

4. Local Offer

The Local Offer will set out what support and services are available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities, from birth to 25 years.

The Bucks Local Offer has been co-produced together with parents, carers, children, young people, voluntary organisations and professionals from education, health and social care.

The Local Offer provides clear information on:

- Eligibility and referral processes for services plus the steps to take if you are unhappy.
- How the changes will affect families, children and young people.
- How parent/carers and young people can find the services most suitable for them and their needs.



Where can I go for more information?

- **Buckinghamshire County Council website:**

www.buckscc.gov.uk/SEND

-  Facebook

www.facebook.com/BucksSENDReforms

- **Local offer webpage:**

www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/localoffer

- **Family Information Service:**

Telephone: 0845 688 4944

(9.00am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday)

Email: familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk

- **Visit your local library**

- **Drop into your local Children's Centre**

- **FACT Bucks (Families and Carers Together):**

www.factbucks.org.uk

- **Parent Partnership:**

www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/parent_partnership/parent_partnership.page

Information about

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms



What are the SEND reforms?

The current system for assessing children and young people's special educational needs (SEN) and deciding what support and provision they need has been operating for over 30 years. The Government has set out reforms in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Act extends the system to include all children and young people from the ages of 0 to 25 years and will give children, young people, and their parents, greater control and choice in decision making whilst ensuring that their needs are appropriately met.

The changes fall into four main areas:

1. Preparing for Adulthood/Transitions
2. Education, Health and Care Plans
3. Personal Budgets
4. Local Offer

1. Preparing for Adulthood

The Preparing for Adulthood programme will provide information and support to local authorities and their partners, including families and young people, so they can ensure disabled young people achieve paid work, independent living, good health and community inclusion as they move into adulthood.

2. Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

From 1 September 2014, Statements of SEN will start to be replaced by an EHC Plan. This plan will include all of the child or young person's needs and will coordinate support services from education, health and social care to achieve agreed outcomes.

The EHC Plan will:

- Be more person-centred, engaging and involving parents, carers, children and young people in the planning process.
- Be focused on outcomes to be achieved for each child/young person.
- May run from birth to age 25, if necessary.
- Will replace Learning Disability Assessments (LDAs) for young people remaining in education beyond 16 years.
- Eligibility for an EHC assessment will remain the same as currently exists for Statements of SEN and the current LDAs.



3. Personal Budgets

- From 1 September 2014, anyone who is eligible and has an EHC Plan will be able to request a personal budget to pay for some services. This is OPTIONAL, you do not have to have one and can continue with your existing arrangements.
- For the first time this will give families the chance to control some aspects of care services and support for their child.
- For those who are eligible for a Personal Budget guidance will be given on how they work and what they can be used for.