

Special educational needs and disability (SEND)

Local offer

By September 2014, all local authorities have to publish a local offer.

The aim of the local offer is to provide information in a way that makes very clear:

1. what is available;
2. where a service can be found; and
3. how you can access those services, including how any decisions are made.

It will help parent/carers and young people find the services that are nearest to them, and most suitable for their (child's) needs.

A lot of work has taken place on the Isle of Wight to understand what parent and carers' information needs are, and why the local offer should be developed to be more than just an online directory. The thinking on the Isle of Wight around the local offer is evolving all of the time. Hopefully it will develop into a meaningful and useful site for families on the Isle of Wight who have children or young people with a special educational need or disability.

The Isle of Wight local offer is being developed together by parents/carers, young people, voluntary organisations, and professionals from education, health and social care.

Personal budgets

A personal budget is an amount of money or resources available in order to deliver the outcomes set out in a plan. The total personal budget should be made clear to parent carers so they can be involved in all decision making in order to choose the right provision to best meet the outcomes identified in the child or young persons care plan.

For any of the three services, social care, health and education, to deliver a personal budget the eligibility criteria for each service will need to be agreed.

Personal budgets can be made up in the following different ways:

- **An organisational arrangement**
No money changes hands. Parent carers find out how much money is available and with support identify the different ways to spend that money meeting the outcomes of the child's care plan. The services are then arranged on the family's behalf by the local authority or health service.
- **Direct payment**
Parent carers are given the money to buy and manage the services themselves to meet the outcomes identified in the child's care plan.
- **A combination of the above**

As part of the funding identified through the assessment process, some parent carers may want to use a reasonable amount of their available resources to help meet the outcomes identified in their child's care plan, for example extended support.

Education, health and care plans

From September 2014 the new Children and Families Act 2014 will become law. This replaces the current Statement of Special Educational Needs and Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessment with the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) running from birth to age 25 years for children with special educational needs.

The main differences are that the EHCP:

- is more person centred with more engagement and involvement from parents, carers, children and young people in the process;
- is a more co-ordinated assessment process across education, health and care services;
- focusses on outcomes to be achieved for each child/young person;
- runs from birth to age 25;
- includes parents, carers, children and young people at the heart of the changes;
- has legislation that applies equally to all schools including academies and free schools.

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