

Bringing the local offer in Leicestershire to life

SEND NEWS

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New SEND
schools
open
their
doors

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Produced by



Leicestershire
County Council

A warm welcome to the fourth edition of SEND News

Words by:

Paula Sumner

Assistant Director,
Education and SEND,
Leicestershire County Council



▶ The last few months have brought new challenges for many of us especially for our children and young people. We are now well into the first term, back to schools and into routine...

This issue shares some exciting updates of new projects we have been working on including the opening of new provision and specialist units, the launch of the new look inclusion webpages and a

new SEND Support handbook.

The current climate means adapting some of our services so that they can continue to promote support for parents, carers and young people. Our new look roadshows are going virtual through our very popular Local Offer Facebook page, giving you the opportunity to ask questions and hear first-hand from some of our specialist teams.

Since September, our Local Offer website has been ranked the best in the UK for accessibility! The Silktime review compares the accessibility of all 148 local offer websites, with ours being the only one to receive 99%. We aim to maintain a high ranking and work hard with our digital colleagues to constantly improve our offer. ■

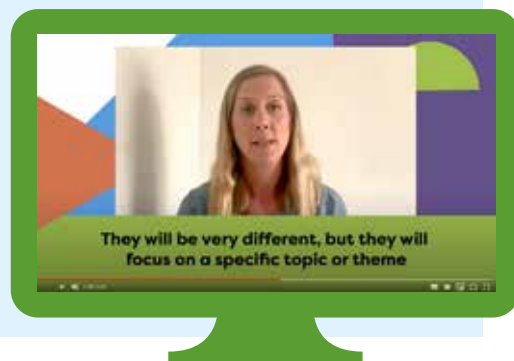
Local Offer Roadshow's go virtual

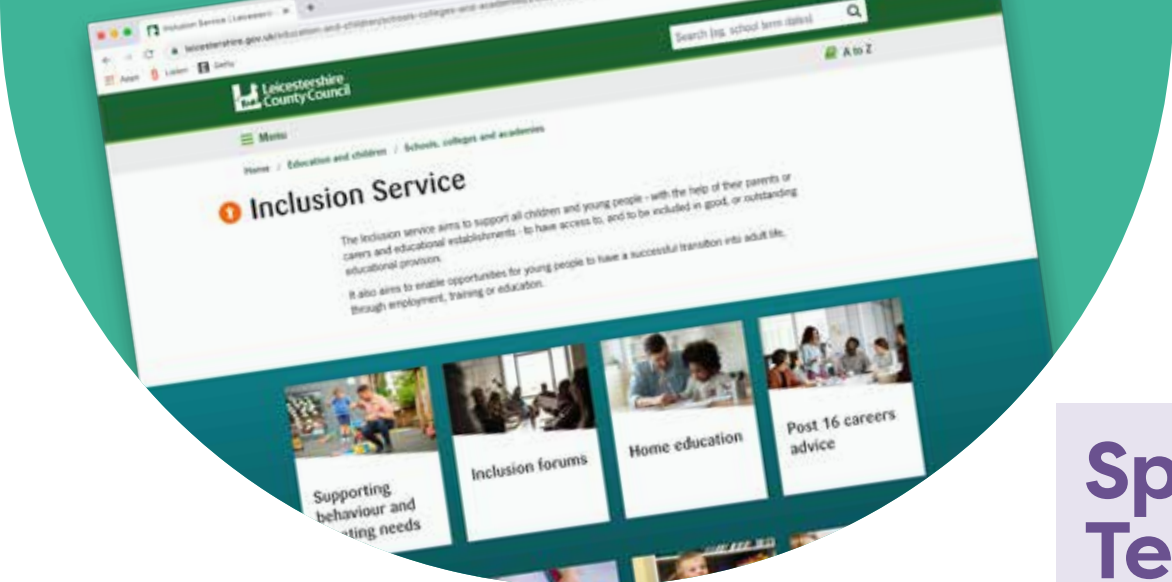
▶ Understandably, the planned events for the Local Offer Roadshow were cancelled this year in light of Covid - 19. We are excited to launch our Local Offer Roadshows with a difference! We know from what families tell us that one of the great things about the Roadshows is being able to ask questions directly to services and walk away with immediate answers and support. This Autumn

we will be hosting themed Virtual Q&A sessions where families will have the opportunity to submit questions which will be answered by a practitioner in a short video. Our first Q&A session will be answered by members of our Special Educational Needs and Assessment service (SENA) with a focus on SEND Support in schools.

For more information on how to be involved please email

Leicestershirelocaloffer
@leics.gov.uk or visit our website or Facebook page. ■





Launch of new look inclusion service webpages

The inclusion service has relaunched their offering with a brand-new website.

▶ The Inclusion service aims to support all children and young people - with the help of their parents or carers and educational establishments - to have access to, and to be included in good, or outstanding educational provision.

It also aims to enable opportunities for young people to have a successful transition into adult life, through employment, training or education.

Colleagues within the Inclusion Team and Digital Services have been working to bring all information together from many different sources to make the process more seamless for anyone coming to the council website for information.

You can view the new inclusion webpages on the council **website.** ■

Specialist Teaching Service gets a new look!

Have you seen our new webpages?

▶ We have been working hard to improve the layout and information of our 5 teams within the Specialist Teaching Service. You can find helpful information on who we are, what we do and how we can help, along with many useful resources and websites.

You can view all the new webpages **here** ■



New SEND schools open their doors

Plans to develop local provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are well underway - with new schools and units in mainstream schools opening this autumn.

▶ Foxfields school, built on the site of the old Oakfield Short Stay School in Blaby, has opened after October half term and will create 50 new places for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH). A new 80-place communication and interaction school in Barwell, Fusion Academy, is also due to open in October.

A number of new resources in mainstream schools also opened in September, this is all part of our commitment to invest £30 million in SEND and create almost 700 extra places across Leicestershire. The Department for Education recently announced that Bowman Academy, a new 50 place SEMH school, has been approved and

is due to open in Shepshed in September 2023. The new school will be on the St Botolphs Primary School site - with the primary school due to be re-located to the adjacent Iveshead site the year before. A consultation is currently underway to seek views on this proposal (<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-consultations/shepshed-schools-campus-changes-have-your-say>).


Selected mainstream schools in towns such as Shepshed, Loughborough, Hinckley and, Syston are also either having existing space refurbished, or extensions built. Thorpe Acre Junior school in Loughborough, for example, has been extended to






provide a special unit for pupils with communication and interaction needs. Existing special schools, such as Maplewell Hall in Woodhouse Eaves, have also been extended to offer new communication and interaction and post 16 specialist provisions.

Councillor Deborah Taylor, cabinet member for children and families, said:

 “We are extremely pleased that everything is progressing really well and that we are seeing more places opening up across Leicestershire, more will follow in the future. We recognise the growing need for specialised placements and are committed to meet the demand as best we can.

 “We are aware that there are children and young people currently supported some way from where they live and we’re working hard to open more specialist schools and units across Leicestershire to place these young people closer to home.”


More information on the council’s SEND provision at: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability



LEICESTERSHIRE PARENT CARER FORUM
INFORMING INVOLVING IMPROVING

Parent Carer Forum

We have all been quiet over the summer holidays, having family time.

 We are aware this last few months have been hard for many of you and we hope that as things are beginning to open up and that your children/young adult have settled into this.

We have been involved with the following over the months since lockdown. The written statement of action, EHCP meetings, Children and Young Peoples mental health, but to name a few and we had a virtual hub.

We will be sending out some surveys to help obtain your voice

1. Young people voice for the written statement of action.
2. Parents/Carers voice for the written statement of action.
3. Covid and its effects on you as a family and the return to school.

Over this next few months we are looking at doing some more Virtual Hubs and doing some craft ones too.

Please let us know if there are any topics you would like us to arrange and we will see if the county council would come along and speak.

If you to help us gain a wider voice from parents/carers please contact us via email on info@leicestershirepcf.org.uk

Website leicestershirepcf.org.uk

Facebook page www.facebook.com/leicspcf/ 

New format for Education Health and Care Plans

▶ As a result of our own moderation and the OFSTED inspection in February we have a dedicated workstream to further develop the quality of our Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP). The key areas of development have been looking at pupil voice, co-production across services such as Health and Social Care, outcomes being specific, and plans being kept up to date.

In terms of co-production, workshops to develop the new EHCP template have been held across other services including the Parent Carer Forum.

Direct links to our Quality Assurance work has informed its development and the new look plans will be easier to understand, with clearer links between Needs, Outcomes and Provision, detailing who is responsible for that provision. The new EHCP format will also more directly reflect the child/young person's views and their aspirations for the future.

Guidance is currently being developed for staff and advice givers, and training will draw upon specialist advice including what helps create a quality plan.

The new EHCP template will be accompanied by new formats in the referral form for an assessment for an EHCP from schools and the annual review form that schools complete. These are hoping to be rolled out throughout the term. ■

SEN Transport Update

▶ For Home to School Transport especially transport for those with SEND these have been challenging times. In providing the service the Council has had to consider many changes and new safety requirements which have stretched the team to capacity. The team have had less than 6 weeks to complete a major task that normally takes six months and necessitated a higher level of scrutiny and management over particular routes and providers.

The team has overcome these difficulties in most instances, the vast majority of people now have their school transport for the school year, although we are conscious that some still don't. The team have now put in place transport for although that applied for SEN transport before the end of the academic year but there remain a few outstanding pupils who applied after that date but before the start of term, and the team will be using this half term to ensure these transport arrangements are put in place.

There just remains those who applied after the start of term, those who have requested a change to their transport arrangement due to a change in circumstances, along with the new applications that we are dealing with, some 10% from last year. We therefore have work to do for these groups which we will be pursuing after half term. ■



Help to protect yourself from infection and prevent the spread of flu this winter



▶ GP practices across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have begun to contact vulnerable patients who meet the new national eligibility criteria to let them know how to access their flu jab this year.

And patients are being urged to take up the offer promptly and protect themselves against the flu this winter.

Dr Nil Sanganee, GP in Leicestershire said:

“With the added complication of covid-19 circulating at the same time, having the flu jab will help protect you and your families from being ill and help the NHS to better manage demand this winter.

“The flu virus typically peaks during the winter months and the best way to help protect yourself and others from catching and spreading flu is to have the flu jab every year.

“Flu strains can change from year to year, which means last year’s jab may not protect you from this year’s strains. The vaccine usually provides protection for the duration of that year’s flu season.

“Getting vaccinated is important each year but this year more than ever we are urging people to have the vaccine in order to protect themselves, and the NHS, this winter.”

Children aged 2 and 3 years old, plus all primary school aged children and year 7 in secondary school, will be offered the nasal spray vaccination.

The adult flu vaccine is offered free to those in groups at particular risk of infection and complications from flu.

Find out more about the flu vaccination at www.westleicestershireccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/flu-safe.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust
Patient feedback listening to you

Patient Experience & Involvement Newsletter

Monday 02.11.2020

Virtual opportunities and supporting information for service users, patients and carers

Welcome to the 12th edition of Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's (LPT) Patient Experience and Involvement Newsletter. We hope the items contained in this newsletter provide you with useful and informative information.

You will find contained in this month's edition, lots of new opportunities for you to get involved, which include one off workshops and projects, and opportunities to work alongside staff for longer durations of time, including attending future meetings as a patient representative. If we have sparked your interest, or you would like more information, please make contact with us (our contact details can be found on the last page of this newsletter).

Sign up and stay connected!
You can join our Service User/Carer Network which is open to service users, carers and family members where you can share your lived experiences with us. This will help to inform how we shape our services to fit the changing needs of our local communities. Please visit our 'Thinking you?' page [here](#) [Leicestershire NHS Trust](#) which provides additional information and access to our on-line Expression Of Interest form.

Involvement Walk and Talk Group

Walk & Talk
We understand this continues to be a difficult time for everyone and have received feedback from some of our network members that loneliness and isolation are growing contributing factors in their daily struggle throughout this period.
Unfortunately we find ourselves again in lockdown for the next four weeks. However we could take this time to explore this as an option for when restrictions are lifted?
Some suggestions already raised are:

- Meeting each week in order to make connections with each other
- Building relationships in order to provide support to each other during this period
- Meeting at a venue/area that would suit the majority of the participants

If you are interested, please let us know by making contact with the team using the contact details contained at the end of this newsletter

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<https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PEI-Newsletter-2.11.2020.pdf>

SEND Support Handbook

▶ The new SEND Support Handbook contains information, legislation and best practice relating to SEND support for children and young people across mainstream schools, special schools and specialist inclusion services including:

- The Local Offer
- The SEND Code of Practice
- Legislation
- Starting School & Transitions
- Best Endeavours & Reasonable Adjustments (BE/RA)
- Inclusion Services
- Support in the Early Years
- Identifying Health Needs
- Support in Schools
- Targeted and Specialist Support
- Whole School SEND Reviews
- Funding
- Transport Policy
- Other Support Agencies
- Best Practice

The handbook will launch in November will be available on the **local offer website**. ■

New plans revealed to improve SEND support in Leicestershire

▶ Families have helped to shape new plans to strengthen the support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities in Leicestershire.

Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have worked with schools, parents, carers and young people to

draw up a Written Statement of Action following the inspection of the Local Area's SEND offer by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that took place in February.

Improving the experience for children, young people, parents and carers who go through the process of assessment for and development of Education, Health

and Care (EHC) Plans is a key focus of the changes.

Officer from across the service have worked very hard to develop a robust plan to make changes and drive forward improvements. Areas where improvements are already happening include EHC plan development and decision making panels. ■

