

Email to Sheffield Parent Carer Forum for Local Offer Meeting April 9th 2014

Fiona Nicholson fiona@edyourself.org

<http://edyourself.org/localofferemail.pdf> via <http://edyourself.org/articles/localoffer.php>

It may be particularly difficult for home educators who have full-time responsibility for their children to attend Parent Carer forum meetings or otherwise get involved in Local Offer feedback sessions which involve a regular time commitment.

Please see Gateshead draft Local Offer pages 10-11 which has a neutral mention of home education and explains how to access services.

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Education/transend/5-16-Brochure.pdf>

It would be good if the Local Offer had information about the following:

Contact person in the local authority for queries regarding home education

Explanation of process when parents elect to home educate

Explanation of statutory assessment process where child is home educated

Explanation of the annual review process for home educated children and young people with statements/EHC plans

Explanation of what happens at transition reviews

List of schools who will admit external home educated candidates for exams

Process for non-standard entry into 6th forms (i.e. if student was not previously on roll at that school)

Access routes to SALT and for home-educated children and young people

Access to specialist equipment where a child is home educated

Information about help with special arrangements for exams when children are home educated. The centre must "paint a picture of need" which includes "normal way of working within the centre." The local authority may already have established links with centres for pupils not in mainstream education such as Pupil Referral Units and Medical Education Centres or hospital/home tuition.

In template letter/form for services please consider adding: "How can home educators access this service?"

In template letter/form for schools please consider adding: "Do you offer outreach to home educating families?" (e.g. use of facilities / access to after-school clubs / access to swimming lessons / allowing external candidates to sit exams)

Links

Local offers throughout the country + contact details

<http://edyourself.org/articles/localoffer.php>

Access to Exams National Survey and Report 2014

<http://edyourself.org/articles/examsreport.php>

Education Committee Report 2012

<http://edyourself.org/articles/edcomsupporthomeed.php>