

Countdown to September 2014 and beyond

As you can imagine, this is a challenging task and we will not meet these aspirations overnight. This is where you come in! We are committed to delivering a Local Offer that meets all those principles mentioned overleaf but we will need your help to be able to achieve this.

From now onwards organisations, services and schools are being asked to fill out a template to explain what their organisation/service does. It would be really appreciated if this could be sent back as soon as possible (Local Offer email address below), but please ensure you take the time to follow the principles for the Local Offer (for example, working with parents and young people).

From May to July 2014

The Local Authority will publish their draft 'Area Wide Offer' which will outline what they expect early years settings, schools and colleges to be able to provide, using their funding, to support children with SEND.

We will have an example website that will contain information from the completed templates that services, organisations, schools, etc., have sent back. You will then be able to use and give feedback on this initial work (what is good, what is not so good, and any suggestions for improvements).

The West Sussex Parent Carer Forum will be delivering a roadshow (Making it Real for my Family – SEND reforms) around the county, to keep you informed of changes happening this year. You will also have an opportunity to be part of the development of the Local Offer. To find out more information about dates and

venues please see the Parent Carer Forum website:

www.westsussexparentcarerforum.com or their Facebook page **www.facebook.com/pages/West-Sussex-Parents-Forum/357548895577**.

From September 2014

The Children and Families Act will come into force and the Local Offer website will be 'officially live'. The website will continue to develop over the next year to build on the initial work and will continue to consult a wide range of professionals/practitioners as well as parents and young people to ensure that the website can meet everyone's needs as far as possible. After September 2015 we won't stop there.

The Local Offer will be constantly evolving and will inform how services are developed and changed. There will also be someone to talk to, who will help you through the Local Offer, answering any questions you may have and guiding you to information that may be helpful.

The Local Authority welcomes comments and feedback from parents, carers, young people, professionals/practitioners, voluntary groups and anybody else working with children that have SEND.

The development of the Local Offer is your opportunity to contribute and shape how it will look. If you are, or you know of an established service/group that you feel should be part of the Local Offer then please send this information to **localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk**

Do you have a suggestion for what the West Sussex Local Offer could be called?

If so, email us your suggestion to:

localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk

Include your name and telephone number.

The prize will be a £20 gift voucher.

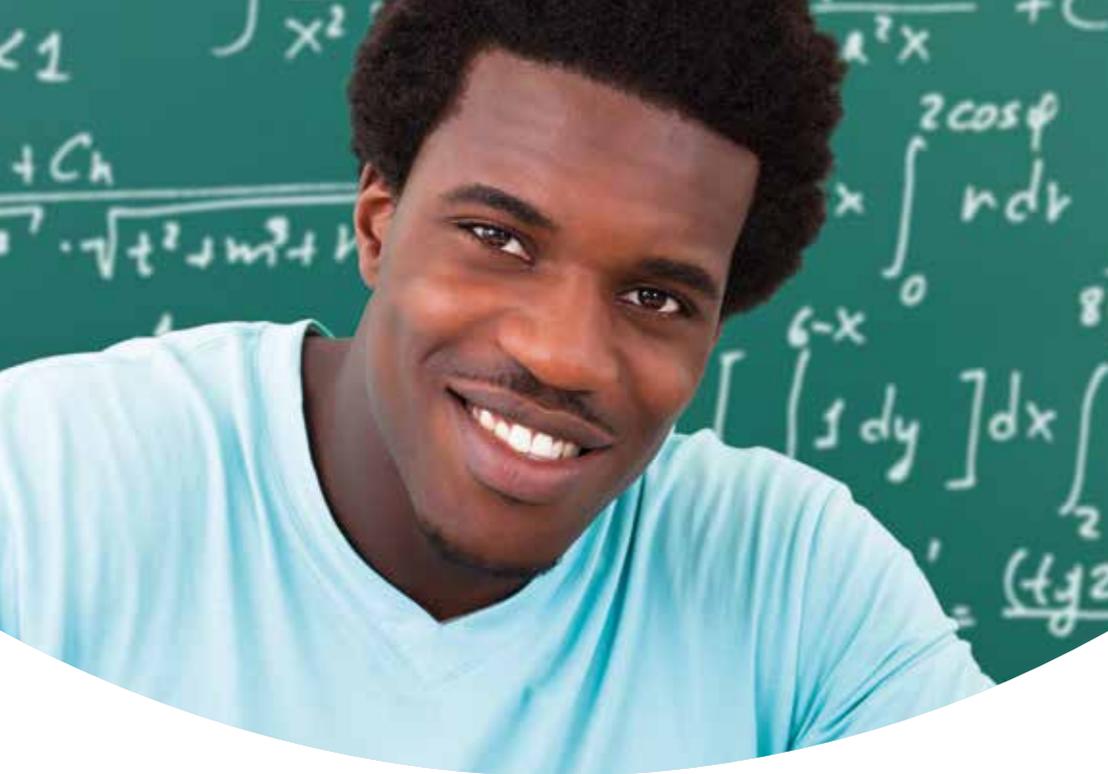
Suggestions will need to be with us by 31 July 2014.

WHAT IS THE

LOCAL OFFER?

A guide for parents, young people and professionals





From September 2014 every Local Authority will be required to publish information about available services both in and outside West Sussex for children and young people from birth to 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This will be known as the 'Local Offer'.

LOCAL OFFER | PRINCIPLES

Co-produced with parents carers, young people and professionals/practitioners.

1. Empowering for parent carers, young people and professionals or practitioners.
2. Accessible, so you can find it easily and will be able to understand the content. Also, there is help to navigate the Local Offer if needed.
3. Holistic, covering ages 0–25 and services and organisations in the statutory and voluntary sector.
4. Providing clear information about what is widely available without the need for specialist assessments.
5. Transparent, providing information on eligibility criteria and how to access services. Explaining how decisions are made, who to talk to if things go wrong.
6. Keep up-to-date, including a clear system for entering and updating information.
7. Factual, our local offer will be clear, factual and honest about current practice and provision.



Our Local Offer will put all the information about learning, keeping well, care services, leisure activities, short breaks and support groups in one place online.

The content of our Local Offer will be jointly prepared with parent carers and children and young people. This will ensure that it is written and delivered in the most suitable way, so everyone can use it, understand it, and get what they need from it. It will also be reviewed in partnership with children and young people, parent carers, and local services, including schools, colleges, health and social care agencies.

The Local Offer is not just a directory of services

The Local Offer is not simply a directory of information or a list of services available (like a phone book). Our Local Offer will provide clear information about what is openly available without the need for particular specialist assessments in order to access it. It will include clear information on access to services, any eligibility criteria, how decisions are made and who makes them.

Throughout the planning of the Local Offer, the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum have been contributing every step of the way, ensuring the Local Offer will look, feel and contain the quality of information that a parent will need. If you are a parent and would like to be part of this wider voice, please contact the Parent Carer Forum on 01903 726188.

What is the
**LOCAL
OFFER?**

A new online information resource
for children and young people
who have special educational
needs or disabilities (SEND).

