



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SERVICES TO PEOPLE

The Local Offer

**Guidance for Early Years Registered Providers
in Stockport**

July 2014

This guidance has been produced as part of Stockport's 0-25 Transformation process

This guidance has been produced as part of Stockport's 0-25 SEN Transformation process and sits alongside the Schools Offer guidance.

Representative colleagues from Primary, Secondary, Early Years, Academies, FE Colleges, PRUs, Special, Inclusion Services, Ethnic Diversity Service, Therapy Services, Governance, Local Authority, Parent Carer Forum PIPS (Parents In Partnership in Stockport) and Parent Partnership met in March and May 2014 to discuss the process of supporting schools, colleges and Early Years settings in contributing a published offer to the wider Stockport Local Offer.

Thanks are due to those colleagues and to others who have added advice and opinion.

This guidance is not prescriptive but designed as a starting point for settings to adapt in whichever way they choose to illustrate the diversity and breadth of provision available in Stockport to meet the needs of children and young people with SEN or a disability.

This is work in development and we hope that colleagues will be happy to share experience across settings and phases through existing networks and professional dialogue. We will endeavour to share any updated developments in due course through existing channels.

Your contact for any feedback or support is helen.hayes@stockport.gov.uk

Context

The Children & Families Act 2014 (Section 30)¹ places a statutory duty on a Local Authority to publish a Local Offer. Requirements for cooperation and current detail on compiling a Local Offer is set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years (Section 4 pp 48 – 66 June 2014)

Statutory compliance with a published Local Offer is required for 1st September 2014. Providers of Early Years Education, that is Early Years providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors that a Local Authority funds, are required to have regard to this code. (*para 5.2, SEND code 2014*)

The Local Offer in Stockport is being compiled as part of a project planning for strategic transformation of all services for children, young people and their families from 0 – 25 years. A blueprint of change is being produced for September 2014 with ongoing implementation to 2017.

What is the Local Offer?

*'Local Authorities **must** publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. In setting out what they 'expect to be available', local authorities should include provision which they believe will actually be available.'* (para 4.1, SEN Code 2014)

The Local Offer – Key Purposes

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- *To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the available provision and how to access it, and*

- *To 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 (para 4.2, SEN Code2014)*

The Local Offer – Key Principles

The Local Offer should be:

- **collaborative:** *local authorities **must** involve parents, children and young people in developing and reviewing the Local Offer. They **must** also cooperate with those providing services*
- **accessible:** *the published Local Offer should be easy to understand, factual and jargon free. It should be structured in a way that relates to young people's and parents' needs (for example by broad age group or type of special educational provision). It should be well signposted and well publicised*
- **comprehensive:** *parents and young people should know what support is expected to be available across education, health and social care from age 0 to 25 and how to access it. The Local Offer **must** include eligibility criteria for services where relevant and make it clear where to go for information, advice and support, as well as how to make complaints about provision or appeal against decisions*
- **transparent:** *the Local Offer should be clear about how decisions are made and who is accountable and responsible for them (para 4.7, SEN Code 2014)*

In Stockport, it is suggested that these four qualities provide a useful starting point and 'litmus test' for educational settings both in preparing the content of an Early Years Education Offer for publication and in reviewing, amending and enhancing content at a later stage.

Involving Parents and Carers – Co-production

This is an essential and required element of compiling the Local Offer. Further detail on co-production with children and young people with SEN or disabilities and parents can be found in paras 4.8 – 4.13 of the SEN Code 2014.

In Stockport, the Parent Carer Forum **PIPS (Parents in Partnership in Stockport)** has worked with the Local Authority during the 0 – 25 Transformation Programme and can be contacted for advices. (<http://www.pipstockport.org/>)

Stockport Parent Partnership can similarly be contacted for advice. (<http://togethertrust.org.uk/education/parent-partnership-services/stockport>)

Publishing the Local Offer

It is envisaged that Early Years Registered Providers (EYRP) will publicise their offer through the existing Childcare provider Directory on the SMBC website. Existing fields will be enhanced to enable the additional information required to be inputted along with the availability of an extension to the search function so that parents will be able to find settings which potentially will meet their child's needs.

Early Years Registered Providers are welcome to seek advice from the Ethnic Diversity Service or Sensory Support Service to ensure accessibility for speakers of community languages or for those with sensory impairments. However, please note that a charge may be incurred.

Supporting children with SEND

Providers must have arrangements in place to support children with SEN or disabilities. These arrangements should include a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEN. The benefits of early identification are widely recognised – identifying need at the earliest point, and then making effective provision, improves long-term outcomes for children.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Who will take a lead in your setting in compiling your offer? An individual, a group exercise or whole team involvement?
- What opportunities or arrangements will you choose to involve parents and carers?
- Recalling the requirements for ‘accessibility’, is there a clear protocol for editing so that detail is concise and to the point?
- What arrangements need to be made for reviewing and/or enhancing the accuracy or detail on the offer? Beyond first publication, can the offer continue to develop and grow dynamically? Who will do this?
- Definition of SEN- settings might find it useful to include the definition of SEN (likely to be already in your setting’s SEN Policy) as outlined in the SEN Code of Practice:

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- *has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or*
- *has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions*

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if he or she is likely to fall within the definition in the paragraph above when they reach compulsory school age or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them (Section 20 Children and Families Act 2014)

- Points of Transition – given the aim of the 0 – 25 SEN Transformation Programme to remove existing ‘cliff edges’ at problematic points of transition, it was felt that settings should reflect specifically in their offers on both the degree and type of support offered and the timescales behind any arrangements.
For Early Years settings, colleagues highlighted the point of transition between home and the setting and suggested that an offer should reference any arrangements for home visits that could be made.

What does the Local Offer want from you?

Your setting is already inputted into the database that the Council uses which will also host the Local Offer. We will do most of the background selections for you i.e. selecting age groups etc.

However below is what we need you to complete as soon as possible.

Name of setting:

Your Core Details for the Local Offer:

The core details should contain a description from you with specifics about your SEND capabilities, the specific named contact at your establishment that parents can approach with SEND related enquiries and links to Local Offer information on your own website (if you have one).

The following are suggestions of what to include:

- How is transition supported? ie; home to setting and setting to school
- How are needs identified? How are these assessed and kept under review?
- What reasonable adjustments could you make to your setting to be able to meet individual needs?
- How do you consult with parents?
- How are staff trained and supported to be able to cater for children with additional needs?
- Does your setting have any specialisms?
- What specialist services are you aware of or have experience of working with? Ie; Portage, Occupational Therapists etc
- What support do you give to parents/carers to aid their child's development at home?

This is not an exhaustive list but gives you an idea of what to cover.

Local Offer Contact Name: (Could be SENCo)	
Local Offer Contact Telephone	
Local Offer Contact E-mail	
Website link	
Supporting people with: (<i>please click</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Visual impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Learning difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Communication impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Autism

Please return this to form to Phil Taylor by Friday 25th July
philip.taylor@stockport.gov.uk