

**SCHOOLS BULLETIN – 14 DECEMBER 2023**

Education Participation and Skills

**Important contact details:**

Children's Services general queries	<a href="mailto:childrensservicesresponse@plymouth.gov.uk">childrensservicesresponse@plymouth.gov.uk</a>
Plymouth Early Help and SEND Advice line	<a href="https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouth-early-help-and-send-advice-line">https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouth-early-help-and-send-advice-line</a>

**Message from Service Director of Education, Participation & Skills**

Dear colleagues,

As we reach the end of the Autumn term, and of 2023, I wish you and your teams all a good festive period, some well-deserved rest and relaxation, and a very happy fulfilling 2024.

As we look back over the year, we can all be proud that the quality of education in Plymouth continues to strengthen with more outstanding and good schools. I know you are all committed to continual improvement for our Plymouth children. Thank you for all you are doing.

As in other areas our vulnerable children continue to be a major focus. Many areas of work, some already underway, were set out in the local area SEND improvement plan published in October 2023. A key milestone for us to help you with your part in this is the conference on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2024: we look forward to seeing many of you there.

A link to the rise in need amongst our children is shown in the increased number of specialist places required for children. The costs of these is reflected in the High Needs Block deficit which we are scrutinising with Schools' Forum.

With all best wishes to you and your school community for the festive period and 2024.

Best wishes,

Annie Gammon

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATES****Cost of living support for families**

Plymouth City Council has an online cost of living hub full of advice that signposts people to all the local support that is available. At this expensive time of year, please could you help us to spread the word? Below is some wording that could be added to your school newsletter, website or social media channels, as well as an image to use alongside it.

If you have any queries about the cost of living campaign, or would like more leaflets, posters or graphics to use within your school community, please contact:

[alice.pope@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:alice.pope@plymouth.gov.uk)

Promotional wording:

### **Cost of living support**

If you're struggling due to the rising cost of living, there's support available for you and your family. Plymouth's online cost of living hub can signpost you to all the help that's on offer across the city. This includes everything from financial support such as how to check you're claiming the benefits you're entitled to and help with budgeting, to where to access free or low-cost food, free things to do with your family, mental health support and much more.

Remember - if you are finding things difficult, you are not alone and there is no shame in asking for help. Everyone needs a little bit of extra support at some point in their lives. Visit the online hub at [www.plymouth.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/costofliving).

### **Questionnaire to find out what helps neuro diverse young people to get a job.**

Neuro-diverse Plymouth Employers Network is undertaking research into what helps neuro diverse young people to get a job. The link to the questionnaire is here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/ZZPZdka72C>

Please share widely and contact Fiona Gordon, [Fiona.Gordon@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.Gordon@plymouth.gov.uk) for more information

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES MEETINGS AND TRAINING**

**10<sup>th</sup> January Conference: Improvement for pupils with SEND: including by design** to be held on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

We are pleased with the response from school leaders and SENCOs. To ensure we can accommodate everyone comfortably we have taken the decision to move the venue from City College to The Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Millbay Road, PL1 3LG. All other details remain the same.

The conference is part of the range of professional development being planned with and for colleagues across Plymouth. Speakers from the DfE, Ofsted, Plymouth Schools and "When the Adults Change" are on the programme.

### **On Course South West – Your Future Starts Here**

For families and carers

Courses include First Aid, Languages, English and Maths skills, Crafting skills, Family meals and money saving ideas, British Sign Language, mindfulness and much more...Family Learning delivers free courses in schools, children's centres and other community venues across Plymouth. We also provide a range of online Family Learning options.

Health & Safety for staff

Manual Handling

Manual Handling Assessment Workshop

Risk Assessment Awareness

Risk Assessment WORKSHOP

Work at Height Awareness

Health and Safety Awareness Level 1 Award

Spectator Safety Level 1 Award

Mental Health, Behaviour and Learning difficulties

Children and Young People's Mental Health Level 2 Certificate

Information, Advice or Guidance Level 2

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Awareness

Mental Health in the Early Years Level 2

Trauma Informed (Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences) Level 2

Understanding Behaviour that Challenges Level 2 Certificate

Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties Level 2 Certificate

Understanding Mental Health Certificate Level 3

Understanding Autism Level 3 Certificate

Understanding Safeguarding and Prevent Level 2


### **Your Future 3 - Jan/Feb 2024**

Your Future is a five week programme designed specifically to support young people back in to employment, education or training. It is a bespoke, structured package of employability, interpersonal and thinking skills training designed to help learners to develop a positive mindset. All of this is delivered using practical experiential activity.

If you know young people in Plymouth 19 – 25 with Education Health Care Plans please do let them know about this course. We can also support those without EHCP if they are disadvantaged in other ways, care experienced, young parents, young carers or at risk of the criminal justice system.

- Starts on the 22nd January 2024
- Weeks commencing the 22nd, 29th of January and 5th of February will be for training and development
- The first residential will be from the 12th-16th of February
- The 19th-21st February will be for further training and development
- The second residential will be a city break from the 22nd-24th February
- Finishing with a final few days 26th-28th February reviewing their learning and experiences.
- Deadline for applications is the 12th January.

### **The Gift of learning**

Unsure of what to give a loved one for Christmas? Why not give the gift of learning? This Christmas, On Course South West are offering the chance for people to purchase gift vouchers for our courses for their family and friends! These vouchers will be able to be purchased in five pound denominations from £5 to £50 and can be used as payment towards any course they wish. To find out more and to purchase a voucher  <https://ow.ly/HFf650QaGY4> Whether it's a qualification, learning a new

language, upskilling or starting a new hobby we have courses to meet all your needs! 😊

For more information: [www.oucoursesouthwest.co.uk](http://www.oucoursesouthwest.co.uk)

Tel: 01752 660713 Email: [info@oucoursesouthwest.co.uk](mailto:info@oucoursesouthwest.co.uk)

## **NATIONAL EDUCATION UPDATES**

### [Date set for new childcare offer applications - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Applications for the first wave of the rollout of the largest ever expansion of free childcare for working parents will open on 02 January 2024. From January, eligible working parents of two-year olds will be able to register to access 15 hours free childcare per week from April 2024, the first step in the government's long-term plan to give working families a brighter future. The recommended time to register is between mid-January and the end of February.

### [New research paves way for Artificial Intelligence in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Education professionals, Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology specialists, and ed-tech experts are embracing the opportunities offered by AI in the education sector, according to the results of the government's first ever Call for Evidence on Artificial Intelligence in Education, published 28 Sept 2023

### [Letter to school leaders on mild illness and school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Department for Education (DfE) is reminding schools to share resources with parents on key attendance practices, which aid in making judgements about mild illness. Earlier this year (05 September), the Chief Medical Officer and leading health professionals wrote to schools to provide a clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance. The letter includes information for schools to pass to parents and carers about when is it appropriate to send their children to school with a mild illness. Councils are encouraged to share this information where appropriate.

## **Women and Girls Safety**

### [Illegal pornography, abuse and exploitation to be investigated by new reviewer - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Baroness Bertin will lead a review to examine abuse, exploitation and trafficking in the pornography industry. In particular, the review has been tasked to consider the links between the pornography industry, human trafficking and exploitation and users' attitudes towards women and girls. It will review how viewing pornography impacts users of all ages and include emerging challenges from AI generated pornography. As well as examining how to help the police identify exploitation and abuse in the industry and enforce the law, punishing those committing offences.



## Office for Health Improvement & Disparities

The [public consultation on the definition of child to parent abuse](#) has now launched. We would be so grateful if you could share it with your wider networks. We want to reach as a wide a range of respondents as possible to ensure we're considering a variety of views.

We know that there are some groups it will be harder for us to reach, for example those with lived experience of CPA or working in frontline services. If you have routes to such people, we'd really appreciate any effort you could make to share the consultation with them.

The findings from this consultation will be used to develop the definition of child to parent abuse directly, and also to inform the next phase of work around updating the guidance for frontline professionals – everything we learn from this consultation will support our ongoing work on this issue. The consultation will run for ten weeks, closing on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, to allow plenty of time either side of the festive period.

## LOCAL POLICY AND INITIATIVES

### National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) for Reception and Year 6 children

A reminder for participating schools that you will receive your NCMP 2023/24 letters this month. Schools in the north and west localities will also receive copies of consent letters to give out to parents/guardians.

A member of the School Nursing Team will contact your school in due course to arrange suitable dates for the weighing and measuring to be carried out. Please ensure a member of staff is assigned to facilitate this process.

Your participation in the NCMP is essential for the success of the programme and we thank you in advance for your continued support again this year.

### Local Policing & Partnerships: Community Engagement Survey



This QR code will take people to the survey, which asks a series of questions relating to identified issues / concern including a sense of safety in the city.

The information gathered will be used to inform team and set local priorities, ensuring we feedback to communities, so they know we have listened and acted.

The Life Centre is displaying the code and several posters will be going out where there is high footfall.



# Helping young people reach their potential

With our four FREE core programmes:

<p><b>Inspiration</b></p> <p>Free inspirational talks from high-profile societal leaders and changemakers like Patrice Evra, Grayson Perry, Gareth Southgate and Baroness Floella Benjamin through our Inspiration Programme.</p> <p><a href="#" style="color: white; text-decoration: none;">REGISTER NOW</a></p>	<p><b>Experience</b></p> <p>Free world-class work experience placements with over 1,200 leading employers like Google, Spotify, Bentley Motors and many others through our Experience Programme.</p> <p><a href="#" style="color: white; text-decoration: none;">REGISTER NOW</a></p>	<p><b>National Teen Book Club</b></p> <p>Free after-school enrichment activities such as our National Teen Book Club which provide additional opportunities for young people to develop their extracurricular interests as well as boost their confidence and build connections.</p> <p><a href="#" style="color: white; text-decoration: none;">REGISTER NOW</a></p>	<p><b>Volunteering</b></p> <p>Volunteering roles for young people aged 14-30 with non-profits and charities across the UK via our Vinspired Youth Volunteering Programme – to help young people gain experience, learn vital skills and support local communities.</p> <p><a href="#" style="color: white; text-decoration: none;">EXPLORE NOW</a></p>
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**Who are Speakers for Schools?**

Speakers for Schools is a social mobility charity, founded by ITV political editor Robert Peston and supported by the Law Family Charitable Foundation, that helps young people from UK state schools and colleges access vital opportunities to fuel their career ambitions, expand their networks and feel better prepared for the world of work.

**Why do we exist?**

When it comes to life outcomes and future careers, the 93% of young people who attend state schools face a disadvantage compared to the 7% who attend fee-paying schools. Speakers for Schools helps address this inequality by enabling any young person currently in state education to access free life-changing and career-enhancing opportunities normally only reserved for the privileged few. Since 2010, we have supported more than 1.3 million young people and have seen a marked increase in demand for our services from state schools and colleges across the UK.

**SIGN UP TODAY**



[www.speakersforschools.org](http://www.speakersforschools.org)

Contact Stephanie Anderson at [stephanie.anderson@speakersforschools.org](mailto:stephanie.anderson@speakersforschools.org) for more information on how we can support you and your students...

Follow us on:   



## ART and ENERGY

Presents

# The Mossy Carpet

You are invited to help us make this epic new moss-inspired artwork.

Let's celebrate everyone's steps towards a brighter greener future!



**Art and Energy would like** to invite your school to get involved with an epic mass-participation artwork inspired by mosses which supports young people to feel empowered to respond to the climate and ecological emergency.

The Art and Energy Collective is an award winning group of artists that work with schools to

help young people take creative steps towards a brighter greener future. We are all about hope and action and we bring a bit of joy to a somewhat difficult topic.

You may have come across our work with our recent artwork *Moths to a Flame* which was made for COP26. This project involved over 58,000 people from all over the world looking to moths to tell us more about our relationship with electricity and creating an impressive installation at Glasgow's Botanic Gardens in November 2021. Schools across the UK and overseas made an important contribution to the impact of this project which was well received by visitors, delegates, ministers from around the world and got into all sorts of papers and TV.

The Art and Energy Collective are now excited to introduce you to our new mass-participation artwork *The Mossy Carpet*! Your school is invited to help us make this epic new moss-inspired artwork currently on display in Theatre Royal Plymouth. Let's celebrate all the things our communities are doing and the power and beauty of collective action! Our aim is for *The Mossy Carpet* to be over 100 metres long, to involve 100,000 people and to be displayed somewhere amazing in November 2025 for COP30.

Getting involved in making this artwork will:

- Support children and young people to learn more about the climate emergency and the extraordinary role that mosses on Dartmoor are playing in capturing carbon through, and preventing flooding! Meet the mosses right on your doorstep that provide habitats for all sorts of creatures and are busy purifying the air and supporting all of life.
- Bring the whole school community together in a simple and enjoyable creative activity that celebrates all the little things we are doing to make a difference.
- Help you discover what sort of things your school community wants to do to respond to the climate and ecological emergency.
- Be part of a hopeful and inspiring artwork that will be displayed in prestigious places across the UK in the run up to COP and will get lots of media attention over the next two years.

**Next issue: 11 January 2024**