

SEND Weekly Newsletter

19 December 2018



Issue 22

Onwards and upwards for Ellen



Former Somerset County Council Young Person's Champion Ellen has a really inspirational story to tell.

After holding the role in 2015 she went on to study medicine.

She says: "Hello everyone! I am so pleased to say I am now in my 3rd year of medical school and loving every moment of it.

"I can honestly say that the skills I developed during my time working for Somerset County Council have been fundamental to my day to day life as a medical student.

"As part of my own research, I am currently exploring the perspectives and experiences of doctors and medical students with long term health conditions/disabilities.

"It has become clear that this is a growing area of medicine and I feel so fortunate to be a part of the movement to increase representation within the medical profession.

"Through this, I was inspired to share my journey by starting a blog: www.medicelle.co.uk

"I just want to take this opportunity to give thanks for the amazing opportunity to work as Young Person's Champion and the support of the wonderful team."

Best wishes

Ellen

Merry Christmas everyone

This is the last newsletter before we head into 2019 so let me take this opportunity to wish you all—families, staff and anybody else involved in our SEND services a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for all your hard work if you're involved in delivering our services—have a great break and let's return refreshed in 2019 to continue our efforts in ensuring all children and young people in our area achieve well in their early years, at school and in college and lead happy and fulfilled lives.

To the families we support please keep telling us how we can improve and offer you the best possible support.

Annette Perrington, Assistant Director of Inclusion Somerset County Council



Breaks on the farm within reach of families

Thanks to it netting Big Lottery Funding Magdalen Farm is offering a huge discount on day and overnight breaks.

It means families can enjoy and overnight stay at the 132-acre organic working farm for a small fee per person. This includes Bank Holidays.

The booking includes meals and refreshments. Visitors can enjoy delicious home-cooked food with ingredients from the garden.

Day visits are also available which include activities, meals and refreshments.

For more information and to book visit the farm's [website](#).

Magdalen has been working with children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disabilities and their families for several years. As well as giving children a fantastic experience, there's a chance for



parents to unwind in the beautiful surroundings.

The Lottery funding means the farm will be able to offer subsidised packages for the next few years

Resources and support

Have you heard of the Learning Support Centre at Elmwood School?

It's home to a huge range of educational resources that families and professionals can **borrow free of charge**.

These include: Reading schemes, activity ideas, educational games, sensory exploration, puppets and story sacks, social, emotional and mental health information, and parenting programmes.

The centre has a network of specialist staff with a wealth of experience.

The LSC also holds SENCO support groups where professionals can meet and exchange ideas.

For more information [click here](#).



Council's getset consultation details

Somerset County Council is looking for people's views on proposed changes to the getset level 2 service.

The getset level 2 service is part of the council's early help offer. The proposals would stop Level 2 support which is mostly for families with children who need a little extra short-term help and the majority of their work is with families with children aged 0-4. For example parenting support groups such as Stay, Play and Learn, Bumps and Babes, PEEP parenting programmes and 1:1

family support work

The support provided by the Children with Disabilities Team, Community Adolescent Team and the SEND team would not be affected by these proposals.

Full details and a questionnaire are available [online](#) and in all Libraries and Family Centres.

The consultation closes 31 December. We encourage you to have your say. You can also email getsetconsultation@somerset.gov.uk if you have any comments not covered by the online consultation questionnaire.