

Local Offer

Presentations to South Gloucestershire Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Early Years Settings

In line with the SEND Code of Practice as of September 2014, the Early Years Service planned and delivered 10 x 2 hour briefing sessions focussing on the Local Offer. These were delivered to early years settings (pre-schools, nurseries and child minders) in venues across the authority during March 2015.

Four sessions were offered during each day however some were cancelled due to low numbers and delegates booked on these were offered alternative sessions which they then attended.

In total 153 settings attended:

3rd March - total attending 54
11th March - total attending 26
20th March - total attending 20
26th March - total attending 53

(Individual session figures are available if required)

The briefings were planned and delivered by the Setting Support Officers (SSOs). Aims and objectives clearly explained the setting's responsibility to produce a local offer. The sessions gave the context and background, linking it to the Council's vision. Guided discussion and a number of practical activities in small mixed groups were used to deliver the information. Emphasis was placed on a local offer being factual, holistic, accessible and transparent.

The questions/ suggestions originally provided by the LA for schools in spring 2014 were modified to reflect early years and to provide a structure and guidance for the settings. This proved very useful in facilitating discussion and removing many of the concerns which were brought to the sessions by settings. Examples from other LAs were shared. Feedback was collated and sent out to all delegates who attended. Settings were also provided with advice as to where and how they should advertise their local offer including their own websites if they had them, local schools, Children's Centres, possibly libraries,

1bigdatabase.org and the South Glos public website. If a setting did not have a website, and many child minders do not, we suggested hard copies on noticeboards and copies available as part of their overall prospectus.

Settings were advised that they should start writing their local offer based on ideas and discussions from the sessions and the guidance provided. It was suggested that they select two areas to work on first with the aim of having their initial local offer available from September 2015. Settings were also advised that, once it is written, the offer needs to be regularly reviewed and changes, particularly any staff changes, made swiftly. They could of course contact the Early Years Team for any further advice and guidance.

A complete set of the presentation, activities, guidance and feedback was then posted in a folder on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and flagged up to all settings accessing that platform via the blog.

During Term 6 the SSOs will check with their allocated settings that they have started working on their local offer and offer guidance as appropriate.