



Better together for Children...



Walsall Council

SEPTEMBER 2014

## Children's Services – Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

### Changes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities from September 2014

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Welcome to our 5th newsletter giving you updates about changes to services for Children & Young People with special educational needs.

After months of discussion and planning around the reforms, September is here and we have started new processes for Education, Health and Care Plans and our Local Offer is live on the Walsall Council website.

We still have a lot of work to do and our Joint SEND Policy and Strategy will guide us through what needs to be achieved.

More information about changes will be discussed at the next Parent/Carer Forum on Thursday 9 October 2014 at The Crossing, St Pauls, Darwall Street, Walsall

If you would like to attend, places **must** be booked by contacting Walsall Carers Centre on 01922 610810

## Joint SEND Policy and Strategy

### *Our Vision Statement:*

*We are committed to working in partnership with families and local communities to enable children and young people with SEN and/or a disability to lead ordinary lives:*

We have put together a SEND Policy and Strategy and action plan to identify our priorities for 2014-2018. This strategy will ensure that we secure the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND and ensure that:-

- Children, young people and their families are at the centre of all we do – we will work in an integrated, multi-agency way
- Children, young people and their families will have choice and control – we will use a person centred approach
- A continuum of highly effective provision is in place and regularly monitored – every child/young person in the right place with the right services at the right time. Children/young people achieve the best outcomes - we will continue to develop and improve flexible services
- There is a transparent and robust approach to planning, monitoring and delivery – we will deliver high quality services that provide best value
- The needs of children, young people with SEND are identified early in order to receive the right services at the right time

## We have identified 6 working strands within the Strategy:-

- Early Identification and Intervention
- Education, Health and Care Plans
- The Local Offer
- SEND Provision in Walsall
- Outcome Based Accountability
- Quality Assurance



Each strand will have a working group who will meet and work on the agreed action plan, regular updates will be given to the SEND Steering Group who meet monthly.



### Independent Supporter

The Royal Mencap Society have a team of 5 Independent Supporter's based across the West Midlands who will be on hand to support local families, both parents and young people on one to one basis with the Education Health and Care assessment and the development of the EHC plan.

Independent Supporters will be able to:

- Support parents and young people whether new to the process or when transferring from Statements or Learning Disability Assessments to Education, Health and Care Plans
- Support parents and young people to gather information that can contribute to the plan
- Be a named contact for parents and young people throughout the process.
- To provide support so that parents and young people can communicate their needs and effectively contribute to the EHC plan
- Refer parents and young people to other local services when the support required is outside the role of the Independent Supporter

For more information about this service please contact 0808 808 1111

### SEND Post 16 Project Team

The Local Authority has set up a new Team of staff from Education, Health and Social Care to concentrate their efforts on the Post 16 SEND Agenda.

Some of the Key Tasks being covered by the team include:-

- Supporting the development of local provision that seeks to maximise the most effective outcomes in adult life for school/ college leavers
- Piloting the development of 5 day packages of provision and support in both education/training which will include elements that focus on preparation for adult life
- Developing multi-agency teams to work in close partnership with the young adult learner and his/her family/carers in sourcing the best post school/college placement
- Contributing to the Post 16 communication strategy to present the Local Offer in a client friendly way with easy access for all users
- Developing links with employers and Jobcentre Plus in partnership with Prospects and other partners to create real opportunities for Post 16 Learners
- Supporting the development of the Education Health and Care Plan in Post 16 Transition



## Transition Plan for converting Statements into Education Health and Care Plans

The Government has stated that all young people who currently have statements of SEN will be entitled to transfer to an Education Health and Care Plan. There is a three and a half year period of transition for this to take place and during this period Statements of SEN will continue to have the same legal status as they do currently.

We will be using a person centred and outcomes focused approach to convert the children's statements and will carry out the conversion during the year prior to a transition to a new setting or phase. The number of children and young people that will have their statement converted is outlined below, broken down by the year group they will be in during the stated academic year.

2014/15		2015/16		2016/17	
Year Group	Total	Year Group	Total	Year Group	Total
Nursery	24	Nursery	1	Year 2	41
Year 2	52	Year 2	56	Year 6	51
Year 5	130	Year 5	74	Year 9	114
Year 6	102	Year 9	140	Year 11	136
Year 11	87	Year 11	151		
Year 13	80	Year 13	134		
Year 14	20				
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>

### Local Offer update.....

Walsall Local Offer is now available via the Walsall Council website by clicking on the icon on the right hand side of the website



Or alternatively by following the link below:

<http://www.mywalsall.org/walsall-send-local-offer/>

We will be developing the Local Offer over time following your feedback and would welcome your comments on what is currently available. Tell us:-

- What you need to know
- Have you found the information you need
- Is the information clear

You can give your comments by completing the feedback form on the website.

A working group will be meeting on a regular basis to discuss updates and changes in light of the feedback we receive and we will publish feedback on changes that have been made.

Plans are underway to join up with the Adult services website to improve our Local Offer and give details of services available from Children's Services through to Adults Services. We are hoping this will be implemented early in 2015.



*All Services are currently compiling their draft Local Offer*

**Walsall Parent Partnership** will be changing its name after half term in line with the changes that have been made at the National Partnership Network which is now known as the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice Support Service (SEND IASS) network.

Parent Partnership will continue to provide information, advice, guidance and support but their remit will be widened to provide this service with regard to the new Children and Families Act and the SEN Code of Practice 2014.

If you require more information please contact Kay Munday or Jill Simkin on 01922 650330 or e-mail [parentpartnership@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@walsall.gov.uk)

## Personal Budgets

A family or young person will be able to request a personal budget at the point where the Local Authority is drafting an Education, Health and Care Plan. Developing an offer of a personal budget will mean working with all partners; families, children/young people, parent/carer forums and local providers.



A personal budget is a sum of funding available for children and young people where it is clear that they need additional provision above that available to most children and young people through local services.

**Why have a personal budget?** – A personal budget provides a child, young person and family with opportunities for greater levels of choice and control over the provision made. You can however continue to have support and services provided in the same way as you have done previously.

**How much money is available?** – the amount of money provided as a personal budget is dependent on the identified outcomes for the child or young person as agreed in the EHC Plan. It will take into account the activities, services or support required to achieve those outcomes. The budget is “personal” to the child and based on an assessment of their needs, so each child will have different plan and different budget.

**How can a personal budget be managed?** – There are several ways to manage a personal budget:

- The family can choose to take a personal budget as a direct payment and manage it themselves
- The family can ask a third party service or organisation to manage it on their behalf
- The family can ask the local authority to manage it on their behalf
- The family can choose to have a mix of the three options above

**How will I know whether to request a Personal budget or not?** – During the EHC Plan process you will be given more information about personal budgets, and opportunities to discuss it, so that you can decide if this is something you wish to consider further.

If this is something you wish to consider we will complete a Resource Indicator Questionnaire which will gather the views of parents/carers/young person about the level of support required and will evaluate an indicative level of support should the family be eligible for a Personal Budget.

We hope the information provided in our newsletters is useful to you, however if you still have a question that you do not have the answer to e-mail:-

[senconsultations@edu.walsall.gov.uk](mailto:senconsultations@edu.walsall.gov.uk)

Our next newsletter will be sent out in November 2014. We are keen to learn how the new EHCP process is for parents. If your child receives an Education, Health & Care Plan in October/November, or your child’s statement is converted to an EHCP please let us know how the process was for you.