

# SEND Newsletter



January 2020



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## Our Aims and Outcomes

Our ongoing commitment to keep you updated with our SEND developments includes this latest newsletter which features activity in several areas.

If you have any questions, or just want to know more about any of the projects listed in this edition, please get in touch by email: [sce-communications@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:sce-communications@leicester.gov.uk)

Improving academic outcomes of Children and young people with SEND in all Key Stages and in Further Education

Improving the life outcomes of children and young people to enable them to:

- Be Healthy
- Be independent
- Be connected to their community
- Be engaged in work/ meaningful activity

# Local Offer Live – 31 January 2020

This free event shares special educational needs and disability (SEND) information and brings the Leicester City Local Offer to life by showcasing special educational needs and disability related services, for parent, carers, children and young people between the ages 0 – 25.

It will take place on **Friday 31 January 2020** from 10am to 4.30pm at Morningside Arena, 31 Charter Street, Leicester, LE1 3UD

The Local Offer Live, will include professionals from the local areas statutory education, health and social care services, as well as the voluntary sector, independent advice and support providers.

There will be workshops in the morning and performances in the afternoon.



Employment Support Officer Emma Whitmore at the Great Project stall (image: Leicester Mercury)

Great Project stall at Local Offer Live 2019  
Source - Leicester Mercury

For more information about the event contact 07921 311 633 or email [info@lcpf.net](mailto:info@lcpf.net)



Jade Frost, Tours and Marketing Co-ordinator for Bambooze at Local Offer Live 2019  
Source – Leicester Mercury

“The immense value of Local Offer Live can be seen from the hundreds of people who came... We came to get information from the dozens of stalls and service providers. We came to watch our children perform on the Studio stage. We came to meet old friends and make new ones.”

Quote from a parent at Local Offer Live 2019  
source Leicester Mercury

# Local Offer – Improvements!

Over the past year, we have been listening to suggestions and feedback from parents, carers and other users and as a result, continuing to change and improve the Local Offer website.

One of the changes includes a new section added in September 2019 which gives clearer guidance around how parents/carers choose and apply for school places for children with an EHC plan. This has proved a useful section, especially during the school transfer application window, with over 1,300 views made.

Our Local Offer is accessible and received more than 26,000 visits, which is an increase of 26% from 2018. During 2019, the main sections viewed were Schools and Learning, About SEND and Early Years.














Your opinions, feedback and suggestions really count – please contact us on 0116 454 0644 or email [localoffer@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@leicester.gov.uk)

Visit our Local Offer website:

[families.leicester.gov.uk/send-local-offer](https://families.leicester.gov.uk/send-local-offer)



Information and support for 0-25 years

 About SEND	 School admissions EHC plans	 Search for a service
 SEND News and Events	 Early Years	 Schools and learning
 Preparing for adulthood	 Health and wellbeing	 Care and Support
 Money matters	 You said, we did	 Your voice
 Consultations and announcements	SEND Strategy and SEF	Local Area Review

# Written Statement of Action – Our Progress

The local area took on board the areas for improvement identified by OFSTED which form the Written Statement of Action. A great deal of work has been undertaken to progress the actions under each area and real achievement has been made, not least in outcomes for our early years and KS2 children with SEND.

However, it will take time to establish some of the systems to support improvement and have an impact. For example, we are in the beta stage of the professional portal with system testing still to be done before we launch.

From that point we will begin to establish a fully functioning and user-friendly portal which will help professionals to add their SMART advice into the EHCP in a more timely and accurate way.

There is a fifth and final formal monitoring meeting with CQC and NHS England on 4 February to review the WSoA and the impact we have made for children and young people with SEND.

[View our current WSoA](#)

## Definition of a WSoA:

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.

# Update on Designated Specialist Provision

Many schools took the time and effort to express an interest in opening DSPs and although there have been delays, we are pleased to announce that Imperial Avenue Infant School opened in January 2020. In addition, King Richard III Infant and Nursery School will be opening after Easter.

We are working with school partners on plans to develop a number of other DSPs across primary and secondary to open in September 2020. Colleagues from these schools will be attending LLP Development Groups to talk more about their DSPs in the coming months.

There will also be a panel allocations process to ensure the places meet pupil needs.

All information on the current DSPs can be found on [MyChoice](#).

Looking forward, the Council are aware of the need for additional school placement across the City for pupils with SEND. We are completing a needs analysis for current and future pupils to plan where in the City and the type of provision to be developed, in order to gain approval for additional capital funds and to ensure we build a robust model of support for DSPs.



We will be in touch with those schools who had originally expressed an interest to revisit possible options for a DSP, to add to proposals and will look to provide further updates during the Spring term.

For further discussion about DSPs contact [Clare.nagle@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Clare.nagle@leicester.gov.uk) - SEND Senior Project Manager.

# Inclusion Pilot -Transition from year 6 to 7



The four settings involved in the pilot were visited by the Network Leaders Hayley Holmes and Sally Applebee-Lewis in the Summer term of the last academic year.

The settings all have additional provisions in places that have unique circumstances.

Teachers and group leaders were welcoming and keen to share their progress and successes so far with their additional provisions.

The staff were all very keen to meet others who were running provisions to get support and advice that they could then use in their own settings.

On the 9 July 2019, we had a launch day where we shared the case studies of the additional provisions that are currently in place at Overdale Infant School and Eyres Monsell Primary School. We had 8 attendees from three out of the four schools involved in the network.

There was a long question and answer session which predominantly focused on logistics and the progress of the children accessing the provisions. At this meeting we set out the training offer for the year, discussed the options to buy and test resources in the different settings and set a further 3 network dates to meet across the year.

To this point there have been 3 courses that over 15 staff have accessed and a further 4 courses that are due to take place this year. The feedback from staff is that the training has been very valuable and really improved their inclusive practice. We are hoping that more training can be rescheduled for schools in the pilot to access.

Proposed plans for this year include a review of the training that has taken place and the impact of this on inclusion at the different schools. There will also be a review of the resources purchased and demonstrations by the various schools of what has been particularly successful. The members of the network are always keen to share their practice as recount that they feel well supported by being part of the network.

# Quality Assurance Framework for EHCPs

The local authority developed an audit programme to help improve the quality of EHCPs for children in the city. The initial focus was to ensure that plans are legally compliant.

Our aspiration is to ensure that every plan produced is child and family friendly, has a positive focus whilst recording need, demonstrates a golden thread from the child's aspirations through the outcomes and provision providing a document that will enable the child to have positive outcomes

The team of 35 auditors are made up colleagues from health, social care, schools, the Parent/Carer Forum and the local authority. The moderators are managers not involved in the audit process

The results from the audit programme are shared at the SEND Improvement board. It continues to be developed and improved as we learn what is effective and where the gaps are.

To enable us to meet our aspiration of ensuring all city children have outstanding plans we will be holding advice givers works shops at least once a term; we are piloting an on-line portal for professionals and parents to use in the writing of the plans, and we continue to develop our internal processes.

For more information about the audit process or to be involved email [Vicki.urch@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Vicki.urch@leicester.gov.uk)

## Quality Assurance Cycle

