

Gateshead Council SEND Local Offer – Annual Review Report

September 2016

Introduction

Gateshead's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Offer was published in September 2014 in accordance with the SEND Code of practice (2014):

4.1 Local authorities must publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. In setting out what they 'expect to be available', local authorities should include provision which they believe will actually be available.

4.2 The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it, and
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children and those with SEN and their parents, and disabled young people and those with SEN, and service providers in its development and review.

4.3 The Local Offer should not simply be a directory of existing services. Its success depends as much upon full engagement with children, young people and their parents as on the information it contains. The process of developing the Local Offer will help local authorities and their health partners to improve provision.

What does Gateshead's Local Offer look like?

Gateshead's Local Offer is predominantly an online resource that can be found on Gateshead Council's website:

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Education%20and%20Learning/Special-educational-needs/home.aspx>

A searchable Local Offer section in Gateshead's online Family Information Service directory is also available:

<https://lcsa.gateshead.gov.uk/FISO/publicenquiry/Search.aspx?searchID=106>

Four age-appropriate PDF booklets are available to be printed for people without access to the internet.

Publicity of the Local Offer

A range of publicity materials have been developed and disseminated to children and young people, families, services and organisations, including flyers, leaflets, posters and TV screen advertising displayed in council buildings (Civic Centre and libraries). Gateshead Council's SEND Team and other services and organisations working with young people with SEND and their families also publicise the Local Offer through word of mouth, including the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), Parents in Power (Gateshead's parent-carer forum) and Independent Supporters (Core Assets). The Local Offer is also publicised in a strapline on the bottom of every letter that is sent to parents/carers and practitioners. Practitioners have been requested to refer parents/carers to the Local Offer and to use it as resource when describing what Gateshead offers in terms of SEND.

Recent consultation with children and young people and parents/carers has highlighted that not many people know about Gateshead's Local Offer. We think that this may be due to the Local Offer being a relatively new resource which parents might not be aware of yet and that some early publicity materials did not boldly state the words 'Local Offer'. Publicity materials have now been amended as a result. We will do carry out further publicity of the Local Offer over the coming year and monitor this through the SEND Communication and Engagement working group.

Consultation and engagement of children, young people and families

Gateshead Council has consulted and engaged young people and families about the development and review of the Local Offer in the following ways:

- Gateshead SEND Pathfinder events held at the Baltic Arts Centre and Dryden Centre included presentations and workshop discussions on the development of the Local Offer, which parents, carers and young people with SEND took part in.
- Gateshead SEND Pathfinder newsletter highlighted developments and asked for views on the Local Offer, which was circulated to parents of disabled children registered on the Gateshead Network of Children with Disabilities once a term.
- Gateshead SEND Pathfinder consultation – power breakfast consultation session at The Cedars special school and consultation session about the Local Offer held at Newcastle College with young people with learning difficulties.
- Headliners film gathered the views of young people with SEND and parents about the Local Offer.
- Parent and carer consultation sessions on the Local Offer held in conjunction with Parents in Power (Gateshead's Parent-Carer Forum) at St Chad's Community Project.

- Consultation session involving parents, carers and young people with learning difficulties about the Local Offer at the Newcastle-Gateshead CCG Local Engagement Board.
- Views are constantly requested about the Local Offer via this page online: <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Education%20and%20Learning/Special-educational-needs/more/views-about-local-offer.aspx>
- Children and young people with EHC Plans and their parents/carers are asked for their views when an EHC Plan is compiled/reviewed to ensure they are receiving the right level of provision based on their needs. This feedback is used to identify any gaps in service provision and in our Local Offer.
- Gateshead Council's Involvement Worker meets individuals and groups of children and young people to ask their views on a number of areas relating to their SEND including their views on the Local Offer.
- Questionnaires sent to parents and carers of children and young people with SEND.

You Said, We Did

As a result of consultation and engagement, changes have been made to the Local Offer. A summary of 'You Said, We Did' can be found online here:

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Education/SpecialNeeds/You-Said-We-Did-Local-Offer.pdf>

Who is accessing the online Local Offer?

The table on the next page highlights the total number of Local Offer webpage views from January – December 2015 and January - June 2016 and the top 5 page views per quarter (Google analytic data).

The number of page views during 2016 is lower than 2015 figures. The most viewed pages are the EHCP process, support available for those with or without an EHCP and over the summer period, home to school transport.

Date range	Number of page views	Top 5 page views
Jan – March 2015	5,842	1. Local Offer Home page (1,256) 2. Education, Health and Care Plans (625) 3. Support for children with an EHC Plan (533) 4. Support for children without EHC Plan (437) 5. Information for practitioners (406)
April – June 2015	5,266	1. Local Offer home page (1,059) 2. Education, Health and Care Plans (514) 3. Support for children with an EHC Plan (432) 4. Information for practitioners (361) 5. Support for children without EHC Plan (355)
July – Sept 2015	4,567	1. Local Offer home page (852) 2. Education, Health and Care Plans (391) 3. Support for children without EHC Plan (339) 4. Post 16 Home to School/College Transport (300) 5. Specialist education provision in Gateshead (293)
Oct – Dec 2015	5,171	1. Local Offer home page (980) 2. Education, Health and Care Plans (492) 3. Information for practitioners (380) 4. Support for children with an EHC Plan (375) 5. Support for children without EHC Plan (364)
Total page views during 2015: 20,846 Note: Page views include internal (Gateshead Council) and external IP addresses.		
Date range	Number of page views	Top 5 page views
Jan – Mar 2016	4,283	1. Local Offer home page (783) 2. Specialist education provision in Gateshead (381) 3. Education, Health and Care Plans (353) 4. Support for children without EHC Plan (336) 5. Support for children with an EHC Plan (324)
April – June 2016	4,223	1. Local Offer home page (732) 2. Specialist education provision in Gateshead (409) 3. Education, Health and Care Plans (390) 4. Support for children with an EHC Plan (367) 5. Support for children without EHC Plan (310)
Total page views between Jan 2016 and June 2016: 8,506 Note: Page views include internal (Gateshead Council) and external IP addresses.		

Developments for the coming year

- An exercise will be carried out to ensure that the Local Offer is up to date, focusing on the service directory entries and the PDF booklets.
- We will work with Health partners to ensure that health information is up to date and relevant.
- We will carry out further publicity on the Local Offer to increase knowledge of it by parents and carers. This may include:
 - the development of a Facebook page aimed at parents/carers which aims to keep them up to date with SEND developments in Gateshead and get a broader range of parents/carers involved in how we plan and deliver services. This will be overseen by the SEND Communication and Engagement working group.
 - utilise partners and groups working with parents/carers to share publicity about the Local Offer.
- Investigate whether there is a need to develop a young-person friendly Local Offer and increase the involvement of young people in further development of the Local Offer.

For more information contact:

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