

The Local Offer

The Children and Families Bill which becomes enacted in 2014 will require Local authorities to publish and keep under review information from services that expect to be available for children and Young people with SEND aged 0-25, this will be known as “The Local Offer”. The Purpose of the local offer is to enable parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available in their area and how to access them. The offer will include provision from birth to 25, across education, health and social care and should be developed in conjunction with children and young people, parents and carers, and local services including schools, colleges, health and social care agencies.

The Council for disabled children have produced “A briefing note on the Local Offer”

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/246954/local%20offer.pdf>

SE7 - Local offer guidance and Framework

<http://www.se7pathfinder.co.uk/se7-local-offer>

We have developed a set of questions for each School to answer in order to produce their Local Offer.

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

What is the local offer?

Our local offer is information for parents/carers of children who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) or a disability, and all of those who support children with additional needs. The information outlines the support and provision they can expect to receive whilst attending this school.

1. How are Special Educational Needs defined?

A child that needs extra help in certain areas e.g communication, physical, or development
This may fall into one of the seven areas of learning.
This can be either for a short period or maybe for the foreseeable future

2. How will the school know if my child needs extra help?

How do you identify children/ young people with special educational needs? How will I be able to raise any concerns I may have? If the setting / school / college is specialist which types of special educational need do you cater for?

I follow the EYFS with every child and have a learning journey with a St Helens tracker, I carry out child observations on a daily basis, and through this I am able to see where each child is up to and where they maybe need additional help. I work with parents also and discuss their child outside of my setting to get any additional development of them that I would be able to record in their learning journey.
I welcome and encourage feedback from parents to discuss their child either verbally or through the child's learning journey and parents may view this as each child's learning journey is on line with opportunity to comment and to view.
I would also speak to my local authority with parents' permission to discuss and view if any additional assistance for that child is necessary and discuss next steps.

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

3. Who is the best person to talk to about my child's difficulties with learning / SEN?

Who will oversee and plan the education programme and who will be working with my child/young person and how often? What will be their roles? Who will explain this to me? How are the setting / school / college governors or trustees involved and what are their responsibilities? How does the setting / school / college know how effective its arrangements its provision for children and young people with special educational needs are?

I as a childminder working solely,
I will be the one directly working with a child with SEN and will compile an IEP/IBP with parents or any outside specialists and on each stage will be liaising with them to achieve what is best for the child.

4. How will I know how the school will support my child?

In addition to the normal reporting arrangements what opportunities will there be for me to discuss his or her progress with the staff? How does the setting / school / college know how well my child / young person is doing? How will I know what progress my child / young person should be making? What opportunities will there be for regular contact about things that have happened early years setting / school / college e.g. a home schoolbook? How will you explain to me how his or her learning is planned and how I can help support this outside of the setting / school / college? How and when will I be involved in planning my child's/ young person's education? Do you offer any parent training or learning events?

I work closely with the parents and will build a close relationship with them for the benefit of the child verbally and through phone text messaging and also through daily diaries that I send home. I also will regularly speak to any additional outside staff and won't hesitate to ask them questions if need be.

The IEP/IBP's will be reviewed regularly and small achievable next steps will be given that the child can manage with consent and input from the parents, both myself and the parent will each have a copy and this enables the child to be able to carry out these when not at the setting.

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

5. How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

What are the setting's / school's / college's approaches to differentiation? How will that help my child/ young person?

I differentiate for every child in my setting by continually observing them and by doing a weekly plan of activities and adapting to suit each child's needs, interests and developmental needs.

6. How will I know how my child is doing?

In addition to the normal reporting arrangements what opportunities will there be for me to discuss his or her progress with the staff? How does the setting / school / college know how well my child / young person is doing? How will I know what progress my child / young person should be making? What opportunities will there be for regular contact about things that have happened early years setting / school / college e.g. a home schoolbook? How will you explain to me how his or her learning is planned and how I can help support this outside of the setting / school / college? How and when will I be involved in planning my child's/ young person's education? Do you offer any parent training or learning events?

I work closely with the parents and will build a close relationship with them for the benefit of the child verbally and through phone text messaging and also through daily diaries that I send home. I also will regularly speak to any additional outside staff and won't hesitate to ask them questions if need be.

The IEP/IBP's will be reviewed regularly and small achievable next steps will be given that the child can manage with consent and input from the parents, both myself and the parent will each have a copy and this enables the child to be able to carry out these when not at the setting

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

7. How will the school help me to support my child's learning?

In addition to the normal reporting arrangements what opportunities will there be for me to discuss his or her progress with the staff? How do the setting / school / college know how well my child / young person is doing? How will I know what progress my child / young person should be making? What opportunities will there be for regular contact about things that have happened early years setting / school / college e.g. a home schoolbook? How will you explain to me how his or her learning is planned and how I can help support this outside of the setting / school / college? How and when will I be involved in planning my child's/ young person's education? Do you offer any parent training or learning events?

8. What support will be available for my child's overall well-being?

What is the pastoral, medical and social support available in the setting / school / college for children with SEND? How does the setting / school / college manage the administration of medicines and providing personal care? What support is there for behaviour, avoiding exclusions and increasing attendance? How will my child / young person being able to contribute his or her views? How will the setting / school / college support my child / young person to do this?

I will work alongside parents whose child requires medication administering at my setting and welcome any training that I may need for giving it to the child whilst they are with me.

I will also carry out personal care in a discreet manner maintaining their dignity and not in full view of other children enabling them to have their own privacy whilst in my setting.

I have a behaviour management policy, a special educational needs policy and an inclusion policy all in place at my setting. As I work alone in my home, these must all be adhered to and benefit each child, for them to be able to fully develop and learn and to have an enjoyable time.

As a small setting child have the opportunity to complete regular questionnaires with the help of myself or parents to obtain a child's view of my setting.

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

9. What happens if my child has a high level of need?

I will have to assess the level of need the child is at and see if my setting which is also my home is suitable for me to provide the care required for the child along with the others that I already mind to enable the child to develop and to be properly cared for in a safe and suitable environment.

10. What specialist services and expertise are available at this school?

Are there specialist staff working at the setting / school / college and what are their qualifications? What other services does the setting / school / college access including health, therapy and social care services.

n/a

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

11. Are the staff who support children with SEND in this school, provided with appropriate training?

This should include recent and future planned training and disability awareness.

I have completed my local authority 'special educational needs co coordinator' training course and receive an online annual training manual with all the future courses available through my local authority that will benefit me and my job.

12. How will my child be included in activities outside of the classroom, including school trips?

Will he or she be able to access all of the activities of the setting / school / college and how will you assist him or her to do so? How do you involve parent carers in planning activities and trips?

As I work alone all children in my care will be able to attend the trips that I plan for the child as it will be tailored to their needs. Parents will be correctly notified and given ample notice of the trip. If a parent strongly opposes then they will have the opportunity to keep their child off for the day, the trip will be fully risk assessed and written permission slips will be signed for the child to take part.

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

13.How accessible is the school environment?

Is the building fully wheelchair accessible? Have there been improvements in the auditory and visual environment? Are there disabled changing and toilet facilities? How does the setting / school / college communicate with parent carers whose first language is not English? How will equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs be secured?

As this is a home environment there are no adaptations to the house e.g. ramp, disabled changing.

However I do in my setting have a small downstairs toilet and a low level table for eating.

If I cared for a child with SEN I would liaise with parents and contact my local authority and seek advice to see if any resources would be on offer to loan and look at making small changes to my current layout.

14.How will this school prepare and support my child when they are starting, leaving this school or moving to another year?

What preparation will there be for both the setting / school / college and my child / young person before he or she joins the setting / school / college. How will he or she be prepared to move onto the next stage? What information will be provided to his or her new setting / school / college? How will you support a new setting / school / college to prepare for my child / young person?

I ask all parents to complete an 'all about me form' and a 'what to expect when' booklet tailored at the child's needs before they start to attend my setting, this enables me to get a clear understanding of the child's needs and abilities that they may have.

On leaving my setting I produce a transition report and summary on which I give parents a chance to view and comment, this along with the child's learning journey will be transferred to the child's new setting and I am able to communicate with them if needs be.

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

15.What if my child needs transport to and from school?

I am only available for school drop offs and collection at St John vianney school in nutgrove.

16.How are the school’s resources allocated and matched to the children’s special educational needs?

How is the settings / schools / colleges special educational needs budget allocated?

n/a

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

17. How is the decision made about how much support my child will receive?

Describe the decision making process. Who will make the decision and on what basis? Who else will be involved? How will I be involved? How will I be involved? How does the setting / school / college judge whether the support has had an impact?

n/a

18. How will I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education?

Describe the setting's / school's / college's approach to involving parents in decision making and day to day school life including for their own child or young person.

I will liaise with parents about any decision for their child and involve them with each next step that needs to be made.

Schools Local Offer Sample Template – St.Helens Council

19. Who can I contact for further information?

Who would be my first point of contact if I want to discuss something about my child / young person? Who else has a role in my child's / young person's education? Who can I talk to if I am worried? Who should I contact if I am considering whether my child / young person should join the setting / school / college? Who is the SEN Coordinator and how can I contact them? What other support services are there who might help me and provide me with information and advice? Where can I find the local authority's Local offer?

As I work on my own then I that child's key worker and the first point of contact. The local authority early years team is also available for any additional information on services in the area.

The local offer is also available from them

These questions will make the base of each Schools Local offer and will have to be completed and publicised on your school Website by the end of May 2014.

Please can you Email danielcollins@sthelens.gov.uk once you have completed/publicised your Local offer on your school website.

Other Pathfinder Authorities:

<http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/pftestingareas/>

<http://trafford.childrenguidancedirectory.org.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/category.page?category=2341>

<http://manchester.fsd.org.uk/kb5/manchester/fsd/category.page?newcategory=3>

<http://darlington.fsd.org.uk/kb5/darlington/fsd/home.page>