



SEND LOCAL OFFER

The Children and Families Act 2014

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.

As a result The Children and Families Bill was passed through Parliament and received royal assent in March 2014, and will be coming into force from September 2014.

Among the requirements placed on Local Authorities within the Bill, there are two clauses which relate to the provision of information:

- Clause 30 – duty on local authorities to provide information of what services are available.
- Clause 32 – information and advice for parents and young people.

What is the Local Offer?

From September 2014, every Local Authority will be required to publish information about services they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from birth to 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); and also services outside of the area which they expect children and young people from their area will use. This will be known as the 'Local Offer'.

The Local Offer will put all the information about education, health and care services, leisure activities and support groups in one place.

It has two main purposes:

- to provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available;
- to make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations.

The Government says that the Local Offer must be developed and reviewed in partnership with children and young people, parent carers and local services including early years settings, schools, colleges, health and social care agencies. This is called 'co-production'.

People and services commissioned by the Local Authority to support children and young people with special educational needs should complete a Local Offer based on a set of questions which have been developed through co-production; within the framework and guidance produced by the [South East Seven \(SE7\) Local Authorities Government Pathfinder](#).

Hampshire Local Offer:

All Local Offers will be formally 'published' on the dedicated [Hampshire Local Offer](#) website.

Hampshire families and practitioners are able to access information on a range of education, health, adult and child social care services.

What are Services for Young Children doing?

Services for Young Children (SfYC) are working with childcare and early years education providers to develop their individual Local Offers which when published will inform current and future users of their services.

The SfYC inclusion and information teams, who support practitioners and families, have developed Local Offers so that service users are able to make informed decisions. Draft versions of these can be found in the right hand column under the heading, '**SfYC Local Offers**'. Further ones will be added to this page as they become available.

The above information is an extract from the Hampshire County Council Services For Young Children website.