The Local offer

A guide to understanding and accessing your Local Offer page
What is the Local Offer?

Each local authority is required to have a Local Offer. The Local Offer webpage should set out in one place all information about provision the local authority ‘expect to be available’ across education, health and social care. Local authorities should include provision which they believe will actually be available (SEND CoP, 2015).

The Local Offer is for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and their families.

To find your Local Offer page simply write the name of your local authority followed by the term “Local Offer” - into your internet search engine and press return. The results of the search should include a link to your local authority Local Offer website.

The name of your local authority will be on your council tax bill, and it should be on the signs outside your local schools, libraries, swimming pools etc. If you are unsure about what local authority you live in you can find out by visiting: https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council.
What must be included in the Local Offer?

The Local Offer must have information about:

**Education & Training**
- Special educational, health and social care provision for children and young people with SEND
- Other educational provision, for example sports or arts provision
- Post-16 education, training, apprenticeships and supported internships
- Arrangements for travel to and from schools, post-16 institutions and early years providers
- Institutions approved under Section 41 of the Children and Families Act 2014
- Support to help children and young people move between phases of education (for example from early years to primary school)
- Support available to young people in higher education, particularly the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) and the process and timescales for making an application for DSA

**Education, Health and Care Plans**
- Details of how parents and young people can request an assessment for an EHC plan
- Arrangements for identifying and assessing children and young people’s SEND – including arrangements for EHC needs assessments

**Other Information & Support**
- How to access your local SEND Information, Advice and Support (IAS) service
- Sources of information, advice and support in the local authority’s area relating to SEND
- Information about provision to assist in preparing children and young people for adulthood
- Childcare, including suitable provision for children with SEND
- Hobbies/Leisure activities

**Complaints & Appeals**
- Arrangements for resolving disagreements and for mediation, and details about making complaints
- Parents’ and young people’s rights to appeal a decision of the local authority to the First-tier Tribunal (SEND) in respect of SEND and provision
- The local authority’s accessibility strategy (under paragraph 1 Schedule 10 to the Equality Act 2010)
The Local Offer should cover:

- Support available to all children and young people with SEND from universal services such as schools and GPs
- Targeted services for children and young people with SEND who require additional short-term support over and above that provided routinely as part of universal services
- Specialist services for children and young people with SEND who require specialised, longer term support
Example: How to use the Local Offer to access information.

Note: each Local Offer page looks different and is unique to each local authority, however most share similar features. Below is an example using Hackney’s Local Offer page. Their Local Offer page has similar features to most other Local Offer pages. If you cannot find the information you need you can feedback on the Local Offer Webpage or contact your local IAS service.

**Step 1:** Select age of the person you would like information for.

**Step 2:** Select the topic you would like information on, for example, childcare.
Step 3: Select the option within childcare that you would like information on, for example, choosing childcare.

Step 4: Click on chosen result to read information.
Feedback & how to complain about the Local Offer

Local authorities must involve children and young people with SEND and their parents in:

- Adding content to the Local Offer
- Reviewing the Local Offer
- Making comments about the Local Offer

Local authorities should do this in a way which ensures that children, young people and parents feel they have participated fully in the process and have a sense of co-ownership. This is known as ‘co-production’. Local authorities should make use of Parent Carer forums, young people forums and other local groups to engage families to participate.

Keeping the Local Offer under review

Local authorities must keep their educational and training provision and social care provision under review and this includes the quality and condition of that provision.

Publishing comments/feedback about the Local Offer

Local Authorities must publish comments about their Local Offer received from or on behalf of children and young people with SEND and their parents.

Comments must be published if they relate to:

- The content of the Local Offer, which includes the quality of existing provision and any gaps in the provision
- The accessibility of information in the Local Offer
- How the Local Offer has been developed or reviewed

Local authorities are not expected to publish responses to every comment individually but could, for example, adopt a ‘you said, we did’ approach.

Local authorities must publish their response to comments received within the Local Offer and this must include details of the action they intend to take. They should consult children and young people with SEND and their parents in relation to the action they intend to take.

Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Services can help you to find your Local Offer. They can also help you to tell your local authority what you think about your Local Offer. Find your local IAS service by visiting: www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk
References