

## **Development of the Local Offer in Devon: Supporting Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

### **Partner Consultation**

Your views are important to us. They will help us to explore all the issues surrounding the requirements of children and young people with special educational needs (SEN). We want to give you the chance to talk about the Local Offer with us, ask questions and tell us what you think.

**2013/2014**

# The Consultation

## What is the local offer?

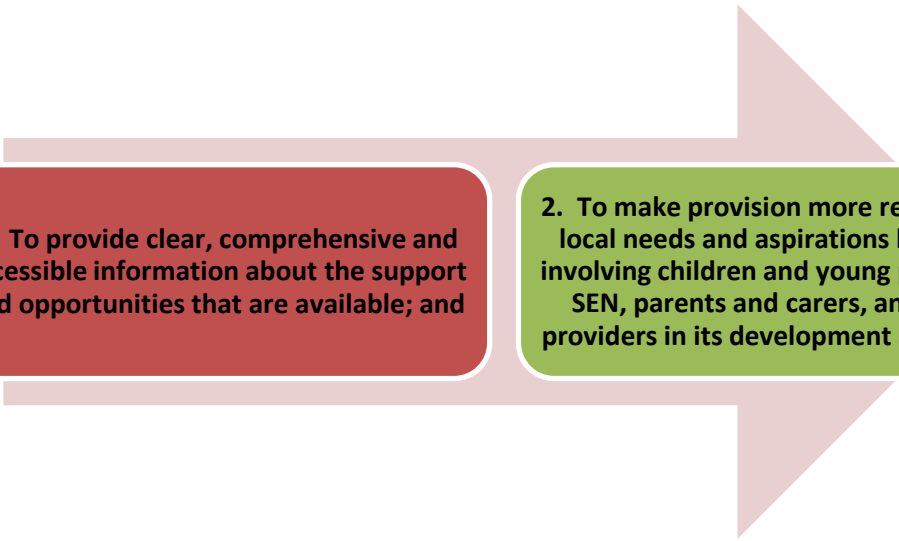
Local authorities (LA) have a range of provision they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from 0 to 25 who have special educational needs (SEN). This can be considered the 'Local Offer' and from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 publication of the local offer information will be a statutory requirement. However, as Devon is a Pathfinder LA we are aiming to have work well underway before this.

This means that we will be publishing, in one place, information about provision in Devon through Education, Health and Social Care. The information will be available through the Devon County Council website and it will include both local provision and provision outside the area that we expect is likely to be used by children and young people with SEN for whom we are responsible.

**The local offer is more than simply a directory of services, rather it is what the LA *provides* and *expects* to be available for children and young people (0-25) with SEN and how this is monitored, quality assured, adapted and developed, responding to local need.**

**The local offer is also about processes and procedures that enable support to happen and ensure children and young people and their families receive timely support when needs arise.**

**The local offer has two key purposes:**



**1. To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available; and**

**2. 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.**

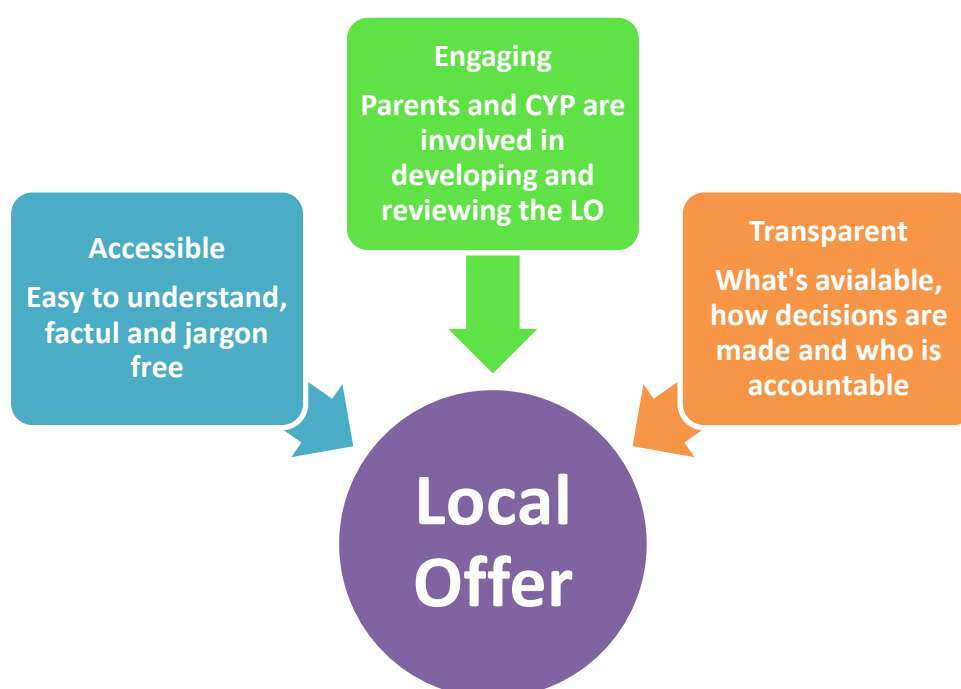
## What are the key issues?

The Local Authority, along with NHS Devon, offers a range of provision for children and young people with SEN across the County – the local offer. Educational provision will include maintained mainstream schools, special schools and specialist/alternative provision. In addition, there are a range of specialist teams and services from Education, Health and Social Care, which are available, depending on the needs of the individual.

It is important that information about the provision the Local Authority, along with NHS Devon, makes for children and young people with SEN is available and accessible. This can only be achieved by listening to what people tell us and developing information keeping that in mind.

The Local Authority must also keep under review the provision it makes ensuring that it will meet the current and future needs of the population who live in the County. For that reason we will be working with a range of people and organisations, now and in the future, to ensure services reflect what we need in Devon.

## The local offer should be;



## Who are we talking to?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children &amp; Young People</b></li> <li>• <b>Parents/Carers</b></li> <li>• <b>Early Years Providers</b></li> <li>• <b>Children's Centres</b></li> <li>• <b>School staff and Governors</b></li> <li>• <b>Colleges and post 16 Providers</b></li> <li>• <b>Specialist/Alternative Provision</b></li> <li>• <b>Specialist Outreach Teams</b></li> <li>• <b>Educational Psychologists</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health Services, including;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Speech &amp; Language Therapy</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Occupational Therapy</b></li> <li>➤ <b>CAMHS</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Social Care</b></li> <li>• <b>Local Authority Officers</b></li> <li>• <b>Independent Providers</b></li> <li>• <b>Any other groups or individuals who have an interest in SEN</b></li> </ul> |
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## What happens next?

- A draft version of the local offer website will be available from September 2013 through the Devon County Council website.
- The initial consultation period will extend through spring and summer 2014, following which, there will be ongoing review involving all relevant partners.
- Statutory guidance regarding review of the local offer will be included in the final Code of Practice.
- Comments will be collated and reported via the SEND Pathfinder at the end of the initial consultation period so that they can be taken into consideration before decisions are made about the non-draft version of the local offer information.
- After the local offer website content has been developed and agreed with partners, it will be fully live on the internet, although changes will continue to be made, following feedback, review and development.

# What do we want to know?

## User Needs – What will be important to you from Devon's local offer website?

As a *(parent, carer, young person with SEN, Teacher, Social Worker, etc.)* ...

I want to...

So that I can...

## What do we call it?

More familiar words might be more useful as most people, when looking for support and information, wouldn't search for the 'local offer' if they were using the internet. How could we refer to it instead?

## What categories do we want, e.g. separate age or service relevant sections?

... for early years, school age, young adult, education, health, social care – what would work?

## How can we make the website clear and accessible?

Symbols, pictures, text – what would be beneficial for most people?

**What if you don't have access to IT or the internet?**

How can we communicate information about the local offer in other ways and where do we need to put the information?

**Any other comments?****Make Sure Your Voice is Heard!**

If you want to ask any questions or would like to give us your suggestions and comments you can:

- Read this consultation document
- Fill in the sections and let us have it back no later than December 2013 by returning to, Amber Burton, Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QJ
- Contact us directly by emailing; [amber.burton@devon.gov.uk](mailto:amber.burton@devon.gov.uk)