

**Supporting Children and Young People with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their Families**



## **An Introduction to the Local Offer and Education, Health & Care Plans.**

Education, social care and health services are working together to improve the help and support available for children and young people aged 0 – 25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families.

The Children and Families Act 2014, as part of the law, made changes to the way the Council, National Health Service (NHS) and other services support people aged 0 - 25 with SEND. These changes were made in September 2014. These changes included:

- **the launch of the Local Offer website [www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk](http://www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk);**
- **and a new approach to understanding children's and young people's needs and support requirements. This new approach is called the Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment process.**

More information on both of these changes is included below.

## **What is the Local Offer?**

The Local Offer includes a website that provides information and advice to support and guide children, young people who are aged 0 to 25 with SEND and their families to the help, services and other activities available to them.

## **Who is it for?**

The Local Offer is for children and young people with SEND and their families, but it will also provide useful information for people who work with them too as they will be able to see up-to-date information on local services and how these can be accessed. There will also be information on things for brothers and sisters to do.

## **What will be included?**

Every Council will be required to include information about services they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from birth to 25 with SEND. The Council must also include information on services outside of the area which they think local children and young people are likely to use.

**This will include information on:**

- **Education (e.g. nurseries, playgroups, schools and colleges as well as support services like educational psychologists, early years and early intervention workers)**
- **Health (e.g. doctors, paediatricians, school nurses and therapists)**
- **Social care (e.g. respite services and children's disability services)**
- **Voluntary & private sectors (e.g. charitable organisations, support groups, education providers, nurseries and youth clubs)**
- **Preparing for adulthood (e.g. where to live, education, training and employment, transport and financial advice)**
- **Leisure and recreation (e.g. art and dance classes, sports and social clubs and holiday clubs)**

### **How will this help young people and families?**

The Local Offer will make it easier for young people and their families to find what they need to know and/or who they need to speak to. Up-to-date and correct information will help young people and families to understand, and make decisions on the different options and opportunities available to them.

Young people and families will be encouraged to rate the Local Offer, and it will help the Council to find out about any gaps in the current provision.

If young people or their families are not happy with the help they're receiving, guidance is included on what they should do and who they should speak to.

The Local Offer first went live in September 2014 and is regularly updated and reviewed by young people, families and providers to help make sure the Local Offer meets the needs of people locally.

## Accessing the Local Offer and help to find information on it

You can view the Local Offer at [www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk](http://www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk)

If you have limited access to digital channels or would like some help to find Information on Blackburn with Darwen's Local Offer there are different services and agencies that can help. These can be viewed on our 'Accessing the Local Offer and help to find information on it' leaflet. To request a copy of this leaflet please email [local.offer@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:local.offer@blackburn.gov.uk) or write to:

Local Offer Team  
Blackburn with Darwen Council  
Floor 5, 10 Duke Street  
Blackburn, BB2 1DH

## Feedback on the Local Offer

By sharing your views on the Local Offer you can help us to make it better. You can email your ideas to [local.offer@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:local.offer@blackburn.gov.uk) or complete the survey/feedback form available in the 'share your views' area of the site. We also run and attend various events during the year to hear your feedback on the Local Offer website and your views on services available locally. These are advertised on the site. You can also write to us at the address listed above.

To see how your ideas have shaped the Local Offer so far please click on the Activity Reports and You Said, We Did documents that are available in the 'share your views' area of the Local Offer.

## **What is the Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment Process?**

The EHC assessment is a process to understand the education, health and care needs of individual children and young people under the age of 25, and what support needs to be put in place to help them. This process replaced the old SEN statements and separate learning difficulty assessments with a simpler 0 to 25 years joint education, health and care assessment, and plan. The EHC plan will provide the same statutory protection as the old SEN statement, whilst extending it to young people in further education and training.

## **What are the benefits of the EHC assessment process?**

The new process will place children, young people and their families at the heart of the assessment process, to make sure:

- the right support is delivered at the right time
- the best opportunities are made available
- and the best outcomes are achieved for every child and young person

## **When did the new process start?**

A child or young person, who was new to the assessment process from September 2014, is automatically assessed using the new EHC assessment process, and issued with an EHC plan if appropriate. For children and young people who already have an SEN statement, or Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA), please see our 'arrangements for the transfer of statements and LDAs to EHCPs' document. Children and young people who already have an Individual Pupil Resourcing Agreement (IPRA) will have it changed to an EHC plan when it would benefit them, or when it is requested by the young person or their family.



Education Health & Care Referral, Assessment & Planning Process Overview

Stage 0: The Local Offer – visit [www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk](http://www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk)

Stage 1

Referrer prepares the request for referral

Request received and accepted by the Council

Stage 2 Review

EHCP Panel considers request

Accepted for assessment

Referred back to the referrer with feedback to be shared with the young person/family

Stage 3 Assessment

Formal requests made for health, social care, EP advice

Assessment period

Initial release of funding

Independent Supporter Contact

Draft Education, Health & Care Plan (ECHP) produced

All About Me meeting  
(key contact/professionals/parent/young person/child)

This is the child's and their family's, or young person's, opportunity (with support if required) to tell us:

- » about their needs
- » support already being given
- » what's working well and what could be better
- » hopes and aspirations for the future
- » outcomes and suggested provision

This will involve completing an 'all about me' document.

Stage 4 Completion

Draft plan issued and personal budget agreed where appropriate.

Optional Plan Meeting - (SEN officer/parent/young/person/child/Ind. Supporter.

Parents/young person agree to content of plan and educational establishment. (15 days)

Chosen educational establishment consulted. (15 days)

Plan finalised, shared and implemented

Stage 5 Review  
Annually, or sooner if required

4 weeks

6 weeks

10 weeks