

# Derby City SEND Local Offer News

Welcome to the latest of our new look local offer newsletters for SEND professionals, parents, carers, and young people in Derby.

This term, we've got lots of things happening, and events taking place – check out our 'what's coming up' section for more details of how you can join the conversation about SEND in Derby.

We're also getting ready to develop our new action plan for SEND in the City, through a series of workshops around the vision and key priorities that we co-produced last year.

On top of that we're expecting a re-inspection soon from OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission, to check our progress against the work we said we'd do in our written statement of action back in December 2019. We've received some great feedback during recent review meetings with the DfE and NHSE about the work we're doing but we're continuing to work hard to make sure that we can evidence just how far we've come, and to be clear on what we still want to do.

Thank you to all our partners for your ongoing support.



## In this newsletter:

What's coming up in Derby

Celebrating autism awareness week

About our EHCP team

Understanding our vision for SEND in Derby

OFSTED and CQC inspections

... and a big red bus!

**LIVING MY  
BEST LIFE**

# What's coming up in Derby . . .

## Thrive Open event in conjunction with Becket Primary School, Derby

We have now scheduled the Open event with Ruth Varley from Becket Primary for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2pm-3.30pm.

[Click here to join the ZOOM open event](#)

Current brain science shows that for many young people in school, their stress management, emotional regulation, and seeking /exploring systems are not yet sufficiently developed for them to access learning. The Thrive Approach has been developed to address these needs. It equips staff to see and understand behaviour as communication and it gives them the tools and techniques to support the emotional and social development needed to access learning.

The live webinar is aimed at Heads/SENCo's and Strategic Leads. It will give you the opportunity to hear first-hand how an established Thrive setting in Derby City is using Thrive and learn how the Thrive Approach works in practice.

## 5 Sensory Open Bus Sessions in Derby (for schools)

Derby City is offering free sensory sessions for children and young people with varying levels of Special Educational Needs through The Riley Foundation Sensory Bus Project. These sessions are aimed for anyone in need of anxiety relief following COVID- 19 aged 5-15 years.

The session is for 45minutes on the hour and can host between 3 to 15 participants depending on the need. The bus is cleaned thoroughly after each session.

Alvaston Park 8 June 2021 from 9-4	Markeaton Park 15 June 2021 from 9-4	Chaddesden Park 22 June 2021 from 9-4	Arboretum Park 29 June 2021 from 9-4	Darley Park 6 July 2021 from 9-4
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The bus is at the named Park from 9-4 and free sessions can be booked in consultation with Mel at <https://www.facebook.com/therileyfoundation123/>

You are also invited to join 5 sessions with Mel, the founder on sensory processing and anxiety relief, on

Wed 9 June 2021 at 3pm	Wed 16 June 2021 at 3pm	Wed 23 June 2021 at 3pm	Wed 30 June 2021 at 3pm	Wed 7 July 2021 at 3pm
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Details of how to book on to the sessions will be circulated shortly via our local offer website, and Facebook page

# Learn more about Kooth and Qwell

Kooth & Qwell provide a safe, secure means of accessing help via the internet. KOOOTH supports young people throughout Derby City & County between the ages of 11 & 25. QWELL supports any Parent or Carer.

By accessing these services, users can benefit from:

- A free, confidential, anonymous, and safe way to receive support online.
- Out of hours' availability. Counsellors are available from 12noon to 10pm on weekdays and 6pm to 10 pm at weekends, every day of the year.
- Online Counselling from a professional team of BACP qualified counsellors is available via 1-1 chat sessions or a 24hr messaging service.
- Discussion Boards are all pre-moderated allowing users to access peer to peer support networks.
- Online Magazines full of moderated articles many of which are submitted by young people on Kooth and Parents/Carers on Qwell. Articles offer advice and guidance on a huge range of topics.
- No referral is required. Service users simply sign up when they need support.



For professionals

Over the coming weeks, we will be facilitating a range of 'Kooth and Qwell seminars', hosted on Eventbrite. These FREE sessions are aimed at any professional supporting families, children, young people, parents and carers in Derby City and County. [To register for the events, please click here](#)

## Autism Dialogue

Over recent months we have held a series of special online events, hosted by Dialogica in partnership with Derby City Council and Derby CCG, using the unique Autism Dialogue Approach. The Autism Dialogue sessions, have provided a chance for people to have your voice heard and connect with others in the Autism community, providing a safe space to share your thoughts and experiences and within an Autism friendly environment.

The first part of this work culminated in an interactive webinar 30 April 2021. The webinar was focussed on actively helping to influence the future of the Autism landscape in Derbyshire and beyond.

Dialogica hosts, supports, and encourages:

- Group dialogue that incorporates the neurodiverse mindset
- Equal voices, enabling choices & diversifying thinking
- Collective voices working to embed equality for autistic people
- Co-designing the future of autism

Keep an eye on the local offer website and Facebook page for more opportunities to get involved.

# Improving outcomes in EHCPs

Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and Derby College's Centre for Excellence in SEND are working together. Join us for our series of professional discussions about improving outcomes for young people with EHCPs

## Session 1 was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and looked at Imagining Better Outcomes for Young People with SEND

- What do we know about outcomes for 16-19 learners with EHCPs?
- What does research tell us about the reasons for these outcomes?
- What is the function of Outcomes in section E of an EHCP?
- And why can't Outcomes be appealed?

## Session 2 – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Writing Better Outcomes for Young People with SEND – [click here to book onto this session](#)

- Principles and ethics of writing EHCP Outcomes
- Intrinsic and extrinsic benefits
- Value and Expectancy
- Cognitive skills are key components of EHCP Outcomes

## Session 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Delivering Better Outcomes for Young People with SEND (booking link to follow) – [booking link to follow](#)

- Types of knowledge, dimensions of curriculum
- Situated knowledge and vocational outcomes
- What is education? What is training?
- Does curriculum determine Outcomes or do Outcomes determine curriculum?

These workshops are the starting point of a year-long improvement and change plan where we can develop and share good practice to impact positively on the lives of our young people.

These are open sessions, to inform our next step discussions and we would welcome LA SEN Officers, Specialist Settings, SENCOs, Post 16 providers, Teachers, Lecturers, and anyone else working with young people in post 16 provision who have an EHCP.



## Other meetings and events:

If you would like to take part in any of our local area groups please email [SENDWSOA@derby.gov.uk](mailto:SENDWSOA@derby.gov.uk)

May	June
w/c 03 <sup>rd</sup> - Local area strategic action plan workshops	03/06/2021 – Co-production partnership group
11/05/2021 – Local Area delivery Group	SENCO Network meetings - TBC
25/05/2021 – Local Area SEND board	
SENCO Network meetings - TBC	

# The Parent Carers Together big red bus!

Derby's parent carer forum has acquired a double decker bus as a great new resource for the city's SEND community. The team at PCT are still making some adjustments around getting the bus watertight and making safety updates but hope to have the bus open for families soon.

Once it's finished, the bus will provide a space that can be multipurpose, where parents can meet other families, for a cuppa and a chat, get support, help or friendship, or even a play on the slide! The bus will be living at the St Giles Hive hub- a massive thanks to St Giles School for giving the bus a retirement plot!

All plans are still in progress but here is a flavour of some of the ideas so far:

- soft play
- siblings' clubs
- home education groups
- play sessions for 3 years and over
- a place for support, information, and meetings
- help for those children who need physical and sensory opportunities
- special celebration times of the year
- glow in the dark discos
- additional clubs such as Lego and crafts

Please let PCT know if you have any ideas and feel free to ask questions at [admin@parentcarerstogether.com](mailto:admin@parentcarerstogether.com)

Can you help PCT to fund the refurbishment of the bus? Donate at: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/becky-barker>



## Special school heads

In July we will say farewell to three much-loved special school headteachers in Derby.

Debbie Gerring, headteacher at St Martins will be retiring, while Clive Lawrence at St Giles will be moving to a new role as Director of SEND at an academy trust, and Gary Coffey will leave Ivy House to become executive head of a federation of special schools in Birmingham. Debbie, Gary, and Clive have been passionate advocates for children with SEND in the city and have made an immeasurable impact on the lives of so many young people.

We wish all three the very best for the future.



# Autism awareness week



## My Autism My Derby College Q&A For World Autism Awareness Week

Thank you to everyone who supported World Autism Awareness Week in April.

It was amazing seeing so many autistic people, their families, as well as schools and organisations, fundraising, sharing stories and helping people understand more about what it's like to be autistic.

To celebrate the week this logo was co-produced by the Autistic community, which seeks to highlight the unique journey that each person with Autism goes on in Derby city and Derbyshire. There was also a hashtag competition with winner being #AllTogetherForAutism.

Did you see these great stories from young people at Derby College?

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/derbycollege/videos/3625065384272452/>



If you have a service, story or event that you want publicising, please email [local.offer@derby.gov.uk](mailto:local.offer@derby.gov.uk)

In each newsletter we will tell you a little bit more about one of our teams or services. This time we are . . .

# Introducing the EHCP team

The EHCP team at Derby City Council are responsible for coordinating education, health, and care needs assessments, writing EHCPs and then ensuring that they are kept up to date, through the annual review process.

The team deals with over 450 requests for needs assessments each year and now maintains over 2700 EHCPs in the City. The EHCP team is also responsible for agreeing any additional funding that a school or setting might need to deliver the EHCP and for personal budgets, including direct payments.

Demand on the team has grown significantly over the past few years as more children across the City have accessed needs assessments. As result in the past 6 months the team has grown too. There's now 12 SEND (EHCP) Officers working across the City's localities. Each officer has several linked schools and they are now working increasingly closely with SENCOs to support with the delivery of EHCPs. In addition to the 12 officers, there's one senior officer who supports with tribunals and complex cases, three caseworkers who help to support the assessment process and admin support who will deal with incoming documentation and queries.

## Getting in touch with the EHCP team

W: <https://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/derbys-send-local-offer/ehc-assessments-plans/>

E: [SENDAdmin@derby.gov.uk](mailto:SENDAdmin@derby.gov.uk)

T: 01332 643616

Information for schools can be found on the School Information Portal

## Annual review training

New annual review training is now available from the Council for Disabled Children, for professionals and parents and carers, involved in the EHCP process:

<https://learning.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/class/4387/delivering-quality-annual-reviews>

Parents can give us their views on the EHCP process at [www.derby.gov.uk/ehcpviews](http://www.derby.gov.uk/ehcpviews)



# Living my best life – about our local area vision for SEND



Last year we launched our new local area SEND strategy. Later this year we will be using this strategy to help us to co-produce our new action plan, setting out our priorities as we move away from our current written statement of action. This work will start with a series of workshops in May to gather the views of parents and professionals in the City.

Our strategy is made up of five main areas. We'll be focussing on one of our strategic priorities in each of our next few newsletters.

## Priority 1 – How we work together as a local area

- We are all professionally generous and open
- In Derby, children and young people come first
- As a local area we work together to co-construct new policies and practices
- Parents, carers, and young people are treated as experts by experience

## Local area OFSTED and CQC inspections

From April 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission will start revisiting areas with a written statement of action in place.

Re-inspections are usually expected within 18 months of a written statement of action being finalised. In the case of Derby, this means an inspection could take place at any point over the summer.

As part of our preparation for this work the DfE and NHSE have been carrying out regular formal review meetings to track our progress against what we said we would do and to support us to ensure that we are able to demonstrate the work that we have done since 2019.

Inspections will also focus on:

- area leaders' understanding of the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with SEND in Derby and on the local SEND system more widely
- how leaders have used their understanding to adapt their plans to address the areas of significant weakness detailed in the WSOA

[Click here for Local area SEND inspections: information for families](#)



# And finally

A massive thank you to all our stakeholders and partners for your ongoing support. In the words of one of our SEND students.....



"If we work together,  
anything is possible"

## Useful contacts

Derby City Local Offer

Derby City Council

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01332 643616

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[www.derby.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer](http://www.derby.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer)

@DCCLocaloffer on Facebook

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

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[www.derbysendiass.org.uk](http://www.derbysendiass.org.uk)

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