

# February 2021

## Parents' Information



We value your comments about this newsletter.  
Please email  
[c.hadfield@bury.gov.uk](mailto:c.hadfield@bury.gov.uk)



### In this issue

- Introducing new staff
- Useful information
- Covid restrictions
- Family Fund

& much more

# Introducing...

## Kate Redfern- SEN Manager

Kate took up the post of the Interim SEN Manager at the beginning of February and is looking forward to working with parents, schools and other partners to improve the identification and assessment of children and young people who may have SEND.

Kate has extensive experience in the field of SEN, having been an SEN Manager in the northeast of England for several years. She then contributed towards developing a network of Independent Supporters, working closely with Children, young people and their families. Following that, Kate spent two years working with a SEN Team in the east of England, ensuring children and young people had their needs met with appropriate provision.

Like most of us in current times, Kate has had to learn how to navigate Zoom and Teams (not always successfully!) but is looking forward to getting back to seeing people in the flesh!

You can contact Kate at [SENTeam@bury.gov.uk](mailto:SENTeam@bury.gov.uk)

## Claire Hadfield- SEND Communication & Engagement Officer

I joined in January and my role is to positively engage with parents and carers and to help information flow more freely between the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and families so that everyone is better informed and so that all voices can be heard. It's a brand new role and I'm excited to have the opportunity to work positively with parents and carers, building partnerships and developing connections.

If you would like to contact me, my email is  
[c.hadfield@bury.gov.uk](mailto:c.hadfield@bury.gov.uk)

# USEFUL INFORMATION



BURY2GETHER is a forum for Parent/Carers, of Children/Young People, aged 0-25, who have SEND (Special Educational Need or Disabilities), who access services in Bury.

BURY2GETHER has a Steering Group of representative parent/carers, who are experts by experience. They represent the collective views of Parent/Carers, to boards and groups within Bury Council and Clinical Commissioning Group.

BURY2GETHER is keen to hear the views and experiences of Parents/Carers and use them to help shape and inform SEND Services across Bury. We want the forum to be as representative as possible, so we encourage all Parent/Carers to join our membership at:

[www.bury2gether.co.uk/membership](http://www.bury2gether.co.uk/membership)

Members will:

- Receive updates and newsletters via email,
- Receive surveys and details of consultations
- Be signposted to the latest events and workshops.
- Have access to our members only, Facebook support group. Where Parent/Carers can get peer to peer support.



Parents can get information, advice and support about SEND through the Contact website: <https://contact.org.uk/>

There is a helpline which runs Monday to Friday between 9.30am-5.00pm on Freephone number 0808 808 3555.

They now also offer a new "listening ear" service with family support advisers for parents looking for a listening ear, reassurance and practical and emotional support at this especially difficult time. The Contact website gives more information about making an appointment through their Eventbrite page where you can choose the day and the time slot that is most convenient.

[https://contact.org.uk/news-and-blogs/introducing-our-new-1-1-listening-ear-service-\(1\)/](https://contact.org.uk/news-and-blogs/introducing-our-new-1-1-listening-ear-service-(1)/)



Bury SEND Information, Advice and Support Service provides free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to disabled children and young people aged 0-25, and those who have or may have special educational needs and their parents and carers.

<https://www.barnardossendiass.org.uk/bury-sendiass/>

The service can be contacted by telephone on 01706 769634 or by email [bury.sendiass@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:bury.sendiass@barnardos.org.uk)



Family Fund is a UK charity that supports families who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young people aged 17 or under.

Their website is full of useful information and is well worth a visit: <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

There is information about how to apply for a Family Fund grant which can be used for support with essential items such as household items, clothing, sensory toys and computers and tablets, which could be particularly useful during the current lockdown.

The Family Fund website includes information about who is eligible to apply, a useful question and answer section, and a short video that explains the application process in some detail. You can also download an application form or request one to be posted out to your home address.

Families who applied for a Family Fund grant in 2020 are now able to make a new application. For those who have applied previously, new applications can be made online and there is an online link to access your account and reapply.

In 2018/19 Family First helped 59,018 families across England with grants , so why not take a look at the website for some more information.



# LOCKDOWN- How do the current restrictions affect you and your family?

In these tricky times, it can be difficult to know what you can and can't do. The government website can be difficult and sometimes time-consuming to negotiate and I was hoping to provide a time-saving summary of the current guidance.

Unfortunately, as the restrictions can change with very little notice and as the rules are very specific to individual circumstances, it is very difficult to accurately explain them and therefore this article has had to change in its format and content. Instead I have collected some of the most relevant links that I hope you will still find it useful and it will save you a little time!

- An explanation of the basic guidelines:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>
- Guidelines about going out to exercise, including some exceptions: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#exercising>
- Information about respite for those caring for a vulnerable or disabled person or someone with an underlying health condition: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-providing-unpaid-care/guidance-for-those-who-provide-unpaid-care-to-friends-or-family>

These links were current as of February 2021, but as the rules are regularly updated, it is important to check on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for the most up to date information.



# Share your views! Parent Carer Survey

After what has been a hugely difficult year, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) wants to make sure parent/carers are properly supported in 2021 and beyond.

They are currently asking parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities to share their thoughts, experiences and suggestions by answering 10 questions

These questions are only to be answered by parent/carers across Greater Manchester who have children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (aged 0 – 25)

There isn't much time left as the closing date is 19th February 2021, but please get involved! Click the link for the survey. [Parent Carer Experiences Across Greater Manchester](#)

**Greater  
Manchester  
Health and  
Social Care  
Partnership**

If you would like to see the end report or learn more about the work of GMHSCP, please get in touch via this email:  
[GMParentCarerWorkstream@gmail.com](mailto:GMParentCarerWorkstream@gmail.com)

If you have suggestions or comments about the newsletter, we would really value them.

Please email me  
[c.hadfield@bury.gov.uk](mailto:c.hadfield@bury.gov.uk)



# BURY2GETHER invite you to celebrate British Science Week!



BURY2GETHER have a limited number of free Science Packs for our members. The packs are filled with 'FunScience' experiments & online tutorials, arts & crafts, books and more!

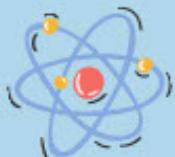
To reserve yours, please email [emma.bury2gether@gmail.com](mailto:emma.bury2gether@gmail.com) with your name, child's name and address.

Packs will be posted to you in time for British Science Week (5th-14th of March)

Packs are suitable for children 6+ and will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis.



*Become a member @[bury2gether.co.uk/membership](http://bury2gether.co.uk/membership)*



BURY2GETHER has obtained a grant to provide small items of sensory equipment to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



To make a request email:  
[michelle.bury2gether@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.bury2gether@gmail.com)  
Please include your name,  
child's name, address and your  
item choice.  
(Options on next page)

Sensory items can only be sent to registered members. If you are not a member you can join online at [www.bury2gether.co.uk/membership](http://www.bury2gether.co.uk/membership)

Please note funds are limited and sensory items will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

**BURY2GETHER**



# Sensory items list

Please choose one option from below. Images are examples of what you might receive depending on availability.

## Option 1:

Inflatable sensory play tray with sensory/messy play items



## Option 3:

Selection of fidget/sensory toys



## Option 5:

Bubble machine



## Option 7:

Musical instrument set



## Option 9:

Exercise ball and stretchy string



## Option 2:

Sit and move cushion and smart putty tin



## Option 4:

Light projector



## Option 6:

Liquid timers and glow in dark stars



## Option 8:

Baby tummy time water mat and musical toy



## Option 10:

Chew buddy and giant bubbles set

