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# Information Advice and Support Kent

A service for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities  
Helping you to make informed choices



## The SEND Local Offer

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## What is the SEND Local Offer?

Every local authority must publish a **Local Offer**. The **SEND Local Offer** tells you what support is available for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, and their families. It should include information about education, health and care provision. It should also tell you about training, employment and independent living for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

You can find the **[SEND Local Offer](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs)** for **Kent County Council (KCC)** at **[www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs)**

## Who is it for?

The **SEND Local Offer** is for:

- children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities from birth to 25
- their parents and carers
- practitioners and professionals.

## What is the idea?

The **SEND Local Offer** should:

- make it easier to find out what you need to know
- give you information about what is available
- tell you where you can get further information.

The **SEND Local Offer** should also make services more responsive to local needs.

The **SEND Code of Practice**\* says that the Local Offer should:

- ***provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it***
- ***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*** (4.2)

## **What does it include?**

The **Local Offer** includes information on:

- how children and young peoples' needs are identified
- how their needs are assessed
- the special educational, health and social care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities
- opportunities for training and employment
- support for independent living
- how provision is funded
- leisure activities and support groups
- where you can find more information, advice and support
- arrangements for travel
- the help available to resolve disagreements.

The **Local Offer** must also tell you about services provided outside your area which local people are likely to use.

You can find the full list of what must be included in the **SEND Code of Practice** section 4.30.

## **How can I get involved?**

The local authority **must** involve children and young people with SEN and disabilities, and parents and carers in preparing and reviewing the Local Offer. If you would like to be involved, or make some comments, you can find out more on the **KCC SEND Local Offer web page** [www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs)

Parents who want to be more involved in developing and reviewing the Local Offer can contact **Kent Parents and Carers Together (PACT)** at [www.kentpact.org.uk](http://www.kentpact.org.uk)

Children and young people who want to be more involved in developing and reviewing the **KCC SEND Local Offer** can give feedback via the link at the bottom of each page of the **KCC website** [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

The local authority must publish what children, young people and parents tell them about the **SEND Local Offer**. It must also say clearly what it will do about the comments it has received.

## **Where can I get further information, advice or support?**

Chapter 4 of the **SEND Code of Practice** tells you more about the Local Offer.

**Information, Advice and Support Kent (IASK)** can also give you:

- information and advice about SEN and disability support and provision
- more information about local services, organisations, and resources which might help
- advice and support to get more involved.

\* **SEND Code of Practice** link:

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/342440/SEND Code of Practice approved by Parliament 29.07.14.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342440/SEND_Code_of_Practice_approved_by_Parliament_29.07.14.pdf)

On request, this information can be provided in alternative formats.

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