

24 January 2014

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Mr Ben Fox

Response sent via e-mail only to: request-190474-9bbebd8@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Fox

RE: INFORMATION REQUEST CRM REF: iw13/12/35202

Thank you for your information request received 24 December 2013, which has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find our response to your request below:

As part of the Government Green paper (Support and Aspiration) the government has outlined a new approach to special educational needs and disability. As part of this initiative the government requires all local authorities in England to set out a Local Offer.

The purpose of the Local Offer is to enable parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available to them in their area and how to access them.

The Children and Families Bill, including Part Three aimed at reforming the Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability statutory framework, is currently progressing through the Parliamentary stages with a view to enactment in September 2014. A draft Code of Practice and draft Regulations has been consulted on with the intention of being finalised in April 2014. The expectation that all Local Authorities will publish a Local Offer as outlined above will form a key part of this legislation. All Local Authorities, including the Isle of Wight, need to prepare for the implementation of these SEN reforms and demonstrate readiness to do so to the Department for Education.

Please provide answers to the following questions

1. What is your local authority currently offering for online advice and guidance for Local Offer?

The Special Educational Needs Service on the Isle of Wight is in the process of making recommendations regarding the implementation of these reforms on the Isle of Wight. How the Local Offer will be developed will be considered in these proposals.

2. What is the name of the person who is leading on the Local Offer within your Local Authority? Please also provide their job title.

The Education Officer (SEN) West Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is the Lead Officer for the implementation of the SEN reforms.

Cont ...

If you have any complaints in respect of your information request, please write to the Corporate Information Unit, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD. Or by email to xxx@xxx.xxx.xx or complete the on-line appeals form that can be found at www.iwight.com/information. If your complaint is not resolved to your complete satisfaction, you have the ultimate right, once you have exhausted the internal appeals process, to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K Rann', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kirstie Rann
Senior Business Services Officer (Schools and Learning)
& Departmental Information Guardian