

SEN Reform

The Local Offer

September 2014

New information about services for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities

New government legislation means that, as of 1st September, there is a new code of practice relating to children with special education needs (SEN) and disabilities. This means that the current SEN 'statements' and 'learning difficulty assessments' are being replaced with something called an Education, Health and Care Plan. These plans will support children and young people from the age of 0 to 25 and will link closely with partners in health, education and social care to ensure children and young people are appropriately supported right through to adulthood.

Worcestershire County Council, with partners, is developing a 'local offer' that will allow you to easily find in one place what services are available in the local area for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. This 'local offer' will consist of a website that pulls in information about relevant organisations, services, schools and settings. It allows you to search for what is close by or for services that support a particular need.

In the first instance the local offer includes information about Worcestershire's response to SEN reform. It links to the other Worcestershire County Council information sites which contain details about a range of services for children and young people www.worcestershire.gov.uk and specifically SEN Reform www.edulink.networcs.net/senreform

The 'local offer' website www.worcestershirelocaloffer.org.uk will develop to pull in information about services, groups and providers including from their Facebook and Yelp accounts. This means that all of the information is independent and allows organisations and services to update their own details. The website is in its initial stages of development and Worcestershire County Council will be working closely with services, parents and carers to ensure the information it carries is accurate and easy to access.

Any feedback about the website can be sent through to the SEN Reform team on SENReform@worcestershire.gov.uk

Please see the separate information sheet about how to ensure information appears in Worcestershire's Local Offer.