

# SEND Newsletter



Spring 2021



## Content

Shaping services for your children.....	1
Introduction by Cllr Cutkelvin .....	2
Local Offer Live 2021 - Save the date! .....	3
SEND Quality and Inclusion – your views are important to us!.....	3
Our new SEND Quality and Inclusion Manager.....	4
Join Leicester’s Parent Carer Forum, meet other parents and shape SEND in the city .....	4
Become a mystery shopper!.....	5

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## Shaping services for your children

Thanks to the children, young people, parents, carers and others who tell us their views through feedback and consultations on many different aspects of SEND. We use these views to shape and improve our services and plans which we publish on our Local Offer. Recent feedback has helped shape:

- Leicester City SEND Transformation plan
- Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Joint Commissioning Strategy
- Preparing for Adulthood Strategy

Our local area plan sets out to improve the outcomes of Children and young people with SEND as they are growing up and in all stages of their education.

If you have any questions, or just want to know more about any of the areas listed in this edition, please get in touch by email: [sce-communications@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:sce-communications@leicester.gov.uk)

## Introduction by Cllr Cutkelvin

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school and to our special update to you about our work to support children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). I know it has been a particularly challenging time for all parents and carers and especially for those who have children with additional needs.

I want to celebrate the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of parents, schools and other professionals in supporting children's learning both in school and from home during the pandemic. It has been amazing to see how everyone has made enormous efforts to adapt.

I hope your families are beginning to find a kind of normality now that Covid restrictions are lifting, and you have had some time over the school holidays to meet up outdoors with another household. Schools have opened again for the summer term and your children are able to see their friends again face to face.

There are still many challenges we are all dealing with on a day-to-day basis to keep the virus in check, and to support our children and families who are struggling. It feels like now we can seize the moment to concentrate on stabilising education and learning again. This is especially important for our children who have special educational needs and disabilities and who have experienced higher levels of school disruption compared to many across the UK.

Many of our own services have continued to respond and adapt throughout this pandemic. Partners and professionals across the city have worked extremely hard to support, provide and develop a good service. As we move into this newer normality I wanted to share what this progress means for children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers. This update gives you information about a range of developments, including how we are working with our schools and education settings to increase specialist environments in mainstream schools to nurture and support the learning needs of your children.

Leicester City's Parent Carer Forum intends to hold a Local Offer live event in May. This will bring together the services, providers, information and updates about Special Educational Needs in the city and is open to all children and parents.

We really want to hear your views about your experiences and about our work. There are many ways to do that including by joining the Parent Carer Forum or sending us your views by emailing: [sce-communications@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:sce-communications@leicester.gov.uk):

Over the coming months, there will be more updates for parents and carers about the local SEND developments.

With best wishes

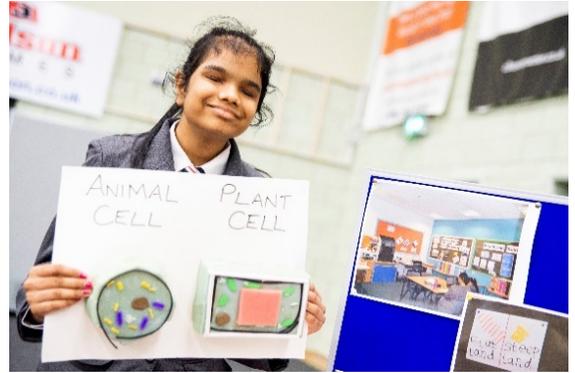
Cllr Elly Cutkelvin  
Assistant Mayor responsible for Education



## Local Offer Live 2021 - Save the date!

The Local Offer Live 2021 is going virtual. The event will take place the week beginning 24 May 2021.

The event will give providers an opportunity to showcase information, advice and support available to parents, carers and young people with SEND. It will give parent carers an opportunity to discover local services, participate in activities, workshops and watch performances.



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## SEND Quality and Inclusion – your views are important to us!

We have begun to create a framework to support schools and settings to promote inclusion and effective SEND practice.

This framework is called 'BERA – Best Endeavours, Reasonable Adjustments'. The BERA framework is intended to help schools and the Local Authority put the right provision, practice, and services in place to make sure that pupils with SEND are not disadvantaged in comparison with their non-SEND/non-disabled peers.

It says what class teachers should provide and what the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) needs to do using the graduated response before asking specialist services to become involved.

What makes this framework truly inclusive is that pupils and families can challenge schools to make sure they receive education that is inclusive and that best endeavours/reasonable adjustments are being made.

A consultation on the framework will open in May and will be found on the [Local Offer](#). We will tell you when it is open – we really want to hear your views.

## Our new SEND Quality and Inclusion Manager

Welcome to Martine Hudson, who is not only responsible for the framework but for also highlighting the excellent inclusive practice we have in our Leicester schools.

Martine tells us “I am looking forward to a very busy time and look forward to sharing more information with you in the coming months. In later editions, I will bring you news about:

the progress and attainment of pupils with SEND ensuring that additional funding is being used efficiently and effectively.

how assistive technology can be used more widely in our classrooms to promote inclusion.

the provision for children and young people in the newly created Designated Specialist Provisions (DSPs). These are specialist teaching bases within mainstream settings. Pupils can have the specialist teaching that they need whilst also being a valued member of their school in their home locality.”

If you have any comments that you would like to share with Martine please contact her at [Martine.Hudson@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Martine.Hudson@leicester.gov.uk)

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## Join Leicester’s Parent Carer Forum, meet other parents and shape SEND in the city

### Leicester City Parent Carer Forum

Leicester City Parent Carer Forum (LCPCF) is a group of parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0-25 years and living in Leicester.

Why not join our growing forum?!

We know that many of you have experiences to share and which help others. You also have valuable insight in helping shape the local area’s services for SEND young people. It is free to join and meetings are currently held online.

Register your interest by contacting Richard Jaramba (Chair Leicester City Parent Carer Forum) on [rjaramba@lcpcf.net](mailto:rjaramba@lcpcf.net) or call on 07723 801676



## Become a mystery shopper!

Could you:

- Look at Leicester City's Local Offer with fresh eyes
- Provide insight into key searches that may be used by other people
- Test accessibility
- Make us aware of information that is hard to understand or difficult to find
- Help us find information that is missing
- Share what you like about the website, so we keep doing it
- Test the website on a variety of devices



### **If you can, you could be a mystery shopper!**

The Parent Carer Forum is looking for parents/carers who will tell us whether the information we give on the Local Offer website is useful for parents.

The Local Offer is a central website that should give clear, comprehensive and accessible information about what provision is available in the area and how you can access it.

Although we ask visitors to the Local Offer pages for their views and any changes to help improve it, the mystery shopper scheme will really help to make sure it is being developed and informed by what parent say.

Please contact Richard Jaramba (Chair Leicester City Parent Carer Forum) on [rjaramba@lcpcf.net](mailto:rjaramba@lcpcf.net) or call on 07723 801676 or Nayna Amlani (Local Offer and Preparing for Adulthood Project Officer) [Nayna.amlani@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Nayna.amlani@leicester.gov.uk) or call on 0116 4540644.