

Section 4

The Local Offer

Example of Quality Standard 1.

Information:

Local authorities **must** publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available for children and young people in their area who have SEN, including those who do not have EHC plans.

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about provision available; and
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children and young people with SEN, parents and carers, and service providers in its development and review.

The Local Offer should not simply be a directory of existing services. Its success depends as much upon the full engagement with children, young people and their parents as on the information it contains. The process of developing the Local Offer aims to help local authorities and their health partners to improve provision.

The Local Offer **must** include provision in the local authority's area. It **must** also include provision outside the local area that the local authority expects is likely to be used by children and young people with SEN with whom they are responsible.

Local authorities and those who are required to co-operate with them need to comply with the Equality Act 2010, including when preparing, developing and reviewing the Local Offer.



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Self Evaluation Framework

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 provide a common framework for the Local Offer. They specify the requirements that all local authorities **must** meet in developing, publishing and reviewing their Local Offer primarily:

- The information to be included.
- How the Local Offer is to be published.
- Who is to be consulted about the local offer.
- How children and young people with SEN and parents will be involved in the preparation and review of the local offer.
- The publication of comments on the Local Offer and the local authority's response, including any action it intends to take in relation to those comments.

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 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 range or type of special educational provision). It should be well signposted and well publicised.
- **Comprehensive:** parents and young people should know what support is available across education, health and social care from 0 – 25 years and how to access it. The Local Offer **must** include eligibility criteria where relevant and make clear where to go for information, advice and support, as well as how to make complaints about provision or appeal against decisions.
- **Up to date:** when parents and young people access the Local Offer it is important that the information is up to date.
- **Transparent:** the Local Offer **must** be clear about how decisions are made and who is accountable and responsible for them.



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Self Evaluation Framework

Instructions:

Using a scale of 1-3 (with 1 = not met, 2 = partially met and 3 = fully met), answer each of the questions below on how well you consider you have achieved each quality standard statement. To support your answers please give your rationale and evidence in the evidence and comments box.

Once you have completed the full set of questions, review your answers and complete the action plan for those quality standard statements that are not yet fully met. The action plan should include the following:

- The actions that will help you to fully meet the quality standard.
- The target completion date for each action.
- Who will be responsible for completing the actions.



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Quality Standard 1.

The local authority has published 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 EHC plans.

	Not Met 1	Partially Met 2	Fully Met 3	Evidence & Comments
1.1 The Local Offer includes provision outside of the local authority area that it expects is likely to be used by children and young people with SEN for whom they are responsible.				
1.2 The local authority has complied with the Equality Act 2010, when preparing, developing and reviewing the Local Offer.				
1.3 The local authority has involved children with SEN or disabilities and their parents and young people with SEN or disabilities in planning the content of the Local Offer.				
1.4 The local authority has involved children with SEN or disabilities and their parents and young people with SEN or disabilities in deciding how to publish the Local Offer.				
1.5 The local authority has involved those providing services when developing and reviewing the Local Offer.				



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	Not Met 1	Partially Met 2	Fully Met 3	Evidence & Comments
1.6 The local authority includes eligibility criteria for services where relevant and makes it clear where to go for information, advice and support as well as how to make complaints about provision or appeal against decisions.				
1.7 The Local Offer provides information that is up to date.				
1.8 The Local Offer makes it clear about how decisions are made and who is accountable and responsible for them.				
1.9 The local authority has set up a young people's forum or uses a range of young peoples forums to engage with young people directly in developing and reviewing the local offer.				
1.10 The Local Offer provides information about how parents and carers, children and young people have been fully involved in deciding how to publish the local offer.				
1.11 The Local Offer provides information about the arrangements for parents and carers, children and young people to review the Local Offer and how to obtain feedback.				
1.12 The Local Offer provides information about how parents and carers and children and young people have been consulted and their views used to inform the local offer.				



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	Not Met 1	Partially Met 2	Fully Met 3	Evidence & Comments
1.13 The Local Offer provides information about how the local authority will respond to feedback and what actions they will take as a result.				
1.14 Disabled children and young people have been supported to contribute their views e.g. by asking them what support they might need to participate e.g. the use of communication aids, personal assistance, adjustments to time and location of meetings, transport and have information in their preferred communication methods.				
1.15 The Local Offer provides information that is easily accessible without the use of jargon, acronyms and technical terms – where this is unavoidable they are fully explained.				
1.16 There are clear governance and management arrangements for the Local Offer with representation from parents and carers and children and young people on strategic planning groups.				



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Action Plan

QS No.	Action(s) required to fully meet the Quality Standard	Target Completion Date	Responsibility