

## **The Local Offer**

### **What is The Local Offer?**

The Local Offer was first introduced in the Green Paper (March 2011) “as a local offer of all services available to support disabled children and children with SEN and their families. This easy to understand information sets out what is normally available in schools to help children with lower-level SEN as well as the options available to support families who need additional help to care for their child.”

The Local Offer will provide parents/carers with information about how to access services in their area, and what they can expect from those services. With regard to Education, it will let parents/carers and young people know how school and colleges will support them, and what they can expect across the local settings.

### **Children & Families Bill 2013**

The Children & Families Bill takes forward the Coalition Government’s commitments to improve services for vulnerable children and support families. It underpins wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Bill reformed the systems for adoption, looked after children, family justice and special educational needs. The Government is transforming the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), including those who are disabled, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them.

The Bill extended the SEN system from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parents/carers greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met. It takes forward the reform programme set out in “Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability: Progress and next steps” by:

- Replacing statements and learning difficulty assessments with a new birth-to-25 Education, Health and Care Plan, extending rights and protections to young people in further education and training and offering families personal budgets so that they have more control over the support they need;
- Improving cooperation between all the services that support children and their families and particularly requiring local authorities and health authorities to work together;
- Requiring local authorities to involve children, young people and parents in reviewing and developing provision for those with special educational needs and to publish a “local offer” of support.

### **Glossary of Most Used SEN Terms**

We abbreviate many Special Educational Needs terms which can lead to confusion. Below is a guide to some of the most common abbreviations that you may hear or read in relation to Special Educational Needs.

ADD Attention Deficit Disorder

ADHD Attention Deficit & Hyperactivity Disorder

ASD Autistic Spectrum Disorder  
BESD Behavioural Emotional & Social Difficulties  
BSS Behaviour Support  
CAMHS Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service  
COP Code of Practice  
CP Child Protection  
DCD Developmental Co-ordination Disorder  
EHCP Education and Health Care Plan  
EP Educational Psychologist  
FS Foundation Stage  
FSM Free School Meals  
HI Hearing Impairment  
IEP Individual Education Plan  
I & I – Inclusion and Intervention  
IPP – Individual Pastoral Plan  
KS Key Stage  
LAC Looked After Child  
LEA Local Education Authority  
MLD Moderate Learning Difficulty  
NC National Curriculum  
OT Occupational Therapist  
SaLT Speech & Language Therapy  
SEMH Social, Emotional and Mental Health  
SENDIAS Special Educational Needs & Disability Inclusion Service  
SENCO Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator  
SpLD Specific Learning Difficulty  
VI Visual Impairment