**Inclusion Programme Bulletin: December 2016**

**Part 5: The Local Offer – Code of Practice, Chapter 4**

**Introduction**

1. The Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision available for all children and young people aged 0-25 in their area who have SEN or who are disabled. Sheffield’s Local Offer can be found [here](http://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/kb5/sheffield/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0).
2. The Local Offer must provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about education, health and care provision and how to access it. It must also make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving families and service providers in its development and review.
3. The Local Offer should become the key place for families and professionals to find out about what support is available. Much more than a directory of services, it should form the basis of a dialogue between families and the Council and its partners about the availability and quality of provision. The Local Offer must be reviewed at least annually and a report published setting out the findings of the review and resulting actions.

**Duty to cooperate in the development of the Local Offer**

1. A wide range of partners are required to cooperate with the Council in the development and review of the Local Offer. This includes maintained schools, academies, further education colleges, Sheffield’s Clinical Commissioning Group, Social Care, Housing etc. Cooperation is essential to ensure a comprehensive, transparent and accessible offer of local services is available.

**What must be included in the Local Offer?**

1. The Local Offer must include a wide range of information, including special educational, health and social care provision; details about how to request assessments; arrangements for identifying needs; post-16 education and training; preparation for adulthood; transport arrangements; childcare for those with SEN; leisure activities; and arrangements for resolving disagreements and complaints.
2. Information should include support generally available from schools, GPs and other universal services for those with SEN or disabilities. It should also include information on both targeted and specialist services for those children and young people who require support over and above that provided routinely by universal services.

**Education and training provision – early years, schools and further education**

1. The Local Offer must include an authority-wide description of the special educational and training provision that is available both in and outside its area for children and young people with SEN. Information about early years, schools and further education providers should include:  
   * How providers identify the particular SEN of children and young people;
   * How providers consult with parents, children and young people;
   * Providers’ approaches to teaching and making adaptations to the curriculum or learning environment;
   * How providers enable access to facilities through the use of ancillary aids, assistive technology etc;
   * Providers’ approaches to assessing and reviewing the progress of children and young people with SEN;
   * How providers secure expertise among teachers, lecturers or other professionals to support those with SEN or disabilities; and
   * What activities providers make available to disabled children and those with SEN
2. In addition, all schools must publish more detailed information about their arrangements for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEN. This must include information about admissions arrangements for disabled pupils, how schools will prevent disabled students from being treated less favourably and the arrangements for providing a graduated response to children’s SEN.

**Health Provision**

1. Based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Local Offer must include information about provision made by health professionals for children and young people with SEN or disabilities. This must include:

* Services assisting relevant early years providers, schools and post-16 institutions to support children and young people with medical conditions;
* Arrangements for ensuring services available to all children and young people are accessible to those with SEN or disabilities.

1. Health information should also include:  
   * Information on speech and language therapy and other therapies such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and services relating to mental health;
   * Wheelchair services, community equipment, nursing and continence services;
   * Palliative, respite and Continuing Health Care for those with more complex needs;
   * Support for young people moving between healthcare services for children to healthcare services for adults.

**Social Care Provision**

1. Social care provision must be included in the Local Offer. It should include information about childcare, leisure activities, support for transition to adult services, support for independent living.
2. The Care Act requires local authorities to provide an information and advice service on the adult care and support system. The information provided by this service must be signposted in the Local Offer.
3. Local authorities must publish a short breaks statement on their website and review it on a regular basis. This should form a core part of the Local Offer.

**Publishing the Local Offer**

1. Local authorities must make their Local Offer widely accessible and on a website. They must publish their arrangments for enabling those without access to the internet to get the information. They must also enable access for different groups, including disabled people and those with different types of SEN.