

SEND Weekly Newsletter 13 February 2019



Issue 28

Live! From the Local Offer Roadshow



For the last two weeks Somerset's Parent Carer Forum and our partners have been travelling the county to plug the Local Offer.

These Roadshow events have been very helpful to everybody working in or supporting SEND services—it's a chance to meet parent carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The aim was to let them know that following their feedback last year the new, much-improved Local Offer website had been launched.

The events also gave parents and carers the chance to share their experiences with practitioners, and for practitioners to share their work, and our plans for the future.

This is important part of participating and influencing the way SEND services are designed and delivered in the future.

Somerset County Council's Young Person's Champion Chloe-Elle Willcox (pictured left), is part of the SEND Participation and Engagement Team which has attended.

She said: "The number one priority of the Local Offer is to help and guide parents to work out what the next step for their children is."

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Half term activities up for grabs

It's half term next week and if you're a parent carer please make sure you've checked out the Short Breaks Half Term Calendar.

There are still plenty of spaces available on some really excellent, affordable activities for children and young people for next week, 18 February to 22 February.

There are all sorts of days out listed in the calendar, but please make sure you book as soon as possible and do this directly from the activity provider using the published number. View the Short Breaks February Half Term Activity Calendar, online [here](#) or via this [link](#)



Want to get out and meet new people?

Here's a great opportunity for people with learning disabilities aged 18+ in Taunton to make new friends and have fun.

A new Peer Support group is starting, funded by Somerset County Council and set up by People First Dorset.

And the first group meets on 15 March in Taunton Library.

As well as meeting new friends, it's a great way to get information and support,

gain new skills and confidence, and practice independent living skills.

The group will be meeting once a month and the sessions are free.

You'll just need to bring money for drinks or snacks.

The session runs from 11am to 12.30pm, and some of the group will be going for lunch in town afterwards.

Phone 07902 528895 for a chat about it or email lisa@peoplefirstdorset.org.uk

Report from Roadshow

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The Local Offer is Somerset's one-stop online place for information on services for SEND.

It contains clear information about the provision available across education, health and social care, along with details about how children, young people and their families can access it.

There's a final date on Friday, 15 February in Wincanton Memorial Hall.

You can access the Local Offer [Here](#).

It's not easy looking for work but don't give up!

Since leaving my role as a Young Person's Champion, searching for the right job for me has been difficult.

Before I left, I had an interview at a local school, the feedback from the headteacher was that I interviewed well and they were very impressed but that there were others with more experience.

Since leaving Somerset County Council, everyday is becoming more and more of a challenge to stay motivated but I have met with several people, updated my C.V. and I am looking on job websites every day.

The challenge is finding the right job and having experience, which you can get by volunteering.

Even though I have a lot of knowledge and experience in different areas, there are other people who have many years of experience behind them.

But I know that I won't be successful if I just give up. I plan to keep going and if I am still unable to find something I will be looking to get some volunteering as I know from past experience, employers look for that.



To any other young people who are finding it difficult to find employment, I would definitely say keep pushing, keep looking and why not try some volunteering in the meantime?

