



Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Information, Advice and Support Service

for children, young people and parents

The Local Offer

What is the Local Offer?

Every local authority must publish a Local Offer. The Local Offer tells you what support the local authority expects to be available for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities. It must 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 Local Offer for RBWM at: <http://fsd.rbwm.gov.uk/kb5/rbwm/directory/localoffer.page>

Who is it for?

The 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 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 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 to and from school and other settings
- 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 **Local Offer website**: <http://fsd.rbwm.gov.uk/kb5/rbwm/directory/localoffer.page>

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Parents who want to be more involved in developing and reviewing the Local Offer can contact the Parent Carer Council for Windsor and Maidenhead on 07729 768267 or by email at support@pccwm.org, or contact the Local Offer Co-ordinator at localoffer@rbwm.gov.uk.

Children and young people who want to be more involved in developing and reviewing the Local Offer can speak to a teacher or to their keyworker, or contact the Local Offer Co-ordinator at localoffer@rbwm.gov.uk.

The local authority must publish what children, young people and parents tell them about the 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.

You can find the Local Offer for RBWM at: <http://fsd.rbwm.gov.uk/kb5/rbwm/directory/localoffer.page>

The **Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Service for Windsor and Maidenhead** 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.



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Contact Us:

☎ Confidential voicemail: 01628 683182

✉ ias@rbwm.gov.uk

🌐 www.ias-rbwm.info

Riverside Centre, West Dean, Maidenhead SL6 7JB

the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased in the UK (Mental Health Act 1983, 1990).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the lives of people with mental health problems. The Department of Health (1999) has set out a vision of a new mental health system, which will be based on the following principles:

- (i) People with mental health problems should be treated as individuals, with their own needs and wishes.
- (ii) People with mental health problems should be treated as citizens, with the same rights and responsibilities as everyone else.
- (iii) People with mental health problems should be treated as partners in decisions about their care.

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