



SEND Local Offer

As part of the changes within the Children and Families Bill, local authorities are required to develop a 'Local Offer', which will provide information for children, young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents/carers in a single place, helping them to understand what services they and their families can expect from a range of local agencies.

At Close to Home we endeavour to provide an environment in which all children, including those with special educational needs, are supported to reach their full potential. We are a fully inclusive setting who are able to meet the needs of children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities). We have a named SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) who is trained and experienced in working with children and families with varying needs.

.1. How does Close to Home know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs or disabilities?

At Close to Home each child is treated as an individual, with practitioners understanding that each child has varying needs and abilities. Practitioners are experienced in observing, assessing and planning next steps for children that are relevant to them. Every child has their own Key Person who will work with you and your child and you can raise any concerns with them at any time. We meet with you termly to discuss development and raise any concerns if necessary however your Key Person is always available for you to talk to. Written daily/weekly reports ensure effective and regular observations and assessment can be made.

.2. How Close to Home will support your child.

We have a named SENCO who works closely with the Area SENCO when supporting individual children. With your consent we can call upon a range of outside professionals such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and specialist teachers that provide us with expertise to ensure we support children with SEND. You are always invited to attend any meetings we have with outside agencies and any outside professionals that you require to observe your child are always welcome in the setting. If you cannot attend we always share information and discuss any new strategies that may have been recommended in order to ensure you are happy with this.

.3. How Close to Home creates learning and development opportunities for individual children with SEND

Every child's learning is unique to them and we believe that children learn best when supported in a way that interests and suits their needs. Through regular meetings with you and by observing the children we discover these interests and needs and we use them to inform next steps and learning and development opportunities. This ensures we can tailor care to suit each individual. Children's activities are appropriate for their needs and resources can be supplied as required.

.4. How Close to Home works in partnership with parents/carers.

Close to Home prides itself on the effective, communicative relationships we form with you. During daily handovers with you we discuss any needs or support your child may require. We believe that children learn best when we all work together sharing the same strategies. Every term we have meetings with you to discuss how your child's progressing. We share information about your child's interests and achievements over the term and together plan



next steps of development that are relevant and important to them. We share information on how you can support your child at home and also give you the opportunity to share with us what works well for them. Every term our open mornings enable you to come and see us and share information on relevant topics such as communication and language or school transitions. These open mornings are very informal allowing you to meet each other alongside having informal chats with your key person.

.5. How our setting supports the well being of young children with SEND

Supporting children's well being is an integral aspect of Close to Home. To ensure families feel familiar and valued we offer 'settling in' sessions leading up to your child starting Close to Home. This gives us the opportunity to get to know you and your child as best we can before they start. We ask you to fill out an 'All about my child' document this again can provide us with vital information about what is important to you and your child and gain a clearer picture of any additional support they may require.

The safety of the children in our care is paramount and we carry out daily hazard checks to ensure the premises is as safe as possible. We carry out termly fire evacuations ensuring children understand the evacuation procedure in order to keep safe. Risk assessments are carried out on all activities we provide for the children and for each child that may have specialist mobility equipment or specific health needs.

We understand that behaviour is not considered a special educational need and how important it is to address what is causing any behaviour such as delayed speech or social skills in order to support children more appropriately. We appreciate that for some children understanding the views and feelings of others can be challenging. We use social stories to help children understand how their behaviour may affect others and are aware of varying strategies that can be implemented to suit individual learning styles. This is a task that requires support, encouragement, teaching and setting the correct example.

.6. Staff training and experience in supporting young children with SEND

We are currently working towards the Autism Friendly Award collecting evidence on how we support children and their families and identifying areas of good practice when supporting children. We provide in house training on Autism ensuring all staff work effectively together to support individual children. All staff members are first aid trained and have attended Safeguarding courses. Staff members have attended various courses including SEN conferences, Inclusion Development Plans in Autism, Speech and language and Supporting children with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties, as well as promoting positive behaviour and English as an additional language.

Monthly supervision meetings with the Manager enables practitioners to highlight any training needs and experiences of specific needs and any need that is highlighted is supported by available training being booked.



.7. Specialist services and expertise accessed by Close to Home

We have regular contact with our Area SENCO who can offer support and advice as well as specialist teachers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, health visitors and doctors. We welcome professionals into our setting to share their expertise and support us in providing strategies that support individual children.

.9. Our accessible environment

We have completed an Access Audit to ensure our setting is as accessible as possible. We have a ramp that is non-slip which enables wheel chair access to the garden with ease. We have a disabled bathroom which has bars to support individuals as required. There is also an alarm in case assistance is required. Regular contact with our Area SENCO allows us to obtain equipment and resources.

.10. How Close to Home prepares and supports young children with SEND when joining the setting and when transferring to another setting or school.

Our 'settle sessions' can provide us with invaluable information about you and your child. We encourage these to start a month before your start date. Our settling in period can be very flexible in order to suit you and your child.

When children are about to start school we make many trips to the local schools either having organised visits or just taking the children to have a look and familiarise themselves with the building. The term leading up to school we have a 'school board' where each child can put their picture with their school. This gives them the opportunity to see who they will be joining at school as well as familiarising themselves with the school building and logo. We also welcome the teachers to come into the setting to see the children.

We share information with the teachers by filling out an 'All about me' document sharing the children's interests, likes/dislikes as well as any support they may require. This is filled out with parents to ensure all information is shared appropriately.

.11. How Close to Home organises its resources to meet the needs of young children with SEND

We work closely with you and any health and educational professionals in order to best support the desired outcome for your child.

.12. How Close to Home decides on appropriate support for young children with SEND

Your child's Key Person and SENCO will work closely with you and any other professionals in order to determine your child's needs. Through weekly staff meetings we can discuss any support strategies that need to be implemented ensuring we are all working together to provide the best possible care for your child understanding that what works for one child may not work for another.

.13. How Close to Home involves parents/carers



We value the contributions made by you and understand that you are your child's first and enduring educator. We understand that when we all work together the results have a positive impact on children's learning and development.

We operate an open door policy as well as providing daily diaries to encourage as much communication as possible. We have termly newsletters as well as open mornings where everyone is welcome. We also have a private Facebook page where you can share ideas, see pictures of your child (with consent) or ask us any questions.

.14. Who to contact for further information

If you would like to register your child at Close to Home or have any questions please contact the Manager Sarah Trower or Deputy Manager/SENCO Amy Hutchinson.