

Special Educational Needs Disability Communication



South Glos
Parents & Carers

Special edition Aug 2014

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Future Events

17th Sept informal Coffee Morning, Poole Court, Yate 10-12

23rd and 25th Sept 2014
Focus groups on activities and short breaks. Further details to be published on our website shortly.

Contact us

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<https://www.facebook.com/sglospandc>

What a busy year we have had at South Glos Parents and Carers forum.

You may be aware that there are new changes in the law that will mean Special Educational needs will be changing from the 1st Sept.

This is a special communication that is introducing you to those changes.

The Parent forum has been involved in representing parent voices at lots of meetings over the last couple of years. We have worked very hard in the background, informing and influencing the new 0-25 SEND service as well of lots of other things and will continue to do so.

Further details are available as a "Frequently Asked Questions" document that the council have developed with our input. This can be found on the NEWS section of our website. Also there will be a link to a small video clip, this is just the start of how we will be communicating the changes to you.

Our main message we want to get across to you is please do not Panic! Things will not change overnight and we will be working with South Gloucestershire Council and Health to ensure you are informed.

Local authorities and Health are expected to be working with and seeking views of parents and carers and young people. Hence why the Parent Forum exists as we provide a wide range of parents' views and provide that link between the commissioners and families!

So make sure you join the forum so we can hear and represent your views and keep you informed!

Best wishes
SGPC Forum

Changes to the Law for Special Educational Needs

From 1 September 2014 there will be changes to the way children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported.

Along with the changes to the law will be a new Code of Practise, this has just been approved and will be published as a hard copy. Schools have had copies like ourselves of the draft Code, however we all need to give ourselves times to digest this! A Parent guide of the SEND Code has now been published and can be found on our website under the News section.

There is now going to be more emphasis on everyone working together to achieve the outcomes for the Child and Young person. Rather than a list of possible interventions.

The Local authority and health will start working and commissioning jointly and families are now at the centre of the process and will be more involved in what is happening.



NEW SEN Support in Schools

School Action or School Action Plus will move to the new SEN support system, which is a graduated approach that includes assessment, planning, implementation and review on a rolling basis.

It involves not only the SENCO but a whole-school approach whereby parents are much more involved in deciding what support is required.

A graduated approach recognises that children learn in different ways and can have different kinds of levels of special educational needs.

OFSTED will do its own evaluation of the reforms around the country. Ofsted is looking at a more multi-agency approach to inspection. They will look at the child's journey through the system rather than just at how different aspects of the system relate to that child. The minister is committed to continuing to work with Ofsted to try to come up with a way of having much clearer accountability of SEN services, with a single point of reference as to what is being provided.

New Team in South Gloucestershire

In South Gloucestershire from the 1st Sept we will now have a NEW 0-25 Special Education Disability Service.

This brings the Special Education Needs team and the Children's Disability Team (CHAD) as well as other professionals from Early Years and adult services all together as one team.

We are planning on completing a detailed article about the new Service in our next Our Voice Matters magazine, along with an introduction to the new team.

Referrals to this service will be detailed on the council's local offer website and on the Frequently asked Questions which will be posted on our website very soon www.sglospc.org.uk

Education Health Care Plans

Statements of special educational needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments will be replaced with a single education, health and care (EHC) plan for children and young people with complex needs ages 0-25. The EHC plan will place much more emphasis on personal goals and will describe the support your child will receive while they are in education or training.

An assessment can be requested by a parent or young person over the age of 16, an education setting or professional working with the family through First Point.

No child or young person should lose their statement and not have it replaced with an EHC plan simply because the system is changing.

EDUCATION HEALTH CARE PLANS must

- establish and record the views, interests and aspirations of the parents and child or young person
- provide a full description of the child or young person's special educational needs and any health and social care needs all in one place
- establish and focus on outcomes across education, health and social care, based on the child or young person's needs and aspirations. This will be worked on together
- specify the provision required and how education, health and care services will work together to meet the child or young person's needs and support the achievement of the agreed outcomes

Be completed within 20 weeks from when an assessment is requested

What happens my child already has a statement?

Statements will be transferred over the following 3½ years. The transfer is likely to happen around key transition points in your child's education such as when they move from primary to secondary school. If your son or daughter has a learning difficulty Needs assessment (139a) this will be transferred over by Sept 2016.

Introducing the Local Offer

Local authorities must produce a 'local offer' of education, health and social care services it expects to be available in the area for children and young people up to 25 years. This can be found on the councils website www.southglos.gov.uk/local-offer and will be published on the 1st September.

Get Involved:

The local offer will be published on the 1st September on the council's website, however this is still a work in progress.

The local offer will:

- Provide clear accessible information about support and opportunities available to families
- The local offer is not just a directory of existing services
- The local offer is there to help families through the system

Want to be involved or input into this work by looking at how we can make the Local Offer grow and develop?
Please let us know! The more views we get the better the Local offer can be for our families!

Preparing for Adulthood

One big welcome change is better preparation for adulthood.

Rather than statements ceasing at the age of 16 if you attend colleges or at 19 if you attend 6th form schools, the new plans can go up to 25 if your child remains in school, college or training.

Rather than going to adult social care at 18, the young person can still get supported within the 0-25 system. This will help with a smoother handover to adult services if needed, rather than everything happening at the age of 18.

Schools and the team supporting your child will start planning for adulthood in Year 9.

Personal Budgets

If you have an Education, Health and Care Plan -EHCP, you can choose to have a personal budget. A personal budget is the total value of all the resources being made available to you in your EHCP.

The idea is that personal budgets will allow for more creative use of resources and give children, young people and their family's greater choice and control over how support is delivered to meet the agreed outcomes in their Education, Health and Care Plan-EHCP.

More details about Personal Budgets will be published on the local offer and we look forward to working with the Local Authority and Health on developing the range of services that can be offered.

Support for families re the new changes

There will be various ways you can get support.

- The education setting and lead professionals if you are in the 0-25 service will be able to support you through the system and the Local Offer will be able to give you clear accessible information
- Independent support.

Supportive Parents

who offer the Special Education Needs Information and Support in South Gloucestershire can help any family who requires support regarding Special Education Needs. They have a helpline and can also visit you within the home and correspond by email. Parents refer themselves to this service

www.supportiveparents.org.uk

Tel 01179 897725

KIDS have also been successful in applying for the contract for Independent Supporters in South Gloucestershire so they can also help advise families and Young people re the new SEN reforms . Their offices are based in Kingswood. We are currently waiting for their details to be finalised and will let you know as soon as we have more info.

What we have worked on!

South Glos Parents and Carers have helped shape and influence the SEN reforms locally by ensuring we capture parents' views via different methods.

We have had Parent Representatives involved at various meetings contributing to over 75 meetings in just 10 months.

- The Assessment and Plan Process
- The Local Offer
- Preparing For Adulthood
- Joint Commissioning plus many more

We have representation on the Project Board for the new 0-25 service.

For the Education Health Care Plan and Assessment process.

We worked with the council to look at the assessment process are the questions easy to understand. We will listen to parents who tested the new plans and feed their views back.

We also helped get feedback from Young People who felt some of the information was too personal and didn't like having all data about themselves at the start of the plan.

Parents told us they wanted outcomes to be worked on jointly across Education, Health and Social Care rather than them being separated across the new plan and the Local Authority listened to us.

For the local offer

We have discussed how parent friendly information needs to be.

We have worked with a small team on a short video clip to describe the process and plans for future communications.

We have just started to work on what the Local offer should start to look like.

What next?

We will continue to represent families at various meetings to ensure our views are at the centre of the changes.

We want to make better links with Schools in order to reach more families.

We are hoping to recruit a volunteer to help us with our communications and keep you better informed.

We will be focussing mainly on the Local offer to ensure it can provide the information families need to support them.

Working with the Joint commissioning group re services for the Personal Budget/Direct Payments.

How you can Get involved!

Join our database

Attend
our focus groups
or events

Join our committee

**There
are many
different ways
you can get
involved**

Tell us
your concerns by
emailing us

Take part in
our online survey
or social media
discussions

Come to our monthly
coffee mornings

Become
a Parent Rep

Have you signed up to our database?

If you wish to hear about changes we encourage parents to sign up so we can keep you informed.

We have a secure database and we do not share your details with anyone.

Parent Representatives

Fancy having a go but want to know more about it first?

It doesn't necessarily take a lot of time. Some Parent Reps only need to attend meetings for a couple of hours 4 times a year. You don't need anything apart from your personal experience in order to do the job. We will train you and prepare you and you will never be thrown in the deep end. Parent Reps usually attend meetings in pairs, service providers are accustomed to having our reps at their meetings and encourage us to give our views.

Visit our website at www.sglospc.org.uk
or email parents@sglosparentsandcarers.org.uk
or phone 01454 501009



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