

Department for Children, Adults and Health

**To:
Parents and Carers of Children and
Young People with Special Educational
Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)**

Date: 18 May 2018
Your Ref:
Our Ref: HH/cmc/SEND.WSoA.let
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Dear Parent/Carer

Local Area Written Statement of Action for SEND, changes in structure of the 0-25 Service and an update of what else has been happening in South Gloucestershire

Following our communications in November and December 2017 regarding the joint local area SEND inspection, we are writing to let you know that South Gloucestershire Council and the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (CCG) have published a South Gloucestershire Local Area Written Statement of Action for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The statement has been produced with the close involvement of South Glos Parents and Carers (who run the local Parent and Carer Forum), as well as our health, care and education partners.

You can look at the statement by visiting www.southglos.gov.uk/SENDstrategy and going to the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission SEND inspection webpage.

Why do we need a written statement of action and what does it include?

In November 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected services in the South Gloucestershire area for children and young people with SEND. The inspectors were looking at how organisations, including the council, health services and schools were carrying out the reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. While they said we're doing some things well, they also found 8 areas of significant weakness for us to address and they requested the written statement of action.

The statement sets out:

- How we'll work together to make services better for children and young people with SEND
- What we'll do to improve on the 8 weaknesses the inspectors found
- How we'll know if things are better for children and young people with SEND.

What else has been happening locally?

The statement of action goes hand in hand with the **Strategy for Children and Young People 0-25 years old with SEND in South Gloucestershire** – a five year strategy that's now published (go to www.southglos.gov.uk/sendstrategy) and sets out our vision and strategic priorities. The strategy was co-produced and co-written with the Parent and Carer Forum.

Thank you to all the people who came along to engagement and consultation events, responded to the online consultation and gave their views by other means. We have developed the priorities and key actions through listening to this feedback.

Changes to the structure of the 0-25 Service

Since April, the 0-25 Service has undergone some changes in structure. Please see the attached document that explains the changes and what they mean to children, parents and carers.

Other recent developments include:

- The Council and the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, in conjunction with parents and providers have established the SEND Partnership Board, which will ensure the Strategy is implemented. Priorities, progress against the key themes and impact will be reported to the SEND Partnership Board on a quarterly basis. The Partnership Board will be accountable to each organisation through the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board with additional annual oversight provided by the CCG's Executive Board and the Council's Cabinet.
- The Local Offer new platform has been commissioned to help improve its look, feel and navigation. A working group has been formed and we will invite you to engagement sessions later this year so that you can contribute your views on the redesign the Local Offer.
- We are co-producing a SEND Communication Plan with the Parent and Carer Forum and key partners. We will use the feedback and views gathered from the SEND Strategy engagement sessions and consultation to inform this work. We're also working with the Parent and Carer Forum to ask parents how they would prefer to receive updates from us on what's happening locally.
- We are continuing to co-produce SEND processes, systems and services across Education, Health and Social Care with parents, carers and partners. This work includes looking at improving the annual review process, the quality of EHC plans and personal budgets.
- Working in partnership with South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS), we are pleased to announce that The Chase, a dedicated self-contained educational resource will open its doors in September 2018 to up to 25 South Gloucestershire students age 16 to 25 to gain opportunities to develop their academic, emotional, social, employability and independent living skills.
- The council has also successfully submitted a bid for a new Special Free School on the Marlwood site at Alveston as part of our strategy to increase specialist place provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in South Gloucestershire.
- There will be changes around independent support within South Gloucestershire due to Central Government funding ending at the end of July; further updates will be provided by KIDS as and when this becomes available.

We will continue to seek your views and keep you posted on developments and improvements in SEND provision and services in South Gloucestershire via South Glos Parents and Carers, our local parent and carer forum. If you want to be part of South Glos Parents and Carers, our Parent and Carer Forum, visit www.sglospc.org.uk/parent-carers-join-us to sign up.

Yours sincerely



Peter Murphy
Director for Children, Adults and Health



**Deborah El-Sayed, Director of Transformation for
Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)**

