


CHOICE ADVICE SERVICE



Supporting Parents and Carers within your Ward.



WHAT IS CHOICE ADVICE?



The service is designed to support parents and carers through the school admissions process. It is free and impartial and includes both Primary and Secondary School Admissions.

The service is funded by the Local Authority and delivered by **Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL)**.



Supporting Parents with:

- First time admissions
- Secondary Transfer
- Mid term Transfers
- New to the city
- Appeals process
- Children with SEN (through Parent Partnership)



How do we deliver the service:

- Telephone Support to Parents
- Face to Face Support
- Facilitating Workshops to Parents/Carers
- Visiting local School events
- Workshops for local agencies
- Website/email and Social Networking


We are able to meet for one to one support by:

- Attending Local agencies (Children's Centres)
- Meet at local Libraries and Customer Centres
- Local Coffee shops and Cafes
- Schools
- Home Visits
- At our city centre VAL offices

Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN):

The Choice Advice Service works alongside Parent Partnership which is also based at VAL. This means that Children with SEN can be supported by both contracts to ensure parents receive full support. Both contracts have strong relationships with other agencies in your ward.



» Targeted support for constituent's

The 22 City Wards



» Targeted Support for your Ward:



We work within each city ward to ensure strong links are formed with agencies such as:

- Sure Start and S.T.A.R Teams
- Nurseries (both Community and Independent)
- Local Primary and Secondary Schools
- Community Volunteering groups
- Customer Centres and Libraries
- Local Members Surgeries



» Targeted Support for your Ward:



We aim to understand local issues such as

- Availability of school places
- School Specialisms and building facilities
- Demographics of matches to admissions criteria
- Families on low income (travel and financial restrictions)
- Families with English as a second Language
- Population growth areas



Building Links with Nursery Schools:



- Engaging with Parents of children starting primary school
- Assisting the LA to identify parents who are not registered for Primary education
- Advising Parents of local Primary schools & facilities



Building Links with Schools:



- Knowledge of parents needing support
- Understanding facilities and specialisms
- Liaising with Head teachers and Transition Coordinators



Benefits to Schools and Agencies:



The service is designed to take pressure of support from schools and agencies to allow them to continue with other community and educational needs. We have a diverse knowledge of the city and local voluntary charities. We can share our information and refer parents for help with other issues.



Benefits to Parents and Carers:

- The support is free and impartial
- Help with completing application forms and letter writing.
- We have a knowledge of many schools and agencies
- We can guide parents through each step of the process and continue the journey with them.
- We can liaise with the LA on behalf of parents who may feel anxious about doing so.
- Support with lodging an appeal and attending the appeal hearing.



Benefits to Council Members and Local Authority:

- Simple referral system which assists councillors to deal with other community issues
- Reduction in late applications, reducing LA admin costs
- Reducing the number of appeal hearings to minimise financial impact on LA
- Providing statistical information regarding groups and individuals accessing the service to understand the future support needs and barriers faced with admissions
- Promoting Online registrations to Parents to reduce administration costs to LA.



How can you help?

You can help parents in need of the service by sharing this information to schools, agencies and individuals within your ward. You can also help by identifying and referring constituents to the service, particularly those who may struggle to navigate around the admissions process.



Contact Information –

Choice Advice Service:

Telephone: 0116 2575026
 Email: choiceadvice@valonline.org.uk
 Web: www.valonline.org.uk/choice-advice-parent-partnership
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/choiceadvice

By post or drop-in: Voluntary Action LeicesterShire
 9 Newarke Street
 Leicester
 LE1 5SN



Further help and support:

Voluntary Action Leicestershire are a key voluntary organisation that acts to involve volunteers and local groups in improving life in Leicester and Leicestershire.

We can offer support to local agencies through:

- Group Support
- Volunteering
- Local Policy matters



Our Conference and Meeting rooms

Please get in touch to find out more.



Contact Information –

Voluntary Action Leicestershire (VAL):

Telephone: 0116 2575050
 Email: helpline@valonline.org.uk
 Web: www.valonline.org.uk
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/voluntaryactionleicestershire
 Twitter: @valonline
 You Tube: VALonline1

By post : Voluntary Action LeicesterShire
 9 Newarke Street
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