at Frylands and Pinewood scout camps, which saw some parents camp for the first time with their child, and take part in canoeing and team building activities together.

But I think one of my best achievements was seeing some of our ex-members, some of whom I have known the whole 20 years I've been here, come through the youth project as young people and then go on to volunteer within our project, and then progressing to paid employment within the team; some in full time positions. That's a great feeling, seeing them grow and develop.

Some people refer to your service as the Paul Funnell Service. This is probably in honour of you and the service you have provided, what are your thoughts about this?

It does make me laugh to hear it called that, especially when social workers say that when going to panel. I am also very humbled by it. I love my job, and I, and my excellent team are dedicated to doing the best to support Croydon's children and young people with SEND achieve as much as they can whilst they are with us.

By the way It's Croydon's Youth Disability Project - CYDP@croydon.gov.uk not the Paul Funnell scheme.



Celebrating Success

A Case Study with Anton Bland



"Hi, my name is Anton and I am 33years old.

I have been involved with CYDP since I was about 15 years old. I initially visited one of the youth clubs that Croydon funded for young people with SEND. This club was called 'All for one'. I remember we used to go out on fishing trips, visits to the seaside and a number of other places. We used to do arts and crafts activities as well as sports sessions. I remember meeting Paul Funnell.

Over the following few years, I got involved in other youth clubs including the Purley youth club. Here I joined in similar activities, however this club was specifically for older young people. 18-25 year-olds. So, our trips changed somewhat, and I was introduced to a range of social spaces including the pub!!! This was good for me as it allowed me and helped me to develop friendships with peers who were similar to me.

At the age of 19 I became a volunteer with the youth project and started to help at Waddon Youth Centre with the after-school clubs and holiday schemes that were part of the Croydon youth disability project. Whilst I was doing this I was encouraged and supported to undertake different training including 1st Aid, health and safety, manual handling and safeguarding training.

When I turned 23 I also got involved in the Club Soda project. Here with some other peers, I formed a band called 'transient visitors'. We have several tracks on Spotify – please check us out. We also do regular gigs with Club Soda and have had paid gigs at a venue in Brighton. We are also performing at a festival in May.

I continued to work voluntarily with the youth project. When I turned 25 I was offered bank work which meant that I started to get paid for the work I was doing. It was at this point that I started to work across all projects within the Croydon Youth Disability project including after school clubs, youth clubs, holiday schemes and the Post 19 Pathways project.

I have continued to undertake training and expanded my knowledge base and have completed training in epilepsy, safeguarding, medication administering, team teach and reflection on practice. I know that I am a valued member of the team as not only am I good at my job I also bring a much valued and very real experience of what it's really like to live with Autism.

This year I went through the application and interview process to become a youth support worker with the project. I was successful at interview and now have a permanent contract with the service for 24 hours a week. This has given me security and stability.

Providing this case study is important to me because I want to let others know that there are opportunities out there for both those with disabilities and those without.

I was a young person who has been in the care system since I was 3 years old. I have been lucky enough to have caring and supportive people around me who have encouraged my development and I want to be able to offer this to others.

If you would like to talk to me about any of my experiences or would like my input on any of your service developments, please do not hesitate to get in touch. My email address is Anton.bland@croydon.gov.uk.

And finally, don't forget to hit like or follow our bands Instagram or Spotify profile

Get in Touch

SEND Local Offer

Services, advice, information and what's on in and around Croydon.

<https://localoffer.croydon.gov.uk/>

Croydon SEND Transformation

sendtransformation@croydon.gov.uk



GET IN TOUCH