

BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
THE LOCAL OFFER

Introduction

What is It?

In response to calls from parent carers to have clear information in one place and to have influence on service provision, the Reforms now require local authorities to publish a clear and transparent 'Local Offer' which provides:-

- a single point of information
- descriptions of the support available for children/young people with SEND from 0-25 years and their families
- details of eligibility for more specialist services
- descriptions of how the 7 components of the Government's vision (*see the Introduction on the SEN Reforms page*) will be achieved
- a feedback loop to enable parent carers to comment and services to improve

This makes the Local Offer both a Product (source of information) and a Process (a way of providing feedback and improving services). To achieve this:

- it should be co-produced by parent carers, young people and professionals
- all providers have a strict duty to publish this information according to a framework
- it must be web-based and widely accessible
- it must be easy to navigate, and searchable by age, area and need
- comments and feedback from users must be visibly responded to.

What's in it?

The content of the Local Offer must include:-

- details of all Education, Health and Care provision for children and young people (0-25 years) with SEND clearly stated
- the arrangements for identifying and assessing children and young people with SEND
- details of what is available both with and without specialist assessments
- eligibility criteria and decision making processes

- travel to and from education settings
- support when transitioning between phases of education and adulthood
- training and work/life skills provision, including apprenticeships
- specific information from providers, on how they assess and meet the needs of children with SEND.

The aim is that the Local Offer will set out how parents, local schools and colleges, and other health and care services, will work together. Another aim is to make the system less stressful for families by giving parents more information about what local services and expertise are available to them. As a result, parent carers should be able to make more informed choices and to know what they and their children can expect.

In Bristol

Bristol has have chosen to use and adapt a framework that was developed by parent carers in South East England through participation. They created a series of questions for providers - if providers answer these, they will have fulfilled their requirement/duty. These questions fall under such topics as education, health, social care, and preparing for adulthood. Bristol's providers will use this framework to develop the text for their Offer which will be posted on their websites with links to the Local offer site. The Local Offer site will be built onto the Findability Bristol website.

Bristol Parent Carers' reps are involved in designing the Local Offer and sit on Bristol's Local Offer Core Group which is developing how it will all work.

The Local Offer should be available from September 2014, starting with what is widely available now. Its development will be ongoing, as parent carers and authorities feedback the improved information they wish to see, and providers work in partnership with parent carers to respond to comments about improving services.

If you have any views on the reforms, please email them to: sendplus@bristol.gov.uk, if you want to get involved, [contact us](#).