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## Welcome to the May edition of your Slough SEND Newsletter!

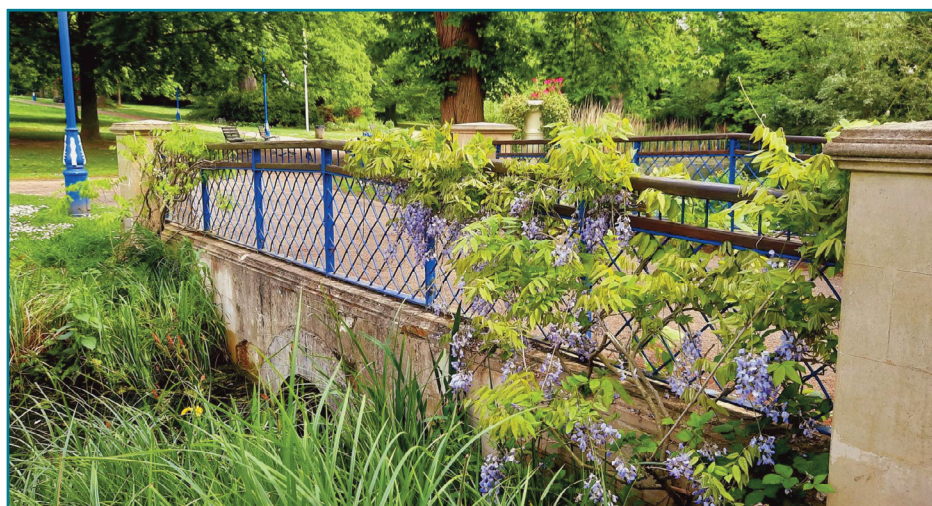
This edition, we are sharing with you some great news as our SEND and Inclusion Strategy is now online and available for you to read. This document sets out the strategy's priorities which have been co-produced with partner agencies such as schools and parents/carers. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this important piece of work. There is also an important opportunity for you to get more involved with the strategy and help shape SEND provision going forward by becoming an Inclusion Champion!

Some other fantastic news is that Breakaway, our short breaks Children's Home for children with additional needs, has been inspected by Ofsted and have been rated as outstanding.

There also a reminder to check out the Local Offer pages on the Slough Local Offer website which contain information on events, training and services that are available to support you, and our children and young people in Slough.

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with us. If you would like to make any contributions to future editions or just to share your news, please get in touch. [SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk). We would love to hear from you!

**Find out more about our parks and open spaces on page 5**



Herschel Park

## Contacting the SEND Team

There are two dedicated email addresses to help you contact us, and to help us effectively respond to you, we would ask that you please use the correct email address depending on the nature of your contact with us:

**[SEND\\_ECHNArequest@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SEND_ECHNArequest@slough.gov.uk)**

This email is the address to send all your ECH Needs Assessment requests.

**[SENDteam@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDteam@slough.gov.uk)**

This email is for all other enquiries.

Or call us on **01753 787676**.

**Join our mailing list, so you don't miss out on future updates on the Service!**

Do you want to receive copies of this newsletter on a regular basis? If so, please join our mailing list. Also, please encourage any parents you know who would find this newsletter interesting and useful. Colleagues working to support children and families are also encouraged to subscribe for direct updates and information. Please email us at [SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

We are working hard to improve the way we communicate with you and ensure that children and young people are at the heart of everything that we do!



# Breakaway is outstanding!

Following an Ofsted inspection of Breakaway (Slough Children First's short breaks home) in March, Slough Children First has achieved its first 'outstanding' from Ofsted.

Breakaway's last inspection was in February 2024, where they were rated 'good' in all areas.

In Breakaway's recent inspection, Ofsted acknowledged that children's individual needs are highly considered, praising staff for spending quality time with the children and going the extra mile for them and their families. 'Each child's unique communication style is carefully documented and shared, and their voices are heard and understood. Staff excel in supporting children to express their views, wishes and feelings through a diverse range of communication methods.'

The Inspector found that: 'Children receive exemplary, high-quality care from a dedicated and compassionate staff team. Staff meticulously ensure that they provide tailored care that meets every child's complex needs.'

They also said, 'the staff team is committed to providing each child with high-quality, personalised care.'

It was observed that there is a high level of engagement, including children playing together and engaging in a variety of enriching activities that they enjoy in a positive atmosphere.

Ofsted also recognised that celebrations are important at Breakaway, including birthdays and religious and cultural celebrations, noting that children share meals and celebrate their birthdays and achievements together, which adds to the home's family ethos.'

Sue Butcher, Executive Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive of Slough Children First, said: "This is a truly remarkable



achievement for all involved and the first time that an organisation in Slough that is not an education provider, has been rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted. I am beyond proud of the Breakaway team, supporting staff and agencies for going above and beyond with our children and young people at our children's short breaks home, helping them to thrive."

Saima Arif, Head of Regulated Services and Responsible Individual at Slough Children First said: "This is an amazing achievement for Slough Children First and for the whole of Slough as well. Since the last inspection, where we were rated 'good' in all areas, we wanted to ensure that we continued to deliver a great service for our families and improved on areas recommended. A special thank you to Ranbir Sidhu, who has worked hard with the team to achieve this excellent result. We will continue to put all our effort into ensuring that the service provided at Breakaway continues to be outstanding."

Councillor Puja Bedi, Lead Member for Education and Children's Services said: "An Outstanding rating from Ofsted is an amazing achievement for all the Breakaway staff and the wider team. It was a joy to read the Inspector's findings in the report, especially that Breakaway is such a positive, caring

environment for a short break stay. It is clear that the needs of each individual child who stays at Breakaway are the centre of everything the service provides and are catered to, to an extremely high standard. Thank you to all the team who have worked so hard to achieve this result."

Other findings in the report included:

- The great care and attention staff show the children has led to secure, trusting relationships.
- Staff have created a positive space where children feel safe and valued.
- Children's learning outcomes are very good, and they all enjoy and attend school regularly.
- Staff are thoroughly trained in medication administration, supported by robust systems that rigorously monitor its use.
- The building is safe and secure, and there are no health and safety issues.

We are pleased that there were no requirements or recommendations raised at this inspection. Ofsted have now published the report, available to read on their website.

A huge congratulations to our Breakaway Team, very well done indeed on your commitment and hard work!

# Slough special educational needs and disabilities and inclusion strategy published!

**The new Slough SEND and Inclusion strategy is now live on the [Slough Borough Council website](#) and the [Local Offer website](#).**

The new local area SEND and Inclusion strategy has been informed and co-produced with our partners in education, health, and social care, as well as the Slough Parent Carer Forum - Special Voices. Children and young people with SEND also played a major part in the development of this strategy. We have captured views through a range of consultation activities including facilitated workshops, online questionnaires, and individual meetings.

This information has been brought together by the Local Area Partnership together with our self-evaluation in preparation for a future SEND Inspection. All these contributions have helped to shape the priorities and actions identified in the document.

The strategy sets out five priorities over the next five years with a detailed Action Plan for how they will be delivered across the local area. The priorities are based on what is going well, areas for improvement, and feedback from children and young people with SEND, as well as their parent carers, together with legal requirements.

To support the new strategy and increase local community and parent/carer participation we are looking for Inclusion Champions. These are volunteers who can spare the time to help shape the future of SEND and Inclusion in Slough. If you would like to be one of our champions or would like further information, please email [samantha.caley@slough.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.caley@slough.gov.uk)

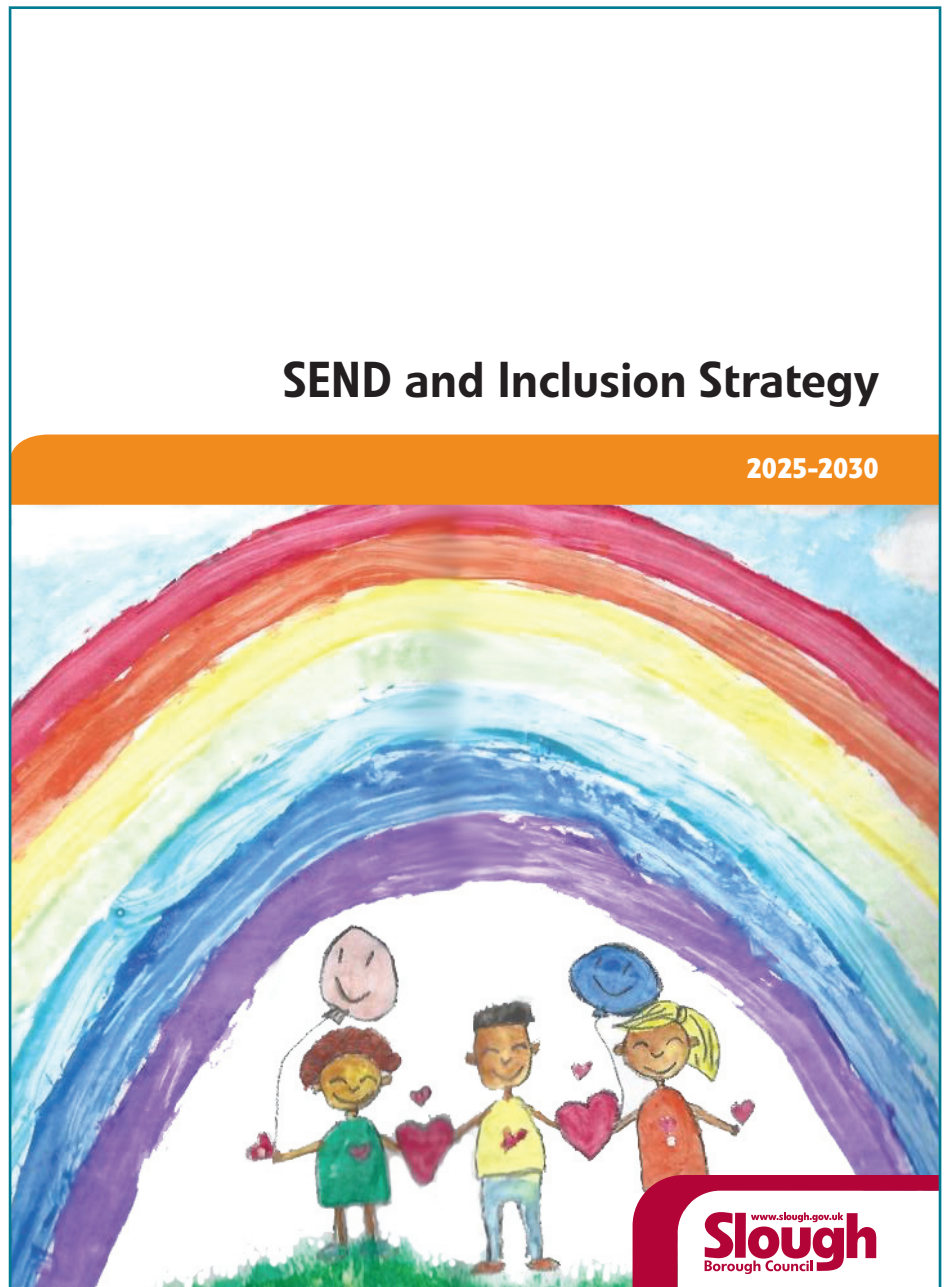
Neil Hoskinson, Director of Education, Slough Borough Council, said: "In my visits to education settings in Slough, I have seen lots of wonderful inclusion support. This co-produced strategy will allow the best approaches to be shared more widely to ensure that all our children and young people with SEND receive the right support as early as possible."

Councillor Puja Bedi, Lead Member for Education and Children's

Services said: "This strategy has been developed with multiple partners and our Slough Parent Carer Forum - Special Voices as well as young people with SEND to make sure we are focused on what is most important to help our children and young people with SEND thrive. If you would like to become involved, we are looking for Inclusion Champions to help further this work. To find out more email: [samantha.caley@slough.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.caley@slough.gov.uk)."

## SEND and Inclusion Strategy

2025-2030



# Frimley Healthier Together

The Frimley Healthier Together website provides advice for parents, young people, and pregnant women and clinical resources to support healthcare professionals. It is an excellent resource with tremendous quality information to help you navigate your family's journey [Frimley Healthier Together](#)

A Sleep Information Pack has been produced and designed for parents and carers with autistic children and young people who have problems with their sleep routine. The author, Clare Jenkins Designated Clinical



Officer, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, shares tips and advice on how to start a new and improved sleep routine for a child or young adult with SEND.

Read the pack on the [Sleep Information Page](#).

## SENDIASS: calling all feedback!

We would welcome your views on the service that you have received from SENDIASS and we invite you to share your feedback [here](#)

SENDIASS is an information advice and support service. We may receive information which could be of interest to you, please let us know if you do not wish to be included in our mailing list.

## Short breaks and activities for young people with SEND

Short breaks provide children and young people with disabilities the opportunity to:

- have fun
- take part in positive experiences.

They also provide the family a break from their caring responsibilities.

Short breaks can last from anything between a couple of hours to an overnight stay.

The length and type of short break will depend on the child, young person, and the family's circumstances.

- There are [activities which you can access directly](#) without the need for a child and family assessment by a social worker.
- If you require a specialist short break through the Children with Disabilities Team - Slough Children First, a child and family assessment will need to be carried out by a social worker. Commissioned providers provide these short breaks. Check details of providers in the sections below.

For further information:

- email Slough Children First at [emailus@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk](mailto:emailus@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk)
- check [Slough Children First - Short Breaks statement 2024-2025](#)

**Online information sessions for parents of children with SEND, young people with SEND, and professionals**

**Wednesday 11 June 2025**  
**11am-12noon or 6-7pm.**

This session will focus on ceasing the EHC plan.

Upcoming sessions include:

- Wednesday 10 September - Annual reviews
- Tuesday 18 November - Early years SEN support.

To book, email: [SENDIASS@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@slough.gov.uk) (please specify AM or PM session) or via [www.sloughsendiass.org.uk](http://www.sloughsendiass.org.uk)

[www.slough.gov.uk](http://www.slough.gov.uk)  
**Slough**  
Borough Council

SS-7103/14-04-25

# Slough HAF Programme is coming in the summer break!

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provides free enjoyable activities and nutritious meals for primary and secondary school aged children who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals.

Children will be able to access:

- 4 sessions (4 hours per session) a week during Easter and Christmas and
- 4 sessions (4 hours per session) for 4 weeks during the summer holidays.

All activities are inclusive at no cost to you. The sessions will include a variety

of fun activities, including sports, music, arts, and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills, alongside a nutritious meal each day.

Letters will be sent out to all families with eligible children with a unique code for each child to use. Information of providers offering the programme will be available soon.

Check [Slough HAF](#) for a list of providers/activities and to book a place.

You can also pay to join in the fun if you aren't eligible for a free space.

## Walking on sunshine... hopefully!

The weather has been so much better recently and hopefully it will stay like it, so - it might be a good time to think about visiting some of Slough's dedicated outdoor spaces.

They offer a variety of options from sports facilities, woodland walks, green spaces, and places to just stop and have a little picnic on the grass whilst watching the ducks. For those who are interested - there is also opportunities for volunteering across the borough within our parks.

The council manages more than 254 hectares of public parks, open green space and play areas in Slough. You can [search our directory to find a park or open space near you](#).

Our aim is to bring people and communities together, increasing health and wellbeing in an urban environment by offering a range of sports fields, play areas, riverside walks, woodlands, gardens, and natural landscapes helping Slough

to be a more attractive and prosperous town to live and work in.

### Great for young people

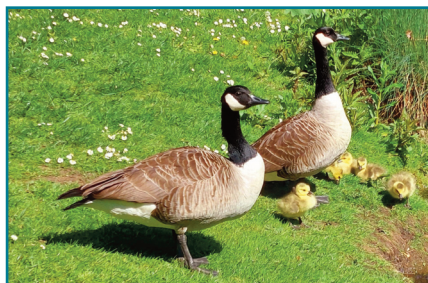
With 76 outdoor [playgrounds and play areas](#) across the borough, there are plenty of opportunities for young people to enjoy the play facilities in our green spaces.

### Care about your park

Our [Parks Friends Groups](#) actively contribute to the development and upkeep of Slough parks. Here is how you can join.

### Volunteering

Interested in helping your local community and make new friends, why not join our [Parks Volunteer Scheme](#).



## What's on

[Slough Information and Services Guide | Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - Slough SEND Local Offer](#)

We have a full calendar of events, that can be found via your local offer page [Slough Information and Services Guide | What's On](#) which is updated regularly and can be searched by calendar date.



**Newsletter feedback:**  
this is your newsletter!  
If you would like to suggest any changes to this newsletter, see additional information, be added to the mailing list, and/or give feedback, please email [sendnewsletter@slough.gov.uk](mailto:sendnewsletter@slough.gov.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with us. If you would like to make any article contributions, in future editions, get in touch [SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk). We would love to hear from you!