

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Reforms

The Local Offer Factsheet

What is the local offer?

The local offer sets out information about provision expected to be available across education, health and social care, all in one place. These are provisions for children and young people in the area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care plans.

What the local offer is NOT...

It is not simply a directory of existing services.



Where can I find the local offer for my area?

The local offer can be accessed via the Access Unlimited website, where some information regarding the local offer is already available.

How the local offer is different to a directory:

It will provide threshold and referral information, as well as detail on schools and colleges and how they do things. It will also have reference to the legislation underpinning the services.

The local offer will set minimum expectations for schools and colleges. It will be searchable for things that people don't necessarily know they need to find, and will have a feedback facility.

The local offer will also be co-produced. Parents, children and young people must be involved in developing and reviewing the local offer. This co-production also gives the opportunity to providers to contribute to the context and availability of their service.

What will the local offer cover?

- Support available to all children and young people with SEN or disabilities from universal services such as schools and GPs
- Targeted services for children and young people with SEN or disabilities who require additional short-term support over and above that routinely provided as part of universal services
- Specialist services for children and young people with SEN or disabilities who require specialised, longer term support

What information do services need to provide as part of the local offer?

What does your service do?

Where is it located and what areas does it cover?

Who does your service provide for?

How can people start using the service?

How are decisions made about who can use your service?

How do you communicate with service users and how are they involved in decision making/planning?

Is your service fully accessible?

What training are the staff supporting children and young people with SEND had or are having?

Who should be contacted for further information?

The Code of Practice states that:

“Local authorities **must** publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.” (Ref: 4.1)

“The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the available provision and how to access it, and
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children and those with SEN and their parents as on the information it contains. The process of developing the Local Offer will help local authorities and their health partners to improve provision.” (Ref: 4.2)

As part of **The Children and Families Act 2014**, the Government issued a Green Paper, (a consultation document), which announced that they wanted to improve the special educational needs system. This is to provide better outcomes for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities and to improve the experience of parents/carers when securing support for their children.

Therefore - Our SEND policy for September 2014 has been currently reviewed in the light of the new Code of Practice for September 2014, and it reflects appropriate changes.

<https://www.access-unlimited.co.uk/send-reforms/local-offer/>