

Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum's regular family bulletins

Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum has worked with their LA to produce regular bulletins to ensure families get the right information and know what support is available. They have also been working with partners to try and find solutions to some of the challenges being raised by families during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A particular issue was access to food and shopping so the forum worked with the LA to produce a letter which families can show supermarkets to prove their child has additional needs. The letter can be obtained by any family with a child on the SEN register from the Family Information Service. This followed reports that some supermarkets in the county were not allowing children into supermarkets despite them wearing a sunflower lanyard.

The letter also highlights the need for supermarkets to be flexible about issues such as queuing (which can be difficult for some children) and the need for some families to buy multiple items of food (where children eat only certain things or have intolerances.)

The forum has also been working to raise the issue of vouchers where short validity dates on electronic vouchers were presenting challenges to those self-isolating, without access to a printer or not living near one of the big four supermarkets.