

# Spreading The word



## Welcome...

Welcome to the July edition of the Local Offer Newsletter.

Choosing the right school is an important task for any parent or carer and their child, especially where a child has special needs. The Local Offer website contains information about every school in Leicestershire and so can be an important starting point.

Most children with SEN or a disability are successfully educated in mainstream schools through 'SEN Support' with support provided and funded by the school, without the need for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). There are over 9,000 children on SEN Support Plans in Leicestershire, compared to 3,700 with an EHC Plan.

During the past year there has been a big focus nationally on the SEND Reforms and the conversion of Statements to Education, Health and Care Plans. In Leicestershire we have achieved this.

## The Local Offer

Our 'local offer' brings together details about local health, education and social care services in one place for children and young people aged 0-25.

The 'one-stop-shop' is a useful online resource for children, young people, parents, professionals and people who provide services.

You can also use the site to tell us about your experiences of services and facilities, register a service or suggest one to be added.

The 'local offer' was launched following national reform, ours can be found at

➔ [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer)



At the same time, 98% of new EHCP assessments are produced within the new 20 week timescale.

But we have much more to do. In keeping with our SEN and Disability Strategy (developed with support from the Parent Carer Forum), we want to:

- improve how well we work with parents and children.
- improve how well agencies work together.
- make sure that we get 'transitions' right, in particular the move from secondary school to further education.
- make sure that there is a choice of high quality provision, whether in mainstream school, specialist unit or special school.

Our focus for the next 12 months will be on improving quality. Quality of communication. Quality of plans. Quality of support. Quality of transition.

It is very important that all services work effectively with parents and carers, children and schools to achieve better outcomes. I would be interested in your views about how this can be achieved.

Tom

**Tom Common**, Head of SEN and Disability

➔ [tom.common@leics.gov.uk](mailto:tom.common@leics.gov.uk)



Look out for the clickable links to resources, email addresses and useful websites that feature throughout this newsletter.



Join our Leicestershire Local Offer on Facebook, visit our page and like us to receive regular updates.

Visit the Local Offer at

➔ [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer)

➔ [leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk)

## Inside this issue

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# Leicestershire Portage Service

The Leicestershire Portage Service is a home visiting service for babies and very young children who have special educational needs. It is based on the common sense principle that parents are the key figures in the care and development of their child.

The three underlying principles of portage are:  
**Family focus, structured teaching and child led play.**

The four main activities of the Portage Service:



## Part of the Early Years SEN Inclusion Service

Each tailored programme emphasises the positive – finding out and building on what a child can do. Activities are then designed to boost the child's development in those areas where help is needed, from very early motor skills to the more complex task of using language.

## Who is Portage for?

The Leicestershire Portage Service is appropriate for children from birth to 3 years, living in the county, who have significant learning difficulties and are not at playgroup or nursery for more than 2½ days a week. Anybody can refer, though most often referrals come from hospital staff or a Public Health nurse. For more information please contact the specialist teaching service on 0116 305 9400.


Further information on Portage can be found from the National Portage Association ➔ [www.portage.org.uk](http://www.portage.org.uk)

# Healthy Child Programme



Healthy Together is the name for the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme services (largely health visiting and school nursing services) which is commissioned by Leicestershire County Council's Public Health team and is provided by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT). For young People with SEN and/or disability this support is extended to the age of 25 years.

Support is provided by Public Health Nurses, Healthy Child Programme Nurses, Healthy Child Programme Practitioners and Healthy Child Programme Support Workers.

The  **Healthy Together Pathway** aims to display how, when and where support can be accessed.

## My child is at school how can we access the Healthy Child Programme?

All schools (including Special Schools) have a named public health nurse (school nurse)

### Primary Schools

Pupils at mainstream primary schools get a monthly drop-in clinic at the school which can be accessed by both parents and carers and by school staff. Time limited packages of care for individual children and their families will be offered where health needs are identified. Referrals can be made for concerns such as emotional health and wellbeing, behaviour, continence and minor health issues.

### Secondary Schools

Students at mainstream secondary schools are offered a weekly drop-in clinic with a public health nurse or healthy child programme nurse, and school staff can contact their public health nurse or healthy child programme support worker at any time.

From September 2018, confidential digital health and wellbeing questionnaires for pupils in years 7, 9 and 11 will be offered to all schools. It is anticipated that questionnaires will be completed in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons. Information gained through questionnaires will be used to create reports for schools on the health and wellbeing of their school population. Young people, whose responses to the questionnaire require follow up, will be contacted by the public health nurse through the school.

### Special Schools

Young people of senior school age in special schools are offered the option of a weekly drop-in clinic with a public health nurse, where the school deem it to be appropriate, and all special schools have the option of monthly drop-in sessions for parents. School staff can speak to their named public health nurse to make a referral in relation to health and wellbeing concerns such as self-harm, smoking, nutrition, diet and minor illnesses.

Healthy Together are working closely with special school representatives, parents and young people to develop confidential health and wellbeing assessments for special school senior pupils.

### For more information

Health For Under 5s  [healthforunder5s.co.uk/](http://healthforunder5s.co.uk/)

Health For Kids  [www.healthforkids.co.uk/](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk/)

Health For Teens  [www.healthforteens.co.uk/](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk/)



### Young people

Young people can text a public health nurse to access confidential public health advice via a secure messaging service, ChatHealth.

In Leicestershire and Rutland young people should text **07520 615387**

### Parents and carers

The ChatHealth service is also available for parents and carers if they have concerns about their child's health, and would like to contact a health professional.

In Leicestershire and Rutland text **07520 615382**

**Please note:** ChatHealth operates Monday-Friday from 9am until 5pm, and during this period messages are responded to within 24 hours. Outside these times, users receive a 'bounce back' text message indicating that they will receive a response when the line re-opens.

# Updated guidance for Education Health Care (EHC) needs assessment

The Local Authority are trying to make it easier for parents/carers and professionals to understand what support may be available for children with SEN within schools and at what point to consider requesting an Education, Health and Care needs assessment.

From April 2018 updated guidance for Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment is being trialled by schools and the SEN Assessment Service (SENA). The new guidance has been designed with input from SEN Co-ordinators (SENCO) in schools and draws from best examples nationally. It replaces previous guidance that had become outdated as it did not reflect current practice in schools. The purpose is to make it easier for parents/carers, schools and other professionals to understand what strategies may help in meeting a child's needs at the SEN Support stage and what evidence schools/education providers need to submit when making a request for assessment.

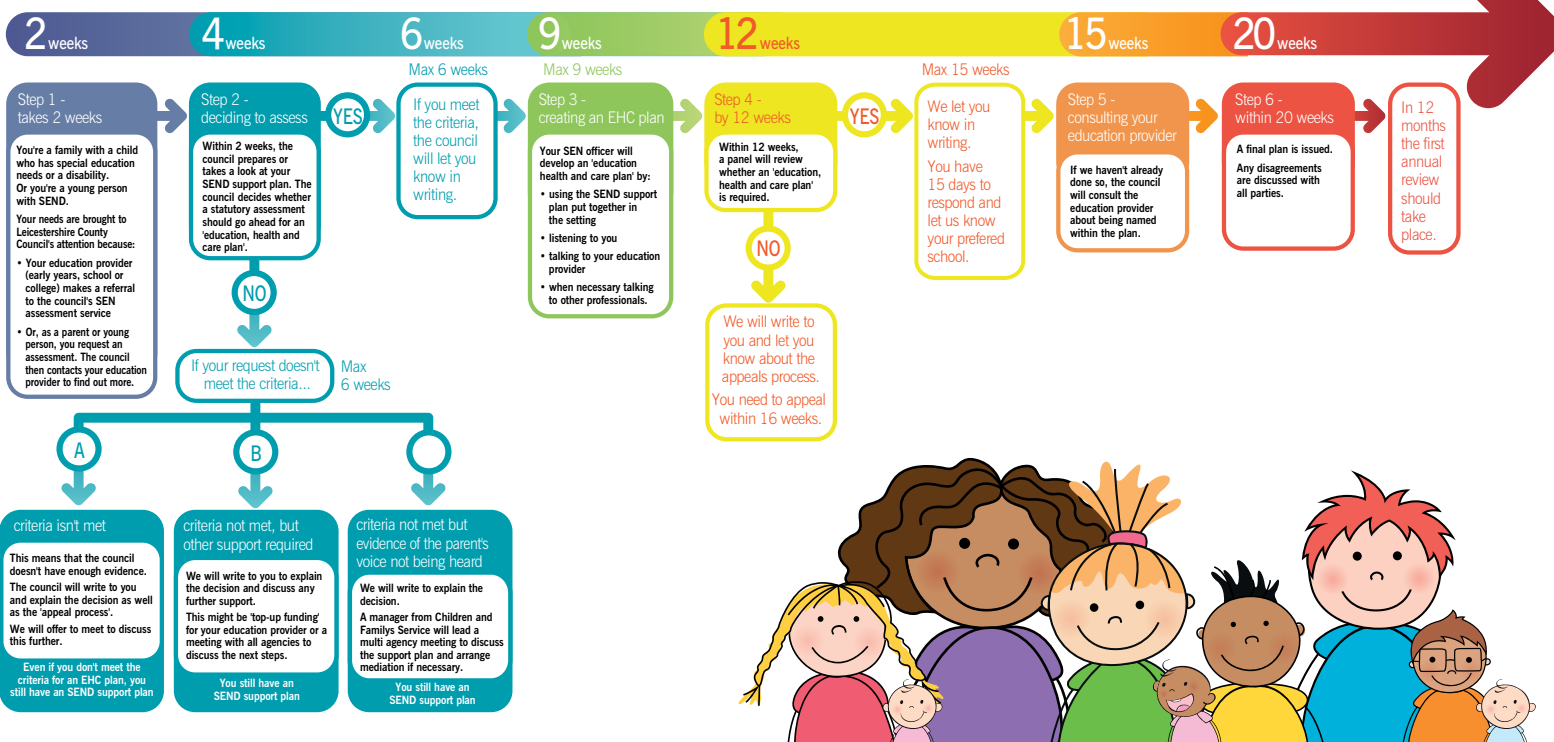
The new guidance has been designed so as not to affect the number of children who receive an EHC needs assessment as it continues to reflect the national SEND Code of Practice.

It will be reviewed in October 2018 to take into account feedback from schools and elsewhere. A report will then go to the SEN and Disability Board, which includes a representative from the Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum (PCF).

SEN Officers are now considering all requests for EHC needs assessments against the **updated guidance**, taking account of the information provided by schools, families and other agencies that have been involved with a child/young person.

If you have any feedback on the new guidance, or if you wish to tell us how we can improve the EHC needs assessment, based on your experience, please email [leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk) with the subject EHC needs assessment. We continue to work with Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum to make further improvements in the future.

## EHC plan assessment pathway





Amy found out her daughter Lily-an had Downs Syndrome after giving birth and there were complications with Lily-an's heart. She tells Karen Hall, Family Voice Worker about her great experience of maternity leave and the groups and lifelong friends she met on the way.



# Downs Syndrome: our journey with a wonderful new baby, community, friendships and support

**Karen:** So tell me a bit about your story.

**Amy:** We didn't find out Lily-an had Downs Syndrome until she was 2 days old. The hospital confirmed it with the blood tests, but we knew instantly. At the time all efforts were concentrated towards fixing her heart. We were home 2 weeks after Lily-an was born and my aqua-natal swimming instructor put me in touch with a friend of hers who experienced the same. She is now one of my closest friends and confidants! We have a real network of parents now - a wonderful, wonderful group filled with support, love and happiness and great friendships.

**Karen:** What types of groups did you and Lily-an attend?

**Amy:** During my maternity leave we did many mainstream and inclusive groups - baby yoga, massage, sensory, buggy fit and Puddleducks. We attended 'Speak up' at New Parks - specific for pre-schoolers with Down Syndrome - and also Steps in Shepshed, a conductive education centre.

Lily-an also attends a mainstream dance academy who are wonderful. We don't expect her to be the next top ballerina but the fact she has fun and it's inclusive is fabulous

There is so much out there. The local offer is great for SEN support but there are mainstream groups that will accept a child with SEN. Don't be put off picking up the phone and asking!

**Karen:** What was good about those groups?

**Amy:** Lily-an's swimming instructor picked up some Makaton signs and now wants to go on a course to extend their understanding. We were willing to create a joined up approach, for example we were in the pool with her swimming instructor to support through Makaton and visualisation and now celebrate her achievements or watch from afar, which has built her independence.

With a can do, will do, want to attitude we have accessed all the groups we wanted to

**Karen:** Have you faced any challenges?

**Amy:** Lily-an's taught me so much - patience, sign language, how to be less judgemental, understanding that there can be underlying situations all around us, removing the blinkers and opening up my mind to a diverse world. It's not all a bed of roses but we just find our common ground and what works, by slowing things down and getting onto Lily-an's level.

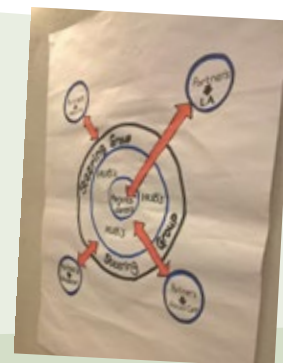
**Karen:** What advice would you give to other parents?

**Amy:** Don't worry about tomorrow, enjoy everything today. Celebrate and appreciate the small achievements because they are massive. Just fill their lives with love and happiness because it comes back in bucket loads.





2018 continues to be an exciting year for the Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum. We held our first AGM at the end of March and have elected various officers and steering group members.



Continuing work with the Local Authority and the Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group (Health Services) and their partners, we are being consulted on services for disabled children and having an input into how these services are shaped and delivered locally.

By providing insight into the experience of service users, we influence improvements to the services. In the past few months we have continued to be involved in consultations in the changes to Mainstream and SEND post-16 transport provision, EHCP pathways and Short Breaks. We have also joined a workshop identifying solutions to social care challenges and regularly attend the SEND Strategy Board, which is a partnership meeting made up of representatives from a wide range of organisations and services. We also attend Local Offer meetings and feel we are making a difference and being listened to.

However we are always looking to increase our membership in order to widen our activities and input.

In order to represent the views of Leicestershire parent carers better we have Hubs taking place over most of Leicestershire. Any parent or carer who lives in, or uses, services in Leicestershire is welcome to attend any of our Hubs. At the Hubs we listen to what you think is important regarding your local services and ask your opinions on services we are working to improve. By harvesting your voice we can represent you better. Find out more about the forum, become a member, or talk to us about services you are receiving - contact us on [leicestershirepcf@gmail.com](mailto:leicestershirepcf@gmail.com)



@Leicspcf



Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum



## 2018 Forum Dates

### Hinckley & Bosworth

Newbold Verdon School  
Community Lounge, Dragon Ln,  
Newbold Verdon, LE9 9NG  
(Hosted by Lucy & Mandy)

No meetings in July or August

September & October dates  
to be confirmed.

A monthly meeting on a Tuesday or  
Thursday morning 9:30-11.30am

For further information or dates  
contact Lucy 07515 390316  
or Mandy 07539877181

### North West Leics

Agar Nook Community Centre  
Belgrave Close, Agar Nook,  
Coalville, LE67 4TN  
(Hosted by Helen & Leann)

Monday 9th July, 10-11am

No meetings in August

Mon 10th September, 10-11am

Mon 8th October, 10-11am

### Charnwood

Tesco Shelthorpe Community Room,  
Park Rd, Loughborough LE11 2EX  
(working with Hope parent support)

Thurs 5th July 9.30 - 11.30am

No August Meeting

Thurs 6th September, 9.30 - 11.30am

Thurs 4th October, 9.30 - 11.30am

For more information contact

Anna (LPCF) on 07976872444

or Mandy Gamble (SLF) on  
07961 096971

### Melton

Coming Soon

### Oadby & Wigston

Coming Soon

### Harborough

Coming Soon

### 360 Play

Meridian Leisure Park,  
Lubberthorpe Way, LE19 1JZ  
(Hosted by Katie & Diane)

Please note that this session will  
only be available to  
customers of the 360 Play  
SEN session of which  
there is a charge.

Fri 6th July, 7.15-7.45pm

Fri 3rd August, 7.15-7.45pm

Fri 7th September, 7.15-7.45pm

Fri 5th October, 7.15-7.45pm

### Blaby

Brockington College, Blaby Rd,  
Enderby, LE19 4AQ  
(Hosted by Sue & Jackie)

Wed 19th September, 7-9pm

Wed 10th October, 7-9pm

Wed 21st November, 7-9pm

For more information please email: [leicestershirepcf@gmail.com](mailto:leicestershirepcf@gmail.com)

# The Family Information Directory



Our Family Information Directory (FID) provides information on many useful organisations and activities where you live such as:

- Childcare, including day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and out of school clubs
- Children's Centres
- Children's and young people's activities including inclusive sports, youth groups, leisure groups and activities
- Support groups
- Providers offering advice and guidance
- Disability and special educational needs groups (local offer)
- Schools across Leicestershire including those in the City
- Support services across education, health and care including counselling and private tuition

Our Family Information Service (FIS) aims to provide information advice and guidance to all families and families to be, including those who have children or young people with special educational needs or disability.

Please visit ➡ [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/fid](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/fid)

Call our family Information service on 0116 305 6545, or Email: ➡ [family@leics.gov.uk](mailto:family@leics.gov.uk)

Remember, if you are a service provider or you know of a great service that should be included within our directory email ➡ [leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk) subject 'Service Directory'

## Have your say!

### *Get involved in shaping Leicestershire Partnership Trust (NHS) services*

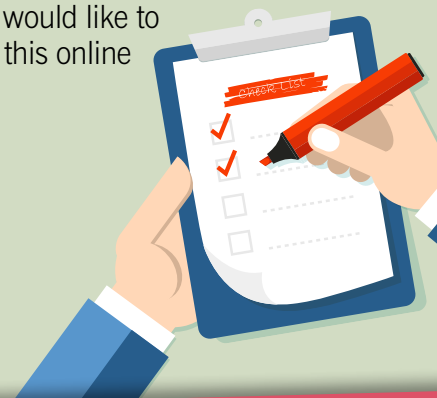
In partnership with Leicestershire Partnership Trust, SENDIASS Leicester and Healthy Together are seeking to gather your views, experience and feedback on the Public Health Nurse Services (Health Visitors and School Nurses).

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disability and you have spoken to your health visitor or school nurse in the past 3 years – we would like to hear your views and experiences. Help us to make a positive change by completing this online survey: ➡ [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SENDviews](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SENDviews)

The survey is open to families living or accessing services in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

For further information or to get involved in shaping services please contact:

➡ [healthytogether@sendiassleicester.org.uk](mailto:healthytogether@sendiassleicester.org.uk)



WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. Which services do you use? How do you feel about the support? What would you like to see in future newsletters? Contact Alison ➡ [alison.barnes@leics.gov.uk](mailto:alison.barnes@leics.gov.uk) or ➡ [leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk)







Messy Senses is a family run business that is passionate about learning through play and giving preference to the process of exploration rather than focussing on an end product.

Sensory exploration helps to stimulate all aspects of brain development. It is about allowing children to take what they want from the activity rather than being adult led, keeping it personal to each individual, regardless of their age and ability. Our aspiration is to open up pathways to new experiences through senses exploration, within a safe and secure environment.

Messy play makes an enormous contribution to overall child development from birth by encouraging fun through sensory exploration. Here at Messy Senses, we provide learning through play within a safe and friendly environment, whilst promoting diversity and inclusion in everything we do. All of our messy play activities are linked directly to the national curriculum and support development of all five senses of the human body. We offer term time sessions, tailor-made birthday parties, private hire events and sessions within various educational settings.

All of our staff are DBS cleared and trained in first aid, Makaton sign language, food hygiene, early years foundation stage (EYFS) and safeguarding.

### Try it at home

Why not try this relatively cheap activity. Find a large tray, open up two cans of beans and allow your children to play with some household pots and pans. This will keep them entertained for ages.



*Louise*

For more information, please contact **Louise**, Tel: 07725582071 Email: [louise@messy-senses.co.uk](mailto:louise@messy-senses.co.uk)

Website: [www.messy-senses.co.uk](http://www.messy-senses.co.uk) [@messysenses](https://www.facebook.com/messysenses)

## Spiritatplay

*Birchaven Equine Assisted Learning Centre*

Spiritatplay is situated in the beautiful south east Leicestershire countryside at Illston on the Hill. We aim to support people of all ages with a range of whole life conditions or needs, by using the interaction with five rescue horses kept in a beautiful 10 acre field.

Our horses are all taught to interact without any restraints on them at all; this brings a feeling of acceptance, trust and helps to build relationship. Being kept in a herd situation, enables our service users to learn a lot from the way horses interact with each other and consider the way they react to the family situation, helping to form strong bonds.



We feel that many people can benefit from our experience and the work we do with children with Autism, Downs Syndrome, and many other issues that affect their everyday life. We recognise the stress that naturally occurs coping with the issues – whether parent, carer or sibling. Also that everyone needs time, space and relaxation in a place that allows a sense of freedom and safety, to be a family where there are no judgements.

We encourage users to do tasks to look after the horses such as brushing, and do exercises with the horse. These activities help to build confidence, self-esteem, decision making, and tolerance.

They are taught body language and energy levels which make it easier for the horse to understand. This results in a big improvement in communication.

Spiritatplay also work with young people struggling to cope in school. Being able to provide a more open learning environment is helpful to both school staff and students, where we work to improve all the social skills needed to become an understanding and valuable part of the community. Many of the young people who have joined us have moved from not achieving at school, to successfully going on to college or employment opportunities.

*Judith*

For more information please call **Judith 07904 053 899** or email [spiritatliberty@aol.com](mailto:spiritatliberty@aol.com)

You can also find us on facebook [facebook.com/SpiritAtPlayBirchavenEquineAssistedLearningCentre/](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritAtPlayBirchavenEquineAssistedLearningCentre/)



# TENNIS IS FOR EVERYONE



Tennis can be adapted for all abilities - courts can be made smaller, rackets larger, and balls which make a noise when they bounce! Inclusive tennis opportunities are available right across Leicestershire.

## Desford Lawn Tennis Club

Desford offer a range of activities for all abilities including participants with hearing and visual impairment, learning disabilities, autism, and those affected by cancer. A volunteer coach with a disability supports sessions encouraging participants and acting as a role model.

The Club was recently presented with the "Disability Project of the Year Award" at the Tennis Leicestershire Awards 2018 and now moves forward to the Midlands awards. Email: ➡ [desfordtennis@gmail.com](mailto:desfordtennis@gmail.com)



## STOP PRESS \* STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS

Huge congratulations to Desford Tennis Club who have been recognised at a British Lawn Tennis Awards ceremony at Wimbledon as their Disability Programme of the Year!

## Loughborough Lawn Tennis Club

Inside Out Tennis are the coaching team at LLTC and manage the Tennis Foundation Disability Network for the East Midlands. The club is fully inclusive, welcoming participants with disabilities of any age and ability. They have junior and adult wheelchair squads who compete in tournaments all over the country and offer well-being tennis sessions for anybody affected by cancer or a life long illness. The club aims for as many people as possible to participate and enjoy the sport.

Learning Disability Pay & Play session all ages Tuesday 10-11am

Contact: **Dawn Upton**

Mobile No: **07930 149501** Email: ➡ [upton68@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:upton68@hotmail.co.uk)



## Loughborough Leisure Centre Pay and Play Tennis & Multi-sports

Contact **Nick Evatt**

Tel: **01509 611080** Email: ➡ [Nick.Evatt@fusion-lifestyle.com](mailto:Nick.Evatt@fusion-lifestyle.com)

## Market Harborough Tennis Club

The Club are new to disabled coaching, but run successful sessions for students with learning disabilities from a local school. Coach Gordon Amos adapts all coaching sessions for all abilities. They hope that disabled coaching will become a regular feature.



Contact: **Gordon Amos** Tel: 07801929 844 / 01858 432192

Email: ➡ [lesley.paris@ntlworld.com](mailto:lesley.paris@ntlworld.com)

Free coaching and other sessions are available for children and adults with a physical, sensory or learning disability and their families at clubs around the county. Visit ➡ [www.brightideasfortennis.org/iplay30.php](http://www.brightideasfortennis.org/iplay30.php) for full details.

For information about further tennis opportunities across Leicestershire visit ➡ [www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisLeicestershire](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisLeicestershire)

## Abbie's Story

On the first day of Wheelchair Tennis British Open 2015, I proudly started my first day as ball crew. Whilst there, I was approached by the England wheelchair engagement officer Tony Knappett. He saw I had enthusiasm for the game and asked me if I would like to have a go at wheelchair tennis.

I attended a 'come and try it' day, absolutely loved it, and could not wait to get on court again. I was asked if I would like to train, which of course I said yes, and it was the best decision of my life.

For once I felt that I fit in, that no one made comments about my splints, or made fun and I felt completely at home. Everyone is so friendly and supportive and it has changed my life completely. I have a lot more confidence and self believe that I can achieve in life. No matter your disabilities just have a go, as it could change your life like it has mine.



## TENNIS FOR KIDS

### Tennis Starter Course Offer!

For just £25, every child aged 4-11 years will receive 6 high quality lessons, a special tennis for kids Babolat racket, ball set, and personalised T-shirt.

Register at:

➡ [clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids)

Jacob Barratt is 21 years old and had a diagnosis of ADHD in 2009 and Autism in 2014. He talks about the challenges he has faced through school, college and into a working environment and offers an insight into his thoughts for the future.

# Meet Jacob

"I was known as a 'bright kid' and went through to year 4 with hardly any issue. It was when I was transferred to another school and in my secondary school when things became bad for me. I don't deal well with changes, and I didn't seem to fit in. I remember being bullied nearly every day. It wasn't just unkind words from my peers, I felt I was written off by one of my teachers who suggested I would never amount to anything or pass my exams. I was happy to prove them wrong on exam results day in 2012!

This spurred me on to prove to everyone that I could make a change. At this time my mum was volunteering at ADHD Solutions, for the first time in years I was happy and joined in with lots of the activities and family trips they organised. That summer other young people, volunteers and I completely revamped the ADHD Solutions building. I really enjoyed the community spirit, being involved – everyone had a job to do from painting and decorating recycling materials to dumping items that couldn't be used into 2 massive skips!

I was also involved with the air training corps for 6 years until I had to leave at the age of 20. I gained a whole lot of experience and even got certificates in Fire Safety and First Aid – which enabled me to help train some of the young members.

Apart from playing on my Xbox, I really enjoy taking photos and would love to do something with this in my future. I passed an Introduction to Photography with Distinction and this helped me to enrol on media courses as well as getting some work experiences.

Enrolling at Loughborough College has been a really positive experience for me. My job coach Amanda has taken time to get to know me, understand my strengths and weaknesses and put a plan in place for me. "I have been on a Supported Internship at Loughborough College since September 2017.

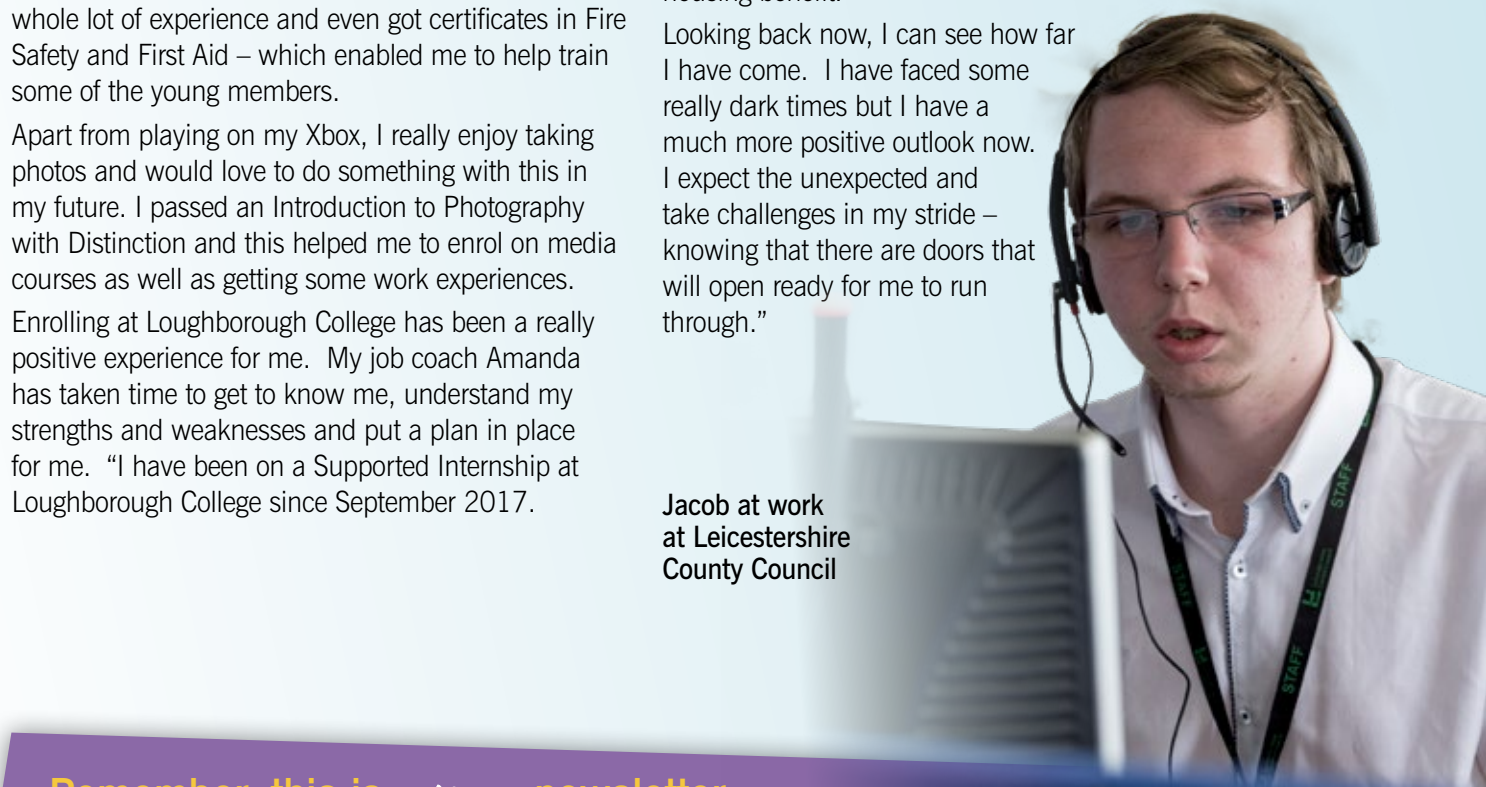
For the first 6 weeks I attended the College full time (Monday – Friday). Three days are focussed on functional skills (Math and English), with the other two days looking at work skills such as interview techniques, writing applications and work place etiquette etc."

**Jacob has been working in Leicestershire County Council's Learning & Development Team since October 2017. He is currently juggling work with revising for his exams.**

"I like my placement here at County Hall, even though I have to take a couple of bus rides to get to work – I also had a placement with Leicestershire County Councils "Get Set" project in the communications team at County Hall in 2015. Whilst I come into work for two days a week each day is very different and I have gained so many skills. Whether I am compiling course evaluations, writing web documents or helping to advertise events by placing flyers on the noticeboards, I am happy to do each task with pride. I am hoping to move into an assisted living flat soon – all that is standing in my way is my application for housing benefit.

Looking back now, I can see how far I have come. I have faced some really dark times but I have a much more positive outlook now. I expect the unexpected and take challenges in my stride – knowing that there are doors that will open ready for me to run through."

Jacob at work at Leicestershire County Council



Remember, this is *your* newsletter...

If you would like to submit an article, or you have a suggestion for an article, please email [leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk)



# EHCP Information Sessions

*you said*  
**we did!**

In response to feedback from parent carers, the Special Educational Needs Department (SENA) have been holding their first round of information sessions for parent carers of children with Special Educational Needs.

The sessions give an overview of the SENA Service, Education Health and Care Plans, Annual Reviews and Top-up funding and they also offer the opportunity for lots of group and individual discussion. So far, we have had approximately 50 parent carers attending the sessions which have been held in various areas of the county. Our evening session particularly was a great success!

Feedback from the sessions has been really positive, parents said how useful it was to have their questions answered and also how valuable it is to gain support from other parents. There are further sessions planned for the autumn term around Leicestershire, please see the dates for your diary below – **booking is recommended**.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2018

### Local Offer Roadshow

Date	Locality	Venue	Time
12 September	Oadby & Wigston	Brockhill Visitor Centre, Washbrook Lane, Oadby LE2 5JJ	9:30 – 11:30 am
9 November	Blaby	Leicester Forest East Parish Hall, 1 Kings Drive, Leicester LE3 3JD	9:30 – 11:30 am

### Dyslexia Awareness Week 1st – 7th October 2018

In support of dyslexia awareness week we will be holding a dyslexia awareness support session

2nd October	Central	Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Leicestershire LE3 8RA	4pm – 7pm
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For more information about the Local Offer Roadshows or Dyslexia Awareness session please contact [leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk)

### EHCP Plan Information Sessions

**BOOKING RECOMMENDED**

Date	Locality	Venue	Time
26 September	North West Leicestershire	Supporting Leicestershire Families Centre, Waterworks Road, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4HZ	9:30-11:30am
1 November	Central	Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Sparkenhoe Committee Room, Leicestershire LE3 8RA (Please note: due to out of hours access to County Hall please ensure prompt arrival)	6pm – 8pm
29 November	Oadby & Wigston	South Wigston Children's Centre, Bobbin Factory, Blaby Road, South Wigston, LE18 4PH	9:30-11:30am

For booking information please contact [Kelly.alexander@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.alexander@leics.gov.uk).

### Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum - Hub Dates

Dates	Locality	Venue	Time
<b>Monday</b> 10 September, 8 October	North West Leicestershire	Agar Nook Community Centre, Belgrave Close, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4TN	10 – 11am
<b>Thursday</b> From September, monthly meeting on Tuesday or Thursday morning dates TBC	Hinckley & Bosworth	Newbold Verdon School Community Lounge, Dragon Lane, Newbold Verdon Leicestershire LE9 9NG	9:30 – 11:30am
<b>Wednesday</b> 19 September, 10 October, 21 November	Blaby	Brockington Community College, Blaby Road, Enderby, Leicestershire LE19 4AQ	7 – 9pm
<b>Friday</b> 3 August, 7 September, 5 October	Central – 360 Play*	360 Play, Meridian Leisure Park, Lubbethorpe Way, Leicestershire LE19 1JZ  *Please note that this session will only be available to customers of the 360 Play SEN Session of which there is a charge	7:15 – 7:45pm

For more information about Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum Hubs please email [leicestershirepcf@gmail.com](mailto:leicestershirepcf@gmail.com)

## Looking for summer activities?

Our **Family Information Directory** has now got details of many inclusive playschemes  
[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-providers](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-providers) Filter “Holiday Club or Playscheme”

You can also check out the district council pages on their website - see last page.



# Useful contacts

## Local Offer

Email: [leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk)

Web: [leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer](http://leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer)

## Leicestershire Family Information Service

Phone: 0116 305 6545

Email: [family@leics.gov.uk](mailto:family@leics.gov.uk)

## Leicestershire First Response

### Children's Duty Team

Phone: 0116 305 0005

(24 hour phone line)

Email: [childrensduty@leics.gov.uk](mailto:childrensduty@leics.gov.uk)

## SENDIASS

Phone: 0116 305 5614

(Monday to Thursday 9am to 4.30pm,

Friday 9am to 4pm)

Email: [sendiass@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@leics.gov.uk)

## SEN Assessment Service (SENA)

(SENA oversee Education Health and Care Plans)

Phone: 0116 305 6600

Email: [senaservice@leics.gov.uk](mailto:senaservice@leics.gov.uk)

## Specialist Teaching Service

Phone: 0116 305 9400

Email: [STS@leics.gov.uk](mailto:STS@leics.gov.uk)

## Early Help

Phone: 0116 305 8727

Email: [earlyhelp@leics.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@leics.gov.uk)

## Leicestershire County Council

County Hall, Glenfield

Leicestershire LE3 8RA

Phone: 0116 232 3232 (reception and switchboard)

Monday - Thursday: 8am - 5pm

Friday: 8am - 4.30pm

## Leicestershire District and Borough Councils

### Blaby District Council

[www.blaby.gov.uk](http://www.blaby.gov.uk)

Phone: 0116 275 0555

### Charnwood Borough Council

[www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk)

Phone: 01509 263151

### Harborough District Council

[www.harborough.gov.uk](http://www.harborough.gov.uk)

Phone: 01858 828282

### Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

[www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk)

Phone: 01455 238141

### Melton Borough Council

[www.melton.gov.uk](http://www.melton.gov.uk)

Phone: 01664 502502

### North West Leicestershire

[www.nwleics.gov.uk](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk)

Phone: 01530 454545

### Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

[www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

Phone: 0116 288 8961

## Remember to sign up!

To receive future editions of this newsletter straight to your inbox, please email [leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk)

'Spreading the Word' is now produced each term to view online and is emailed to those who have signed up. You can read it online at [Leicestershire Local Offer](http://Leicestershire Local Offer) and on our [!\[\]\(8b35c44cc99cfbe0aec5d7e9f22c53d8\_img.jpg\) Facebook page](#)

### Disclaimer

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As a parent/carer you should ensure that any activity group or service is not only safe but right for your child.