

SEND Weekly Newsletter 19 September 2018



Issue 9

Somerset Local Offer - have you seen it?



Following its relaunch earlier in the year it's time for an autumn term update on Somerset Choices, Somerset's Local Offer for Children, Young People and their Families with SEND.

What is the Local Offer?

The [Local Offer](#) is a statutory requirement and relates to the [SEND Code of Practice](#). It is a way to make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations.

Since the launch we have started an events tab which can be found at the top of the front page.

Our aim is to publicise and raise awareness of the variety of clubs, activities and events taking place across the county. If you or an organisation you know would like to publicise on a public forum free of charge then please contact us with details of your event at localoffer@somerset.gov.uk.

And if there is a group you feel should be registered on Somerset Choices to help raise its profile please encourage them to contact us. Our aim is to promote the range of services and providers in Somerset.

Since the launch of the new site we have experienced a good use of Somerset Choices with between 1000 – 1200 visits per week. There has been a steady rise as well in the amount of new users to the site now standing at 76%.

This is good news and means word is getting out to the people who can benefit from the site.

Questions about Health?

Are you a parent carer with a lot of questions about **your child's health** that need answering?

The [Parent Carer Forum website](#) has all sorts of helpful pointers for experienced and new parents of children and young people with SEND; from choosing and building an effective relationship with your GP to hearing support, A&E trips and continence issues.

There's plenty of **essential information** in the [health section](#), as well as help on dealing with your child's [diagnosis](#).



CAMHS Transitions Pathway development

We continue to develop the Transitions pathway for children and young people with mental health needs.

Our most recent development has been the addition of an Adult

Learning Disability Nurse in each of our monthly Local Area Transitions Meetings. They are known as the Community Adult Learning Disability Transition Links.

At the meeting, the CAMHS team identify young people as they become 17 years and 6 months old, who may be considered to have a Learning Disability, and for whom CAMHS are treating their mental health.



The Transitions Links then gather more information and arrange to send out a “welcome to our service pack”.

The Community Adult Learning Disability Team will undertake an eligibility screening assessment.

From there, specialist advice may be given regarding other appropriate services, or they may access specialist multi-disciplinary assessments, advice, support and interventions to empower people with learning disabilities to manage their own health in the most effective way. For further information please visit <http://intranet.sompar.nhs.uk/operational-services/learning-disability-service/>

Inclusion Audit training

There are still training sessions available on the new Somerset Inclusion Audit tool.

It has been developed to support Headteachers, Governors and SENCOS to evidence how your school is meeting statutory duties for children and young people with SEND.

There are places on the following dates:

- Thursday 27 September, Long Sutton Golf Club, Long Sutton.
- Thursday 27 September, The Canalside Centre, Marsh Lane, Bridgwater.

For full details and how to book [visit SSE](#).

Peer Support Groups

SCC's SEND Engagement and Participation Team recently visited the Yeovil peer support group - a brand new group for adults to talk about what could be better in Yeovil. They heard from a mix of young people and adults about their concerns, including not being able to use bus passes at times they needed to.

The group also wanted to learn about road safety so they've been put in touch with the Transport team at County Hall. Peer support groups are a chance for everyone to have a voice.

There are also groups in Frome and Bridgwater - [contact Alex Roland](#) for more information on any of the groups.

