

Early Years Equality & Inclusion Team

SENCO Forum Update: Term 4

ICAN Early Talk Boost (COMF)

A portion of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund was used to fund the delivery of, and resources for (usually £500 per resource pack), the ICAN Early Talk Boost Intervention training for group settings. This training offer has proved very popular with the settings, and we have now delivered 22 courses to 467 delegates across 291 settings.

MAT

To support the ongoing sector engagement a training session on Wednesday 30th March, still has a few places. In addition to this, there will also be a pre-recorded webinar available on the website shortly.

SEND Reflection Tool

The SEND Reflection Tool pilot has started. A big thank you to those settings that are taking part. The six sections included within the document are: Leading SEND Practice, Whole Team Approach, Working with Children & Families, Assessment & Early Identification, Efficient use of Funding & Resources and The Local Offer.

It is important to stress that this document is not an audit, it is a reflection tool, and it is designed to empower settings to self-assess their ability to meet their responsibilities and identify future actions.

The pilot will be evaluated in June/July to ensure it is effective and manageable for all involved to ensure it is a sustainable process going forward. We would plan to offer the SEND Reflection Tool to all settings from September at the latest. Work is in progress to adapt the tool for childminders.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The information regarding DAF for eligible 2-year-olds has now been circulated to the sector and providers can back-date their applications to September 2021. All the necessary information for providers is on the Kelsi website and this includes the application form.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/equality-and-inclusion/disability-access-fund-daf>

DAF payments will be increasing from £615 to £800 from April 2022 for all eligible children. The DAF payment will continue to include a free Emporium silver subscription. There still appears to be a misconception within the sector that they have to use the DAF money to pay for the subscription, but they don't – the subscription is in addition to the DAF payment. Providers with eligible 2-year-olds will also receive a small resource pack to support their provision.

A pre-recorded webinar has been created that shares information including voices from the sector talking about the benefits to children of claiming DAF. The webinar will be available on the website shortly.

Integrated Review at 2

The take up of the integrated review at 2 has been steady. The key purpose of the integrated review at 2 is to support a 'tell it once' approach for parents during a review that would bring all the relevant professionals together in one place to support future action planning for the child's outcomes.

The number of reviews in Dover district are 16.

Early Years Conference:

We are in the process of planning a service wide Early Years & Childcare Conference which will be in June. The event will be delivered virtually and is planned to run over three days. Information will be sent to the sector shortly about the speakers and content of the workshops on offer.