

Local Offer

**Supporting Children and Young People
with SEND and their Families**



**An Introduction to
the Local Offer and
Education, Health &
Care Plans.**

Education, social care and health services are working together to improve support for children and young people aged 0 - 25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families.

In response to the Children and Families Act 2014 there will be some changes to the way the Council, NHS and other services support people aged 0 - 25 with SEND. From September these changes will include the launch of the Local Offer and the new Education, Health and Care assessment process.

What is the Local Offer?

The Local Offer is an accessible online support and guidance resource for children and young people aged 0 - 25 with SEND and their families.

Who is it for?

The Local Offer is primarily designed for use by children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers, but it will also provide a valuable resource for professionals who will be able to access up-to-date information on which services are available locally and how these can be accessed. There will also be information on activities for siblings too.

What will be included?

Every Council is required to publish information about services they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from birth to 25 with SEND. The Council must also publish information on services outside of the area which they think children and young people from their area are likely to use.

This will include information on:

- » Education (e.g. nurseries, playgroups, schools and colleges as well as support services like educational psychologists, early years and early intervention workers)
- » Health (e.g. doctors, paediatricians, school nurses and therapists)
- » Social care (e.g. respite services and children's disability services)
- » Voluntary & private sectors (e.g. charitable organisations, support groups, education providers, nurseries and youth clubs)
- » Preparing for adulthood (e.g. where to live, education, training and employment, transport and financial advice)
- » Leisure and recreation (e.g. art and dance classes, sports and social clubs, food and entertainment, holiday clubs)



How will this help young people and families?

The Local Offer will make it easier for young people and their families to find what they need to know and/or who they need to speak to. Comprehensive and accurate information will help young people and families to understand, and make decisions on the different options and opportunities available to them. Young people and families will be encouraged to rate the Local Offer, and it will help the Council to identify any gaps in the current provision. If young people or their families are not happy, for any reason, guidance will be included on where to get help and advice.

When will it be available?

The Local Offer went live on 1st September 2014, but this won't be the end of its development. It will be regularly updated and reviewed by young people, families and providers to make sure the Local Offer meets the needs of our children, young people and families, locally. You can access the Local Offer at www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk

What is the Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment Process?

The EHC assessment process will replace SEN statements and separate learning difficulty assessments with a simpler 0 to 25 years joint education, health and care assessment, and plan, from September 2014. The EHC plan will provide the same statutory protection as the SEN statement, whilst extending the rights and protections to young people in further education and training.

What are the benefits of the EHC assessment process?

The new process has been designed to place children, young people and their families at the heart of the assessment process, to ensure:

- the right support is delivered at the right time
- the best opportunities are made available
- and the best outcomes are achieved for every child and young person

When will the new process start?

A child or young person, new to the assessment system at September 2014, will automatically be assessed using the new EHC assessment process, and issued with an EHC plan if appropriate. For transition arrangements for children and young people who have an existing SEN statement, or Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA), please view our 'arrangements for the transfer of statements and LDAs to EHCPs' document.

Education Health & Care Referral, Assessment & Planning Process Overview

6 weeks

Stage 1

Referrer prepares the request for referral

Request received by the Council

Stage 2 Review

EHCP Panel considers request

Accepted for assessment

Referred back to the referrer with feedback to be shared with the young person/family

8 weeks

Stage 3 Assessment

Introductions (SEN case worker/parent/young person/child/key contact)

All About Me meeting (key contact/professionals/parent/young person/child)

This is the child's and their family's, or young person's, opportunity (with support if required) to tell us:

- about their needs
- support already being given
- what's working well and what could be better
- hopes for the future

This will involve completing an 'all about me' document, again with support if required

Draft Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) produced

Draft plan and resources approved by Commissioning Panel

Stage 4 Completion

Draft plan issued

Optional Plan Meeting (SEN officer/parent/young person/child)

Parents/young person agree to content of plan and educational establishment (15 days)

Chosen educational establishment consulted (15 days)

Plan finalised, shared and implemented

Stage 5 Review
Annually, or sooner if required

6 weeks