

SEND NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Contents:

Local Offer LIVE

*Designated
Specialist Provision*

*Written Statement of
Action*

Inclusion Strategy

Quote from Paul Tinsley: *"I would like to thank all colleagues, working across our education community, for the continued support and dedication you put into the education of some of our most vulnerable children and young people. As a local authority, we are working hard to support school colleagues by securing additional capital resource and through ensuring we make best/effective use of the resource available to us. We are always open to constructive feedback and thoughts on how we can improve and as such your views and comments are welcome."*



Our Aims and Outcomes

- ✚ Improving academic outcomes of CYP with SEND in all Key Stages and in Further Education
- ✚ Improving the life outcomes of CYP to enable them to:
 - Be Healthy
 - Be independent
 - Be connected to their community
 - Be engaged in work/meaningful activity

Local Offer LIVE

The Local Offer Live Event was on 23rd January 2019 at The Curve Theatre. This year the Parent and Carer Forum led and managed the event. The Curve shared the event was well attended with approximately 2000 people attending. On the day there were live performances from the schools in the studio, as well as approximately 60 stalls. An art and crafts area had also been set up. It was an opportunity for stall holders to gather information, respond to consultations and questionnaires as well as share information and promote their service with Parents, Carers, Professionals and Young People.

There was representation from all sectors, public, private and voluntary sector sharing expertise in the areas of health, social care, education, and information on services available to support families with SEND. There were stall holders that were local to the City, Leicestershire and further afield, as well as attendance from both the City and County.

It was fantastic to see the young people from the schools and the Big Mouth Forum participating in the event. There was a buzz in the air, parents, carers, young people and professionals were all saying that it was a good and useful event, with most of the parents having found the information they were looking for. Feedback from the stall holders was that it was a good event and they had spoken to parents that were unknown to their services. Parents and Carers from the Parent Carer Forum voluntarily dedicated time on the day to ensure smooth running of the event. The success of Local Offer was a reflection of the partnership working, the celebration of success and sharing of expertise.

If you attended the event and would like to share some feedback or have suggestions for the future, please email nayna.amlani@leicester.gov.uk



Designated Specialist Provision

In December we reported that there were several visits scheduled with schools that had expressed an interest in developing a DSP. Subsequently we have visited 16 schools and had discussions with several others. The overwhelming impression we got from these visits was how hard schools are working to be inclusive, how much they are currently achieving and how enthused they are about the possibility of running a DSP on their school sites. Several the schools were already working informal DSP arrangements and want to formalise these to improve the offers to their young people and others. The remainder had spent some time thinking through how a DSP could work in their school, what benefits it would offer to their local community, and the positive impact it could have on all the children on their roll.

We are now collating the information we have collected from the schools and will present our finding to the Leadership team shortly. Subject to approval the next step will then be to put together a project plan with timelines that will enable us to have new DSP places available from Autumn 2019, with others to follow over the next three years. Places will be commissioned at primary and secondary schools to ensure that those children that need to can continue their education with appropriate support if needed.

If you require more information on DSP, please email Vicki.Urch@leicester.gov.uk



Written Statement of Action

The Written Statement of Action (WSOA) is constantly being updated every month as actions in the plan are progressed. The SEND Improvement Board meets on a bimonthly basis to make sure improvements are being made as written in the plan and work very closely with partners on the actions stated in the plan. Highlight updates on the plan since the last newsletter are noted below:

- Revised SEND Strategy drafted and approved by SEND Improvement Board – Will be published after the consultation phase is over
- Bid has been made to the Education Endowment Fund seeking funding to continue and expand the SSIF work
- Local Offer LIVE organised and held by PCF to resounding success with information being widely shared with parents and carers
- EHCP – EHA pilot is now Live in response to showing evidence of providing social care support in EHC plans

The Local Area had their third monitoring meeting with CQC and NHS England on 15/02/2019 to go over the WSoA and the updates on each of the actions. It was a very positive meeting with CQC and NHS England giving constructive advice on minor improvements to the plan.

The Local Area is confident of meeting the targets outlined in the WSoA and will have accomplished work around more actions by the final monitoring meeting taking place on 15/05/2019.

For further information on the WSoA contact Azmat.Nazim@leicester.gov.uk, or view it on the Local Offer website link below:

[Local Offer Written Statement of Action](#)

Written statement of action



- When a written statement of action is required, the HMI lead inspector and team notify the local authority at the final feedback meeting.
- The report letter provides bullets about why a WSOA was issued – subject to moderation and QA.
- The local area and clinical commissioning groups are responsible for submitting a written statement of action to Ofsted within 70 working days of receiving the final report.
- The WSOA must be published on relevant local area websites.

Inclusion Strategy

An initial meeting was held with Head Teacher and SENCO representatives in September 2018. Following this meeting a small group was established to look at the areas of inclusion. They highlighted two areas:

1. The transition of children from year 6 to year seven (primary to secondary school)
2. The professional development of teachers around working with children with SEND.

Further meetings on 10/12/2018 produced an outline proposal for staff CPD/sharing of best practice



Both project plans have now been approved by the SEND Improvement Board.

The purpose of both projects is to ensure that more children remain / return to mainstream settings by

- Ensuring staff are appropriately trained and supported to deliver inclusive education enabling children to remain in their local mainstream school
- Providing an informal support network which teachers can access for knowledge sharing, problem solving and ongoing support
- Ensuring that the transition process, which can lead to children withdrawing from education, is supportive for children, parents and schools providing a personalised plan for each child
- Enabling increased familiarisation visits, allowing teacher handover and sharing support strategies used by the primary schools
- Preparing the child for the changes including, timetables, being taught by a number of staff in a variety of rooms, movement around the school, travel to and from school
- Consideration of appropriate coping strategies, 'safe place', named 'key support' for child to prevent absconding / truanting
- Ensuring that parents are involved in the transition process and are able to support their child

If you require more information on Inclusion, please email Vicki.Urch@leicester.gov.uk