

What is the Local Offer?

Every local authority must publish a Local Offer. The Local Offer tells you what support the local authority expects to be available for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities. It must include information about education, health and care provision. It should also tell you about training, employment and independent living for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

You can find the Local Offer for Durham County Council within the Families Information Service website; <http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info>

Who is it for?

The Local Offer is for:

- children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities from birth to 25
- their parents and carers
- practitioners and professionals.

What is the idea?

The Local Offer should:

- make it easier to find out what you need to know
- give you information about what is available
- tell you where you can get further information.

The [Local Offer](#) should also make services more responsive to local needs.

The [SEND Code of Practice](#) says that the Local Offer should:

- *provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it*
 - *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*
- (4.2)

What does it include?

The Local Offer includes information on:

- how children and young peoples' needs are identified
- how their needs are assessed
- the special educational, health and social care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities
- opportunities for training and employment
- support for independent living
- how provision is funded
- leisure activities and support groups
- where you can find more information, advice and support
- arrangements for travel to and from school and other settings
- the help available to resolve disagreements.

The Local Offer must also tell you about services provided outside your area which local people are likely to use. You can find the full list of what must be included in the [SEND Code of Practice](#) section 4.30.

How can I get involved?

The local authority **must** involve children and young people with SEN and disabilities, and parents and carers in preparing and reviewing the Local Offer. If you would like to be involved, or make some comments, you can find out more on the [Local Offer website](#).

Parents who want to be more involved in developing and reviewing the Local Offer can contact **Making Changes Together Parents Forum 01915873541**
Children and young people who want to be more involved in developing and reviewing the Local Offer can contact **Durham SENDIASS 01915873541**

The local authority must publish what children, young people and parents tell them about the Local Offer. It must also say clearly what it will do about the comments it has received.

Where can I get further information, advice or support?

Chapter 4 of the [SEND Code of Practice](#) tells you more about the Local Offer. You can find Durham's Local Offer at <http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info>

Durham SENDIASS can also give you:

- information and advice about SEN and disability support and provision
- more information about local services, organisations, and resources which might help
- advice and support to get more involved

Durham SENDIASS helpline number: 01915873541

Or Email: sendiass@durham.gov.uk