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INTRODUCTION TO THE LOCAL OFFER

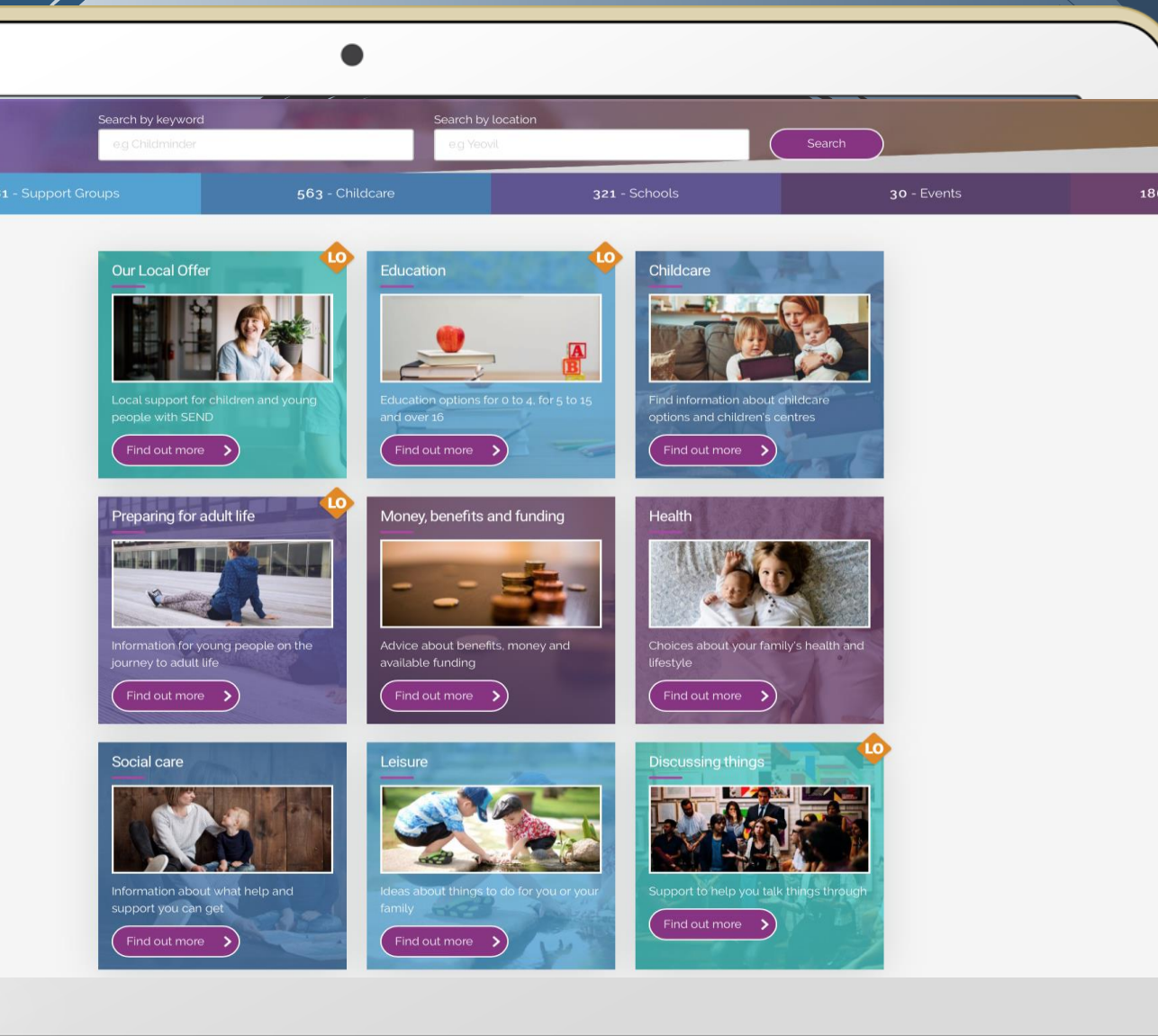
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Local offer

Every local authority in England has a legal duty to publish a Local Offer.

(1) A local authority in England must publish information about—
(a) the provision within subsection (2) it expects to be available in its area at the time of publication for children and young people who have special educational needs or a disability, and
(b) the provision within subsection (2) it expects to be available outside its area at that time for—
(i) children and young people for whom it is responsible, and
(ii) children and young people in its area who have a disability.

Section 30 Children and Families Act 2014



The Local Offer has two key purposes:

To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date 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, and disabled young people and those with SEN, and service providers in its development and review.

(SEND Code of Practice section 4.2)

WHAT IS THE LOCAL OFFER



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- The Local Offer gives children, young people and their families information about what services are likely to be available in their area.
- The local offer is not a guarantee that a particular service will be available, but should be a guide to what you can expect to find and how you can access it.
- The Local Offer needs to be available on the internet.
- The Local Authority must also say how people without internet can access the Local Offer.
- The local offer should not just be a list of services. It should give a broad range of information about the support available.
- The information should be clear and easy to find.

WHAT IS THE LOCAL OFFER



Terminology Must v Should

Where it says 'must' they have to

- give consideration to what the Code says whenever they are making decisions – they cannot ignore it
- be able to demonstrate in their arrangements for children and young people with SEND that they are fulfilling their statutory duty to have regard to the Code.

Where the word 'should' is used in the Code, it means

- the guidance must be considered and those who must have regard to it will be expected to explain any departure from it.



The Legislation

The duty to publish a Local Offer came into force in 2014 with the Children and Families Act.

The Legislation



Local Authorities must

- publish its local offer by placing it on their website
- publish its arrangements for enabling
 1. people without access to the Internet; and
 2. different groups, including people with special educational needs or a disability, to obtain a copy of the offer
- publish how those people identified in paragraph (1,2) can provide comments on the local offer.



Feedback

- Local Authorities must publish:
- Comments on the content of its local offer, including the quality of the provision that is included and any provision that is not included;
- Comments on the accessibility of the information contained in its local offer; and
- how the local offer has been developed or reviewed, including how those children, parents and young people have been involved in the development and review of the local offer.



- What would your local families say if asked about the Local Offer?
- What is the forums view of the Local Offer?



Activity one

Current provision in your area.

The good, the bad and the ugly

SEND Local Area Inspections

- The local offer meets the expected statutory requirements and has recently been refreshed. (BANES)
- Birmingham has not ensured that the published local offer is a useful means of communicating with families. It is difficult to locate information and many parents and young people are unaware of its existence. Very few were involved in its development.
- The local offer is not always straightforward for users to access. For example, the 'key word search' function does not enable users to find the information they are looking for very easily. Some parents and health professionals are not well informed about the local offer despite the range of strategies the local area has employed to inform them. Derbyshire
- The local area's website for the local offer provides a wealth of information and guidance. In addition, information officers, employed by the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC), work tirelessly to support parents and carers in navigating the local offer and providing individual information, guidance and support to families.
- A review of the Local Offer, which included children and young people and the parent carer forum (PCF), took place last year. As a result, leaders updated and re-launched the local offer in autumn 2017. Parents appreciated this and recognised the improvements made. (City of London Corporation)



- The Local Offer **must** include provision in the local authority's area. It **must** also include provision outside the local area that the local authority expects is likely to be used by children and young people with SEND for whom they are responsible
- It should include relevant regional and national specialist provision, such as provision for children and young people with low-incidence and more complex SEN.

4.4 SEND Code of Practice 2015

Content

What must be included in the Local Offer.



Content



Education

Maintained schools

Academies

Non maintained special schools

Independent schools section 41

Pupil Referral Units

Colleges/Sixth forms

Apprenticeships



Social Care

Eligibility

Access criteria

Transition to adult services

Short breaks

Childcare



Information

How sen is identified

What to expect from education 0-25

Additional learning support available

What support is available

EHCP information



Preparation for adulthood

Education

Work

Housing

Volunteering

Care support

Internet safety



Health

Personal Health Budgets

Therapies

Palliative Care/Respite

Emergency Care

Wheelchair services

Consultation

When preparing and reviewing its local offer, a local authority must consult the following persons in its area



Children, Young people and their families

With Special Educational needs
With disabilities



Early years

Education providers including childminders
Maintained nursey schools
Childrens centres



Schools

Maintained schools
Academies
Non maintained special schools
Independent schools
Pupil Referral Units



Post 16

Colleges
Sixth forms
Those who make provision to assist preparation for adulthood



Health

Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS Trust/foundation trust
Local Health boards
Health and Wellbeing board



Reflecting on the experiences in activity one:

- What is working well?
- What needs to change?

Activity Two

What needs to change.



CORE PRINCIPLES

Collaborative:

Local authorities **must** involve parents, children and young people in developing and reviewing the Local Offer. They **must** also co-operate with those providing services

Accessible:

The published Local Offer should be easy to understand, factual and jargon free. It should be structured in a way that relates to young people's and parents' needs (for example by broad age group or type of special educational provision). It should be well signposted and well publicised

**Collaborative
and
accessible**



CORE PRINCIPLES CONTINUED:

Comprehensive:

Parents and young people should know what support is expected to be available across education, health and social care from age 0 to 25 and how to access it. The Local Offer **must** include eligibility criteria for services where relevant and make it clear where to go for information, advice and support, as well as how to make complaints about provision or appeal against decisions

Up to date:

When parents and young people access the Local Offer it is important that the information is up to date

Transparent:

The Local Offer should be clear about how decisions are made and who is accountable and responsible for them

Comprehensive
Up to date
Transparent



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Team effort



Local Authority

The lead organisation who have the legal duty to publish the Local Offer.

Need to coordinate with other bodies to create, maintain and review the local offer.



Clinical Commissioning group

Have a duty under the children and families act to co-operate with the Local Authority to ensure all elements required are published on the local offer.

Must support the publication of what is available locally and eligibility criteria.



Providers

Have a duty under the children and families act to co-operate with the Local authority and provide clear information on what they provide and how to access services.



Families

Have a duty under the children and families act to involve local children, young people with SEND and their families.





- What changes will make the most impact to the experience of Local Families?
- How can the forum ensure families are involved?

Activity Three

What needs to change.



Local Offer can:

- Help local families help themselves to find the support they need
- Families are well informed and supported
- Families having clear pathways so not bounced around the system
- Reduce pressure on services as clear criteria will help get the right support, to the right people, at the right time.
- Help identify gaps in service and support commissioning
- Help to identify services which are not matching local needs



It's worth it



USEFUL RESOURCES


**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT 2014
SECTION 30**

**THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
AND DISABILITY REGULATIONS 2014
PART 4**

**SEND CODE OF PRACTICE 2015
SECTION 4**

Please contact the forum if you
would like a digital copies of the
audit tool and content
spreadsheet



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