

# Cornwall's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

## Update November 2020 No. 29

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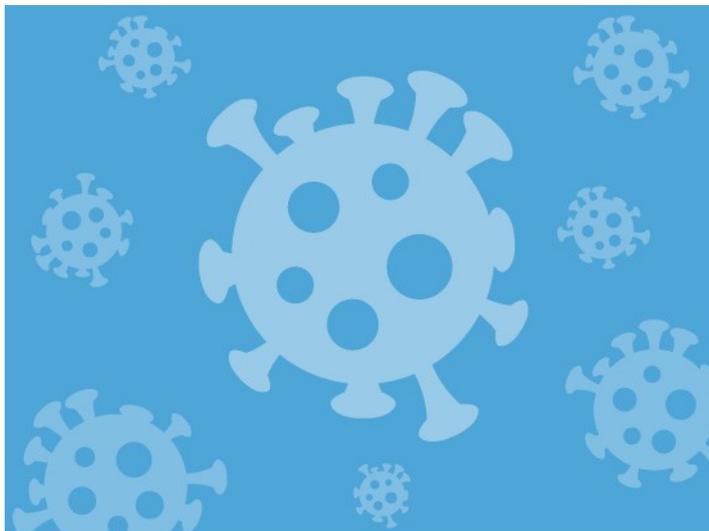
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# Latest News



Following the newest 'lockdown' announcement, please be assured that SEN colleagues continue to carry out a full range of activity. Please feel able to contact us for advice, guidance and support.

Schools, colleges and universities will remain open. Our headteachers, teachers and school support staff are doing a great job of keeping learning going and keeping schools Covid secure.

Also, please look out for the range of virtual training opportunities which will be advertised through [School Messenger](#) over the next few weeks. Of particular note is the HeadStart Kernow input; providing emotional and mental health training for those working with children and young people.

**Take care of yourselves and thank you for everything you are doing to support children and young people at this time.**



# Latest News Continued

## SEMH School and resources

It is with great pleasure that we can now give an update on the new special school for pupils with a high level of social, emotional and or mental health special educational needs. The local authority, and multi academy trust (Special Partnership Trust) who will be running the school have met with the Department for Education for a “kick off” meeting. The site, planning requirement, size of the school, basic design and building time frame were all discussed, and agreements made to form a strong multiagency collaboration to drive this project forward as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The school will have 65 places across years 1 to 11. The proposed site enables the new school to have some fantastic outdoor space, great sporting facilities and state of the art teaching areas. Given the specialised nature of this new provision, admissions will be through the local authority and will need to be part of an identified need within a young person’s educational health care plan.

A Task and Finish group for the SEMH School in Bodmin is meeting regularly and will provide ongoing communications to tell the story of this developing provision. The local authority is planning to create more resources to support children with SEMH needs. If you have a suggestion for resources, we would welcome them. Please send suggestions to [tffcommunications@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:tffcommunications@cornwall.gov.uk) We will give you the latest information in each SEND update.  [www.cornwall.gov.uk/SEMH](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/SEMH)

## EHC Plan Reviews—Statutory SEN service

Work on the revised review meeting paperwork is well underway. The input and insight from the volunteers who elected to support this process has been invaluable, especially as the people involved have varied expertise, which has allowed us to thoroughly review and revise the content; a big thank you to those that have contributed. Co-production is an essential part of this process and it was fantastic that we received such a positive response to our request for participation; members of the ‘wider working group’ are currently providing their final views. The documentation and a new slimmer guide to review meetings should be available before Christmas. The spring term will be a transition term, including training and information sessions, with the revised approach being used across Cornwall from the summer term onwards.



# Latest News Continued

## SEN Engagement survey and more 2020



Thank you to everyone who has completed the SEN Survey so far. We have received lots of responses so far and all of those, and the ones still to come will help to shape our SEN Strategies moving forward.

If you haven't yet managed to, please head to [www.cornwall.gov.uk/send20](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/send20) and complete the survey which closes on 30 November. It really makes such a difference to have a wide range of opinions from parents, carers, families, professionals and of course, children and young people.



We know that for some children and young people with SEN, filling out an online survey will not be accessible or relevant. That's why we have developed the Children and Young People Engagement sessions. These sessions can be easily run in schools with groups of learners with SEN. To do this you can go to [www.cornwall.gov.uk/send20](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/send20) and download the

engagement packs. This is a fantastic opportunity for your learners with SEN to use their voices to make a difference and can be a great learning opportunity to work towards personal targets. All of the feedback we get from the children and young people will feed into the main survey findings and will inform our SEN Strategies for the next two years.



We also have an exciting opportunity for children and young people with SEN to be featured in an online art exhibition. Alongside the survey, we will be running the SEN Art Exhibition – a fantastic opportunity for children and young people to creatively express their views/opinions/feelings. A chance for them to tell us and show us what they think of SEN provision in Cornwall. It would be

amazing if all educational settings could support learners with SEN to take part in this and help us to create a meaningful, thought provoking and stunning display of creative works.



# Latest News Continued

All the information from the SEN Engagement activities will inform the priorities for SEND in Cornwall over the next two years, an aspect of Cornwall's SEND Strategy. The feedback received will be available for you to view from January on the Council website.

## The National Awards for SEN Coordination

The National Award for SENCOs is a successful training programme designed to support the professional development of special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) working in a range of educational settings. Our annual programme builds upon existing skills, experience and qualifications and enables teachers to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding which are practical, relevant and applicable to the SENCO role.

This is a difficult and challenging time for all so we have put together a list of useful resources, information and support to help you and assist in keeping children and young people entertained and hopefully help to manage everyone's wellbeing.



This Masters level qualification is a legal requirement for SENCOs. Cornwall Council works with the University of Plymouth to deliver a Cornwall specific course. Both staff from the University of Plymouth and the local authority have welcomed our new cohort of teachers for 2020-2021 who have enrolled on the National Award and we are working together to deliver another successful course, albeit remotely, this year.



# Latest News Continued

## The National Awards for SEN Coordination contd

The feedback from participants was, as always, very positive.

“My professional and leadership skills have certainly improved throughout this course. The sessions on what make a good leader allowed me to reflect on my areas of strength, along with areas to develop in terms of leadership.”

Primary SENCO

“The NASENCO course has given me solid foundations to continue to develop my knowledge and skills and become an effective SENCO.”

Assistant Head and SENCO of a secondary school in Cornwall.

Congratulations to all of the teachers who completed and passed the course in the 2019-2020 academic year, despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, and all of the additional pressures that this created for schools.

**Will Pritchard,**

**Senior School Effectiveness Officer (SEND) and Course Director for the National Award for SENCOs**

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Mentoring

**What is Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)?**

AAC supplements or replaces speech or writing for communication. AAC can take the form of low-tech communication systems such as:

- pen and paper
- objects
- signing
- books with pictures or symbols



# Latest News Continued

High-tech communication systems include systems that need some sort of power to work, for example:

- single or multiple message devices that you can record on to
- other devices such as computers and tablets that can convert symbols, text or pictures to a voice output

## What is the project?

A national project supported by the charity Communication Matters and fully funded by the National Lottery to deliver entry level qualifications in AAC and mentoring along with other units and qualifications. The project includes; Level 1 in Mentoring progressing to Level 2 in Employability and other relevant workshops, Entry Level 2 and Entry Level 3 in Personal & Social Development.

## Who can access the project?

- Pupils who are using Augmentative and Alternative Communication, not matter what form their AAC takes
- All settings - mainstream schools, ARBs and special schools
- Pupils aged 14yrs+

There are a range of delivery options available. All resources are provided to teach the syllabus, the registration and the formal qualifications the pupils will receive, are all fully funded by the project. Many of the sessions are held remotely due to the current climate but it is hoped that there may be small group sessions in future.

## I am interested, what do I do next?

We are exploring options of how this can be rolled out to pupils across Cornwall that may be interested.

Please contact Laura Baggley via [AACSupport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:AACSupport@cornwall.gov.uk) for further information or to register your interest. A virtual information session will be held with the project deliverer before the end of term and after we have a number of settings interested in this. Expressions of interest need to be made as soon as possible.



# Success Stories

## Hearing Support Service

Deaf Awareness training via Teams has been really successful this term with 11 delegates attending each session. To find out about more training opportunities, visit [Cornwall Learning Online](#)  and search Deaf Awareness. You can book via this link too.

## MLD Conference 2020

Thank you to everyone who attended the MLD Conference 2020 in October . It was a huge success (barring a few technical difficulties!) and has definitely shown that events like these can work brilliantly in the online world.

As children and young people are at the centre of our conferences, we were delighted that The Shiners were able to welcome delegates and the Bodmin College Makaton choir were able to open the conference with an incredible mini concert. The choir's performance was really moving and also marked a first for us in getting some fantastic virtual dancing!!

The Shiners are part of the 'Time to Shine' project, the aim of which is to make a lasting difference to the lives of young people 16+ with disabilities in Cornwall. The project aims to unlock their potential and helps them develop the skills they need find employment.

<https://www.caapuk.co.uk/time2shine/> 

Special thanks also go to Rachel, Lucy and Francesca from the RCHT Occupational Therapy Service for providing such an informative and interesting morning discussing how to work, rest and play the sensory way! Their input was highly valued by all delegates and was really helpful in ensuring staff feel confident in supporting the needs of pupils with sensory integration difficulties.

Feedback:

*"A fantastic chance to revisit support ideas, but also find out some new ideas. A lot to pass onto to other teaching staff and TAs. A really useful day"*

*"Refreshing my knowledge of Sensory Processing Difficulties and what we can do in school to support these pupils [was useful]. I'm looking forward to being a sensory detective! "*

*"Thank you to everyone who was involved in planning and presenting today's conference it has been really useful."*

# Success Stories

## Together for Families podcasts

Various teams have worked with the communications team to create Together for Families' parenting podcasts, which address issues such as sleep routines and their impact on emotional and mental health, Adoption and much more.

The podcasts can be accessed on a variety of platforms, including Spotify and Apple. These were especially popular for parents during the first national lockdown, and provide a new way of communicating. The communications team is always looking for new ideas to contribute to podcasts. Please submit your idea to [tffcommunications@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:tffcommunications@cornwall.gov.uk)



# Success Stories

## Post-16 for SEND event

Covid regulations made us look at our practices and move our Post-16 'roadshow' that was introduced in 2019 online for this year. This required some coordination, as we asked all the Cornish post 16 education providers to get creative and develop a podcast or video about their provision. We were delighted to receive so many submissions and particularly commend those which managed to capture young people's voices. The 'event' was launched via email and a social media campaign supported by our partners at Parent Carers Cornwall and more. We were thrilled to discover that it has been accessed so far by 341 people, which is an increase from last year. It is a useful insight into post 16 education for young people of secondary age and everyone who is involved in working together with them to consider 'what next?' CSW and the Council will be further developing this important resource in the future and we look forward to digitising more of our events. It's great that there is open access and young people and their families can take a bite size approach to reviewing what is on offer and revisit items of interest.



### Post 16: your door to the future

To all young people in Y9 or above who have an Education Health and Care plan.

Access our online Post-16 SEN information podcasts to find out about the wide range of exciting options open to you/ your child

Open the door



 [cornwall.gov.uk/post16event](https://cornwall.gov.uk/post16event)

Unable to access online? Please contact the Statutory SEN Service by email [statutorysen@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:statutorysen@cornwall.gov.uk) or ring them on 01872 324242 and ask for a paper copy of the information.

If you are in school, you could ask them to help with this.

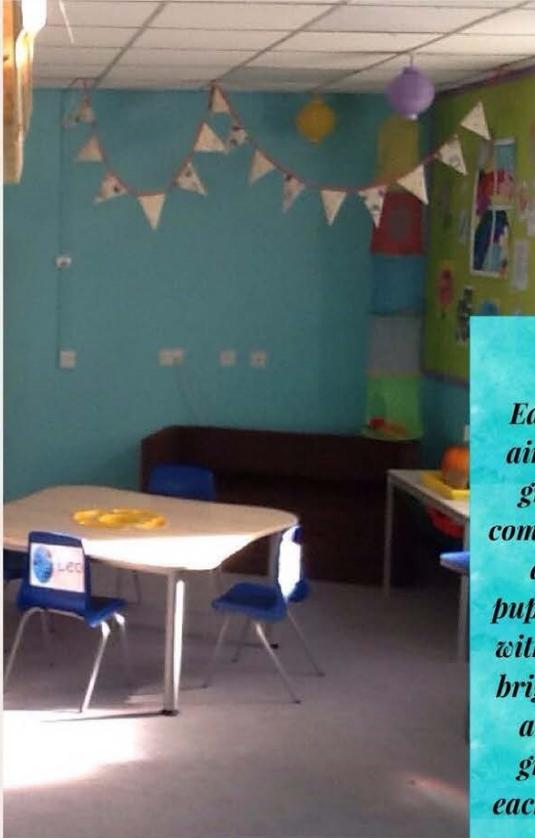


Together  for Families



# Success Stories

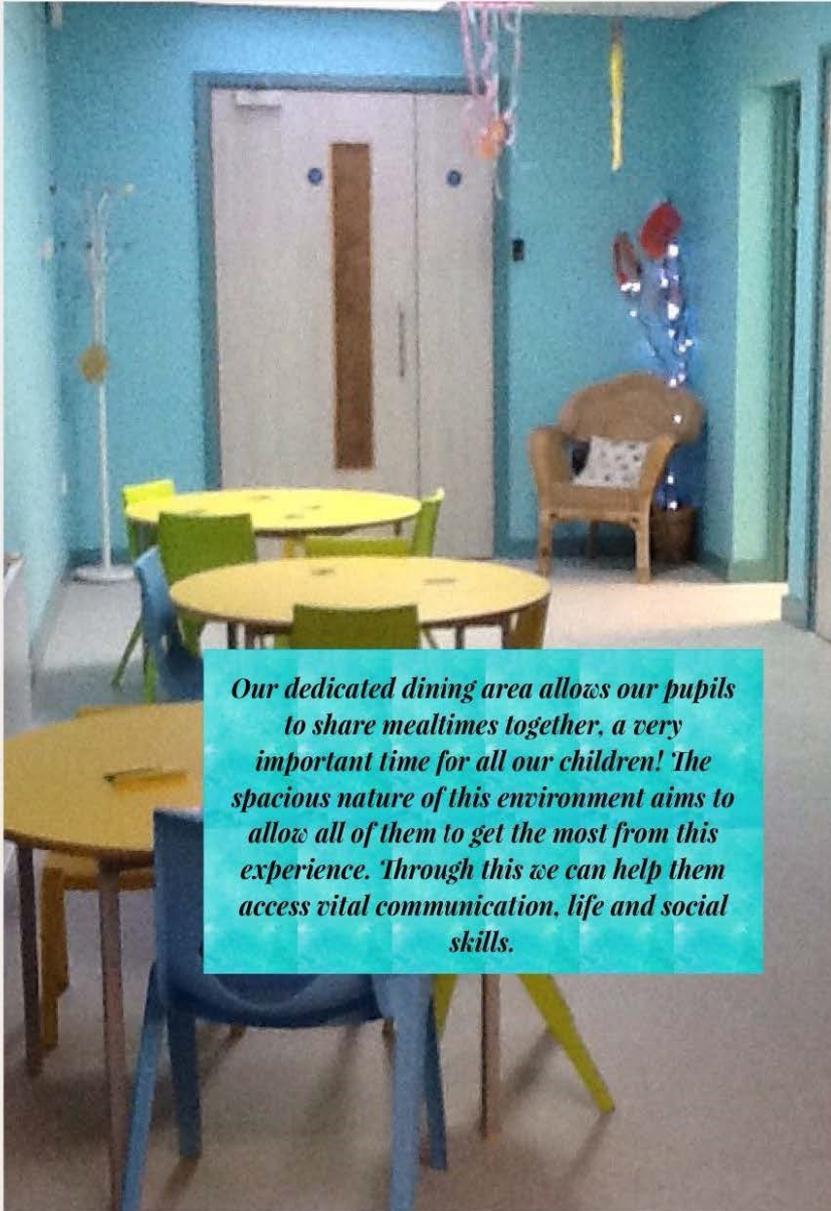
Building Developments at Tregolls ARB, one of the projects supported by the SEN capital fund



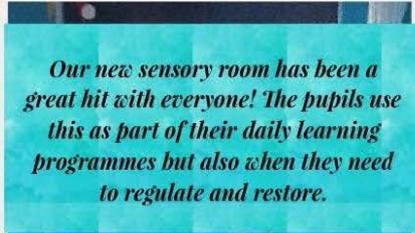
*Each learning space aims to facilitate the greatly varied and complex learning styles and needs of our pupils. We achieve this with our generous and bright teaching spaces and small working groups. The aim of each environment is to be calm, visual, structured, child centred and nurturing.*



# Success Stories



*Our dedicated dining area allows our pupils to share mealtimes together, a very important time for all our children! The spacious nature of this environment aims to allow all of them to get the most from this experience. Through this we can help them access vital communication, life and social skills.*



*Our new sensory room has been a great hit with everyone! The pupils use this as part of their daily learning programmes but also when they need to regulate and restore.*



*The base now also has its own separate kitchen and preparation area as well as a new bathroom block and original hygiene room.*

PIC•COLLAGE

# Reminders

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication Service (AAC)

After the success of the AAC Team weekly newsletters during the national lockdown, the team are continuing to send out monthly newsletters with inspiration, tips and support in implementing high-tech AAC. Each newsletter includes a theme based on the month, and gives the team the opportunity to highlight developments in the field of AAC with parents/carers and settings. To be included in the newsletter distribution list, please email [AACSupport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:AACSupport@cornwall.gov.uk)

AAC Team Webpage <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/aac> 

## A Graduated Response to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

As we move through the academic year, it is vital to remember and support colleagues to make provision for all learners identified as having Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). Please refer to the guidance documents located at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/graduatedresponse](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/graduatedresponse)  for further details.

## Graduated Response Awareness session

12 November from 3.30-5.30 via Teams

This session will:

- highlight the Graduated Response; Cornwall's approach to supporting pupils with SEN
- explore the process in detail including applying for a needs assessment
- include guest speakers
- signpost you to the relevant documents and information needed to implement the Graduated Response successfully

To book on to this session, visit [www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk](https://www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk)  and search course code **GRA2020**

# Reminders continued

## SENCo Network Meetings

SENCO Network Meetings

Following on from the success of the first virtual SENCO Network last term, we now have two more sessions coming up.

**Wednesday 18 November 2020 09:30 - 11:30**

**Thursday 19 November 2020 14:00 -16:00**

To book on to the sessions visit [www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk](http://www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk) and search for course code 'SEN02'

Please double check when booking to ensure you book onto the correct session.

## Parent Carers Cornwall



Parent Carers Cornwall is a parent/carer led organisation supporting those families who have a child or young person age 0-25 years with a disability or additional needs.

Our aim is to gather information from Parent Carers and using these unique shared experiences, we take part in consultations and participation work which helps us to shape the development and delivery of services to our children. We also pass on information to families and professionals, via a newsletter and e-bulletins enabling parent carers to gain greater knowledge and understanding of the services available from health, education, Cornwall local authority and the voluntary sector.

We have two social media pages where you can chat to likeminded families and find out about up and coming events.

We hold regular training and information events for families.

# Reminders continued

It is free to become a member, or to find out more details, please contact either [kaypcc@outlook.com](mailto:kaypcc@outlook.com) or [traceypccc@outlook.com](mailto:traceypccc@outlook.com) to register.

Parent Carers Cornwall (PCC) is the recognised Parent Carer Forum for Cornwall. Nationally funded to support families with children with SEND, endorsed locally by Health, Education and Social Care.

## Parents 4 Parents Cornwall

**Are you a parent/carer of a child with additional needs or disabilities?**

**Do you attend meetings with schools, health services and organisations?**

**Do you lack confidence in attending these on your own and wish you had someone who could go with you?**

Parents 4 Parents Cornwall will accompany you to important meetings, empowering you to ask the questions about your child's needs whether at schools, health, care providers, short breaks, etc.

Parents are trained in

- Understanding and supporting your needs
- Developing Education, Health and Care Plans
- Signposting

They are part of the Parent Carer Council for Cornwall, an independent organisation that enables parent carer voices to be heard through parent participation.

You can access Parents 4 Parents Cornwall and book a trained parent to accompany you to a meeting by calling **07591 019548**

Please try to give at least 10 days notice of a meeting taking place where you require support. You must have all of the details of the meeting to hand.

You will receive a confirmation of who will be accompanying you and they will meet you at the location of your meeting.

*Please note trained parent supporters cannot take you to the meetings and you will need to organise your own transport.*

**To book support contact 07591 019548**  
**[infoparentcarercornwall@gmail.com](mailto:infoparentcarercornwall@gmail.com)**



# Reminders continued

## Wellbeing and Autism Wheel

Did you know that the Wellbeing and Autism Wheel has been updated to include more information around friendships, emotions, relationships, language and communication? There are information leaflets, strategies and take-away resources for parents and carers to print and use at home. To view and use the Wellbeing and Autism Wheel head to

<https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/autismwheel.page> 

Please see the leaflet for further information.



# What's Coming Up?

## Vision Awareness Training

**Thursday 19 November 11:45 – 12:00 registration for 12:00 start**

**Thursday 12 November 09:15 – 09:30 registration for 09:30 start**

Venue: Online, via Teams

Day to include:

- Introduction to Visual Impairment
- Role of the Teacher of Visually Impaired
- Practical activities
- Modifying curriculum resources
- Tactile Learning
- Strategies to support students with low vision
- Mobility/Independence

THIS COURSE IS FREE

Please book your place via

[www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk](http://www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk) 

The course code is: **VA02**

## Physical and Medical Needs Advisory Service Training:

### Fun Fit to support motor skills development training (FREE):

Fun Fit' is a program that runs successfully in many Cornish schools. The aim of Fun Fit is to support students that are showing signs of co-ordination and motor planning difficulties. It is aimed at Teachers/SENCOs/Teaching Assistants and provides them with the guidance and support needed to set up and run a program in their own schools.

Tuesday 10 November at 13:45 – 15:45

Delivered via Microsoft TEAMS.

You can now sign up by visiting Cornwall Learning Online and searching code 'FF01' or by keyword 'Fun Fit'.

# What's Coming Up contd.

## **Supporting students with Developmental Coordination Disorder and motor coordination needs in the classroom (FREE)**

This workshop is open to teachers, SENCOs or support staff who wish to learn more about supporting students with DCD in their classroom. This will be done by covering theoretical content to enhance teacher knowledge and understanding of DCD and providing effective and practical strategies to support students where motor coordination barriers impact on learning and access to the curriculum

Monday 7 December at 13:00 – 15:30

Delivered via Microsoft TEAMS.

You can now sign up by visiting Cornwall Learning Online and searching code 'DCD01' or by keyword 'DCD'



# What's Coming Up contd.

## Cognition and Learning Conference 2021

(in collaboration with Dyslexia Cornwall)

Friday 12 March 2021 at Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall Showground

**With keynote speaker, Dr. Camilla Gilmore**, from the Mathematics Education Centre at Loughborough University.



Dr. Camilla Gilmore will be focusing on 'understanding and making provision for children and young people with barriers to learning in mathematics'.

**Cost: £95 per delegate (educational setting)**

**£40 per delegate (parents)**

**More information will be released nearer the time. Booking will be available in due course via [www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk](http://www.cornwalllearningonline.co.uk)**



# Stay Up-to-date with SEND Information

## Cornwall Council's SEN File

Cornwall Council's SEN File is a valuable and extensive resource of information related to Special Educational Needs and Disability in Cornwall.

Key features include:

- Education Health and Care (EHC) needs
- Assessments and plans information
- SEN Support Services information
- Transition planning guidance
- Useful forms and guidance documents

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/senfile](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/senfile) 

## Cornwall SEND Local Offer

The Cornwall SEND Local Offer is a website that hosts information related to:



Education



Leisure and Transport



Money Matters



Health and Social Care



Childcare and Early Years



Youth Local Offer and Preparing for Adulthood



 [www.supportincornwall.org.uk/localoffer](http://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/localoffer)

# Thank you for reading the SEND Update

We value any feedback you have regarding the SEND Update.

You can comment on the SEND Update by email:

 [send@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:send@cornwall.gov.uk)

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