

SEND Weekly Newsletter 20 July 2018



Issue 6

Launch of the **NEW** Local Offer



We've listened and made changes

Children and young people with SEND and their families have told us what they think of Somerset Choices ([Somerset's Local Offer](#)). It is now being relaunched after a refresh.

The aim is to enable everyone to research relevant information and services in their area and for it to be collaborative, accessible, comprehensive, current and transparent!

From 18th July you will notice changes - hopefully for the better. Please tell us what you think by emailing localoffer@somerset.gov.uk.

What is the Local Offer?

The [Local Offer](#) is a statutory requirement and relates to the [SEND Code of Practice](#).

The local authority must publish a local offer that contains clear, comprehensive information about the provision available across education, health and social care and details about how children, young people and their families can access it.

The Somerset Local Offer is a means to make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations.

Who is the Local Offer for?

Children, young people and their families – searching for advice, guidance and services relating to their personal circumstances.

Brokers – advising individuals on choosing products and services. They may be local authority staff (for example Somerset Direct) or could be partner agencies such as health or education.

Providers – promoting their services and products. They may or may not be



Youth Offending Team recognised for securing better outcomes for young people with SEND

The Youth Justice Board, Achievement for All, the Association of YOT Managers and the University of Manchester have joined together to understand how well the YOT and partners are supporting young people in the criminal justice system with SEND.

Somerset was lucky enough to be involved with this. Over a 12 month period the YOT and its partners worked to improve general understanding of SEND, supporting young people and improving communication links between agencies.

The Somerset Area Partnership has been recognised for its commitment to 'securing better outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs in the youth justice system' and was awarded a Quality Mark.

And the best bit? Somerset is **one of only 22 YOT areas** to gain such an award.

Pictured: Mike Stevens - Operations Manager at SCC, Sonia Blandford - CEO of Achievement for All, Lesley Tregear - Chair of the Association of YOT Managers



Short Breaks update

If you're a parent carer or young person you should have received the Short Breaks [Calendar](#) and [Newsletter](#) which details all sorts of activities available in your area during the summer.

The Calendar is easy to read with dates at the top and activities below. There are symbols and a key so the content is accessible to everybody.

All the activity providers have experience of working with children and young people with SEND and their families.

For more information on the Children with Disabilities service click [here](#) and for a video telling you about the calendar click [here](#).

Massive Congratulations to Brookside Academy!

Congratulations to Brookside Academy in Street.

It's landed the title of Alternative Provision School of the Year in the prestigious 2018 TES awards for its SEND provision. It offers year-round wrap-around and short break care for children with complex and profound additional needs.

If that's not enough it won in another category too: the Community and Collaboration Award. This is for opening its fantastic facilities and expertise to the local community.



You can read all about it [here](#).

