Developing services in South Gloucestershire

1 Information for Parents

Information for parents is mainly provided through the Children and Young People’s Information Service on the telephone 01454 868008 and by email: cis@southglos.gov.uk.

Advice on a range of issues including bullying, childcare, sleep problems and free school meals, is also available on the Children and Young People’s Families Website: www.southglos.gov.uk/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies

We want to improve this information so that all parents in South Gloucestershire can find the advice and information they want.

Parenting courses can be found on the internet at 1BigDatabase www.1tdgdatabase.org.uk

2 Providing local services

In order to improve the way that services such as health and the Council work together, we are currently developing three local ‘Hubs’ in South Gloucestershire. The Hubs are developing a way that professionals can work together so that it is easier for parents to get the services they want. A range of support for parents and children will be found at the Hubs, for example: advice on issues such as bullying, careers, housing, support for those experiencing domestic violence, those caring for a disabled child, specialist services such as educational psychologists, educational welfare officers, youth work and social work support.

Each of the Hubs will be linked to a number of Sure Start Children’s Centres which are locally-based services providing:

- drop-in sessions and toddler groups for children, parents and carers
- information and advice to parents and carers
- support to childminders, for example training and advice
- links to Jobcentre Plus services for support and advice about return to work, advice about benefits and adult learning courses
- midwives, health visitors and child health services
- support and advice on healthy living and the prevention of health problems
- links to local schools, out-of-school and holiday schemes
- targeted support for children with disabilities or special or additional needs and referral to more specialised support services.

More information about the local Hubs can be found on the Children and Young People’s Department Website: www.southglos.gov.uk/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies

More information about the Sure Start Children’s Centres can be found at: www.southglos.gov.uk/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies/ParentingandFamilySupport/ChildrenCentres

3 Parenting Support: Courses, classes, workshops, groups and advice

We know there is already a lot of help available from health workers, social workers and voluntary organisations. Parents in South Gloucestershire should have easy access to advice and support about parenting, but we know that, in some cases, parents may be discouraged from attending. The things we need to consider include: difficulties getting to the courses, lack of fathers on some courses and the timing of groups. In the strategy there are plans to make sure that parents are able to find and take part in a parenting group when they want to.

4 Ensuring that services are the best they can be

South Gloucestershire has a responsibility for many services used by parents. We would be grateful for your views on those that you think are working well and those which you think could be improved. If you have views about any service for children or parents, please get in touch with us.

Tel: 01454 868008
Email: cis@southglos.gov.uk

Address: Children & Young People Information Service, Riverscourt, Bowling Hill, Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire, BS37 6JX.

We want parents’ views

If you would like to give your opinions on parenting support in general or on this strategy document, please fill in the online paper questionnaire or answer some questions over the phone. Please see the details on the front page of this summary.

Parents’ Forums

As well as gathering feedback on this strategy from a range of parents throughout South Gloucestershire, we will also hold forums for parents in the Kingswood, Yate and Severn Vale Localities. These meetings will be a place where parents can make their views known about how well the Parenting Support Strategy is working. They will be held on:

- Saturday 3 November in Yate from 10.00 am – 12.15 pm followed by lunch
- Saturday 10 November in Kingswood from 10.00 am – 12.15 pm followed by lunch
- Saturday 17 November in Little Stoke from 10.00 am – 12.15 pm followed by lunch
- Saturday 24 November in Thornbury from 10.00 am – 12.15 pm followed by lunch

If you would like to take part, please call Lorna Henry at The Care Forum on 0117 9644444 (24 hour answer phone) or email: parentsvoice@thecareforum.org.uk

This information can be made available in other languages, in large print, braille, or on audio tape. Please telephone 01454 868008 if you need any of these.
What is the South Gloucestershire Parenting Support Strategy?

The Council and its partners are working to make South Gloucestershire a place where all children and young people have the best possible start in life. We provide a range of services to children and parents living in the area.

We are keen to know what parents think about the services already on offer to them and whether there are other services that should be available. We want to know what you think helps you to be a better parent to your children. The idea is if parents are better supported, then their children will live happier and more successful lives.

Who is the Parenting Support Strategy for?

The strategy is for all parents living in South Gloucestershire. In this document, the term parent means mothers, fathers, carers and others with responsibility for caring for a child (including: adoptive parents, foster carers and family carers). We recognize that the needs of every parent will be unique and we strive to provide a range of appropriate services so that every parent will be able to find the support that they want. We aim to include the views of as wide a range of parents and carers as possible, including:

- fathers and mothers
- parents from two parent families and single parents
- young parents, grandparents and young carers
- parents of disabled or learning disabled children.

Why do we need a Parenting Support Strategy?

Research shows that parenting is an important influence on a child’s chances in life. Positive and supportive parenting with affection, recognition and praise, and interest and involvement in education, is vital for children to enjoy their lives and achieve their full potential in the future as adults. The Parenting Support Strategy provides a plan for increasing and improving the practical support, advice and information available to parents and carers in South Gloucestershire in the coming years. It will support the work outlined in the South Gloucestershire Children and Young People Plan and the Disabled Children’s Strategy.

How can I find out more and have my say?

We welcome your comments on this draft Parenting Support Strategy for South Gloucestershire. You can respond to this document in three ways:

1. By completing the online questionnaire available at: www.southglos.gov.uk/parentingsupportstrategy
2. By completing the paper questionnaire and sending it to the address on the front.
3. By telephoning the Children and Young People Information Service and speaking to someone who will complete the questionnaire with you over the phone. Please call 01454 868008.

More information and a full copy of the South Gloucestershire Parenting Support Strategy is available from:

Website: www.southglos.gov.uk/parentingsupportstrategy
Tel: 01454 868008
If you want to access the internet from a public place, you can do this in any library or Sure Start Children’s Centre.
You can find out the address of your local library or Sure Start Children’s Centre from the Children and Young People Information Service by telephoning 01454 868008 or emailing cis@southglos.gov.uk

Children in South Gloucestershire

In line with government legislation (Children Act 2004), we are aiming to improve children’s lives by helping them to:
- Enjoy the best possible physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle
- Be safe, be protected from harm and neglect and feel safe and secure at all times
- Learn, play, enjoy and achieve wherever they are
- Achieve their ambitions, be creative and play a full and positive part in their communities
- Grow up in strong and secure families and vibrant communities and achieve rewarding adult lives

The support offered to parents and children is judged against whether or not it helps children to reach the five goals listed above.

Parenting Support in South Gloucestershire

Services in South Gloucestershire are provided at three levels according to the kind of support needed. These are:

Level 1 – Universal services

These are the services available to all children and families. For example:
- schools, health visiting and the Children and Young People Information Service
- doctors, midwives and school nurse services
- Sure Start Children’s Centres, toddler groups, preschool services and Jobcentre Plus
- parenting workshops, parenting groups and classes.

Level 2 – Targeted services

Children and families who have specific needs may be offered more specialist support. For example, support for:
- parents of children with learning difficulties, disabilities, conduct disorders or special educational needs
- young mothers and fathers and disabled parents
- support provided by speech and language therapy services, child and adolescent mental health services, family support work or social work.

Level 3 – Specialist services

These are services for children and families with complex or acute needs or families where state intervention is compulsory. For example support for:
- the parents of children with life threatening conditions, adoptive parents and foster carers
- the parents of children found to be at risk of significant harm

Services at this level include:
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, and Parenting Orders
- Social Work services for children, young people and families, specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and the Youth Offending Team.