

Coproducing the Local Offer

A Contact online Learning session presented by Ruth Hobbs
Contact Associate and CEO Somerset Parent Carer Forum CIC

Date 15 February 2022



Welcome!



Welcome to this Contact Online Learning Session.

If there is a technical hitch, please do bear with us.

Those of you joining by pc, laptop, tablet or smart phone should now be able to see this introduction slide.

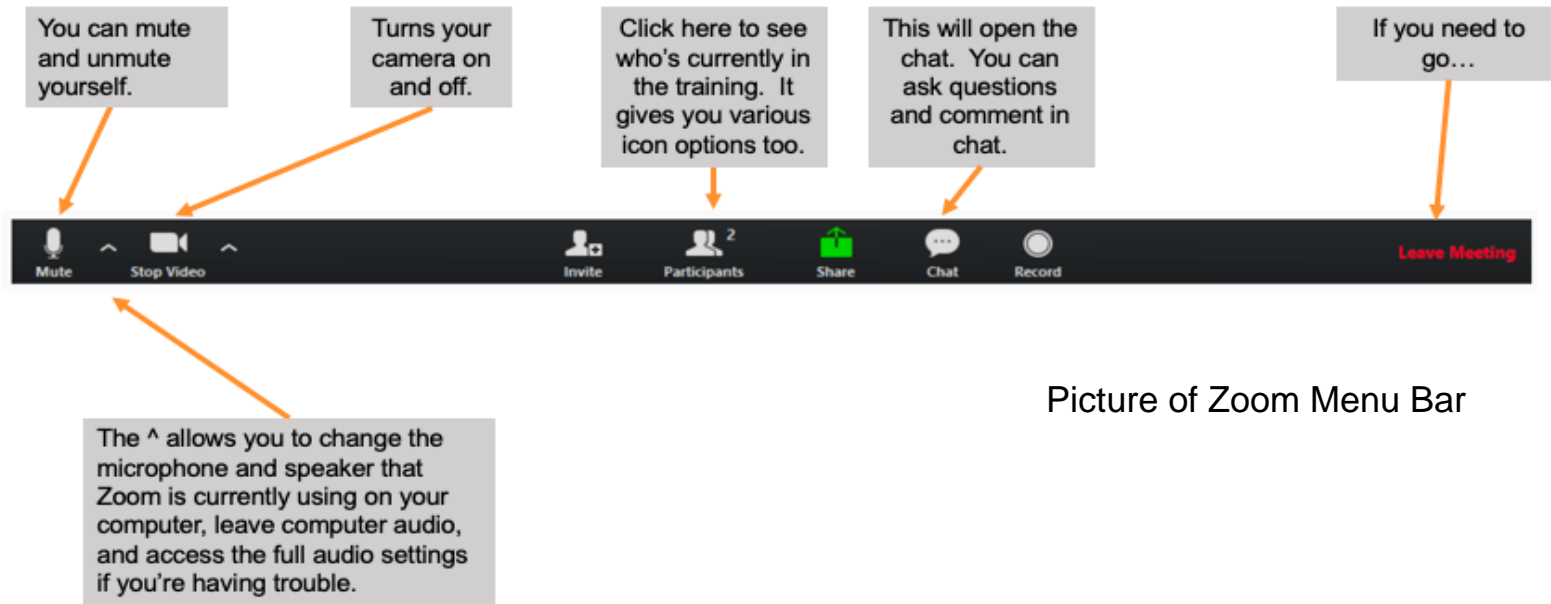


Timings and Questions

As there are so many attendees you will all remain 'muted' throughout.



Tips on how to use Zoom



Picture of Zoom Menu Bar



Q & A

Further relevant questions, not covered in the time allowed, will be answered and posted on Contact's website along with the recording of the session, details of which will be circulated in the next couple of weeks.



The Local Offer

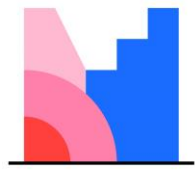
an overview

The Local Offer
for Special Needs and Disabilities
A one stop shop of services for 0-25 year olds with disabilities



- The Local Offer aims to bring together useful information across education, health and social care within one website.
- The website should provide:
 - a range of local service providers who support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
 - information, advice and guidance





Mentimeter



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

- 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.



Terminology - Must v Should

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

Where it says 'must' local authorities 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.



Local Authorities must

- » publish its local offer by placing it on their website
 - » publish its arrangements for enabling
 - people without access to the Internet; and
 - 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.
- » 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.



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



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

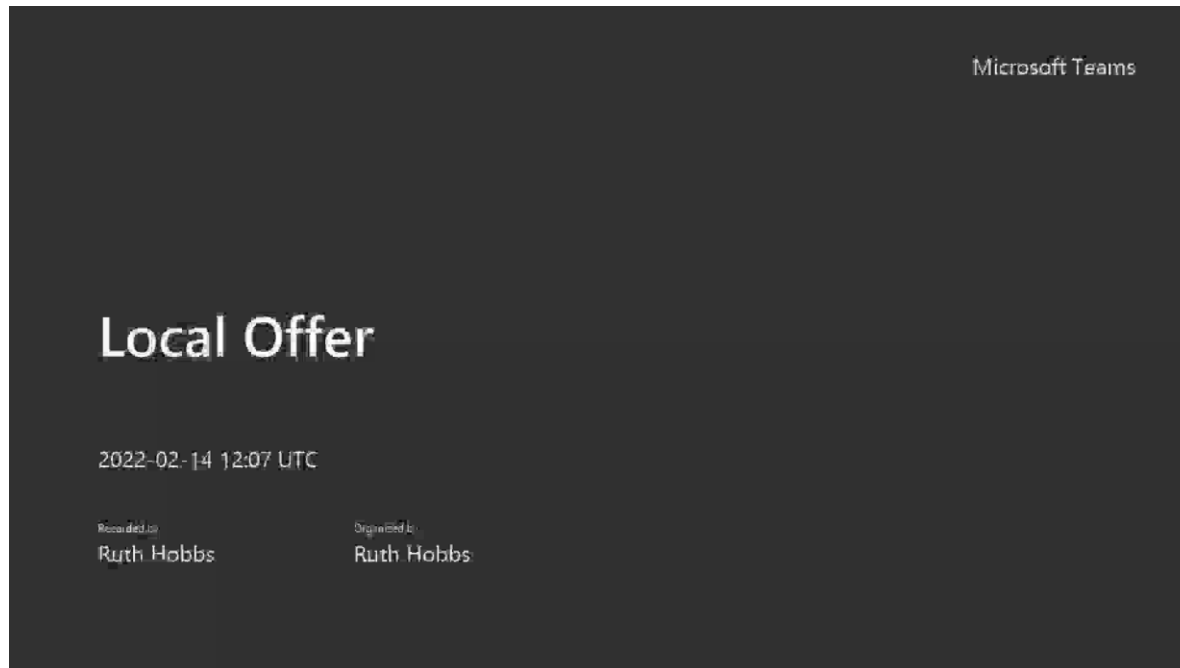


The national picture

- Area leaders know that the local offer is not fit for purpose. A comprehensive review of the local offer has been undertaken. The area has consulted with stakeholders, including parents and carers, young people and education settings, throughout the review. This has enabled them to co-produce a redesigned local offer that leaders feel will provide parents and carers easy access to a wide range of information. However, at the time of this inspection, the new local offer had not been launched. **Warwickshire 2021**
- Parents of children and young people with SEND have access to good information and advice from the family information service and the local offer. **Reading 2021**
- The online local offer has improved. The majority of parents say that they know about the local offer and that it is informative and helpful for advice and signposting. Content is up to date. **Swindon 2021 revisit**
- The local offer, known as 'Somerset choices', has a range of comprehensive and useful information for parents and professionals. However, too many parents are unaware of the local offer, and those who are say that it is too difficult to navigate in order to find what they want. Nevertheless, the recent co-production of a new local offer with the parents and carers forum is a positive step. **Somerset 2020**



Kent Parents and Carers Together



<https://youtu.be/9qJegZmkzps>



What must be included in the Local Offer

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





Mentimeter

What should 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



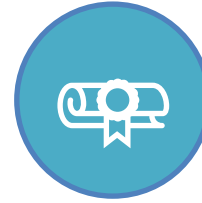
Social Care

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 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their **families**



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
- Integrated Care Systems
- Health and Wellbeing board



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.

Have a duty under the Children and Families Act to co-operate with the the Local Authority to ensure all elements required are published on the local offer.
Must support the publication of what is available locally and the eligibility criteria to access it.



Team effort

Clinical Commissioning group

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.



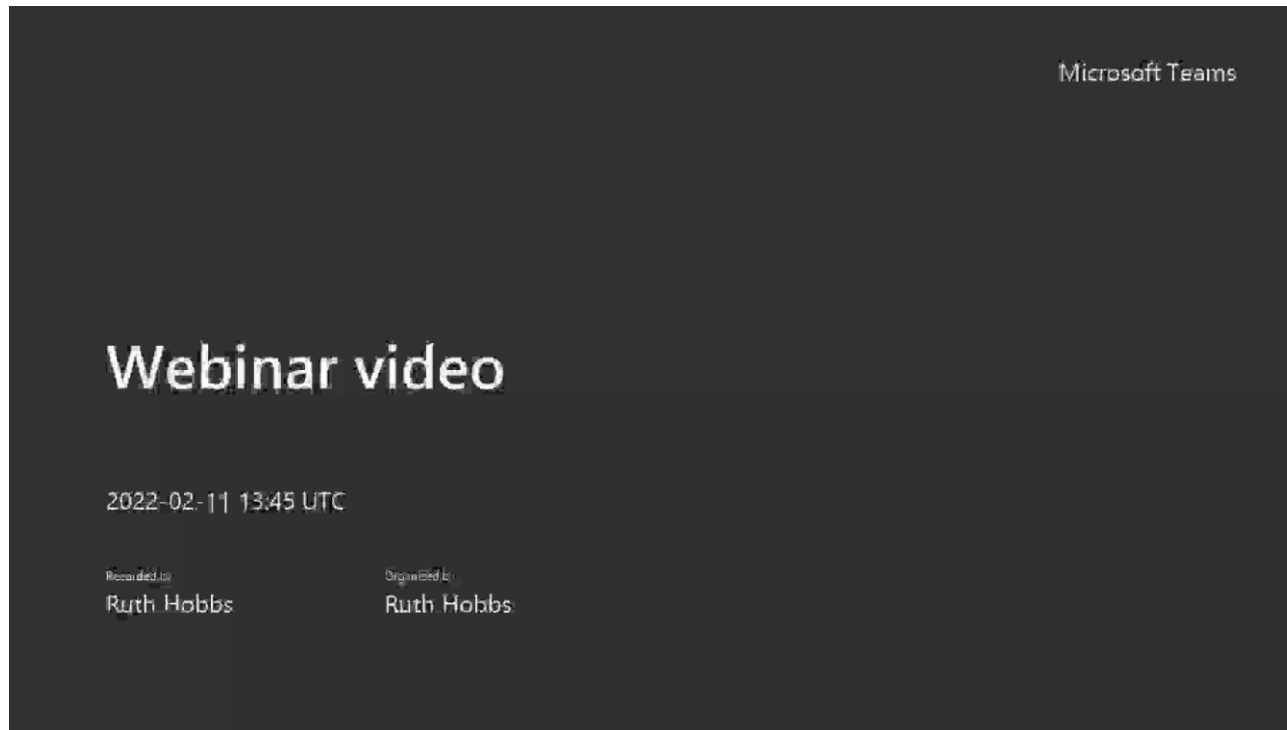
Families

There is a duty under the Children and Families Act to involve local children, young people with SEND and their families.



Coproduction of the Local Offer

A Local Authority perspective.



<https://youtu.be/H4U4x8MZPo0>



It's worth it?

- Help local families help themselves to find the support they need
- Families are well informed and supported
- Families having clear pathways, so they are 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



Any Questions



Thank you!

Thank you for attending with us today.

The recording of this webinar and presentation will be available on Contact's website in the next two weeks. Look out for news about this on our homepage and social media networks.

www.contact.org.uk/get-involved/parent-carer-participation/resources



Questions and Resources

If you have any other questions relating to your forum please contact your [Regional Parent Participation Adviser](#) or parent.participation@contact.org.uk

For advice on SEND issues get in touch via **Contact's free helpline** 0808 3555 (9.30 – 5pm Mon-Fri) or helpline@contact.org.uk or visit our advice pages on our website www.contact.org.uk

Webinars and other resources can be found on our **participation pages** [https://www.contact.org.uk/get-involved/parent-carer-participation/resources-\(general\)/](https://www.contact.org.uk/get-involved/parent-carer-participation/resources-(general)/)

