

### Continue to grow and improve our Local Offer to reflect the changing needs of the SEND Community

The SEND Code of Practice became law in September 2014 and saw many changes within the world of Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) provision. One was the requirement for every Local Authority to have a Local Offer.

The West Sussex Parent Carer Forum actively participated in every stage of the development of our Local Offer by attending workshops and providing individual and group feedback to the various pilot sites.



A parent\* representative is a member of the Local Offer Steering Group (which meets every other month) ensuring the parental voice continues to be heard. This year we recruited over 20 parents to act as Local Offer Ambassadors within the county. Together we continue to promote and support the growth/development of our Local Offer. These parents represent a wide range of differing needs and are based across our large County. Their input is important in ensuring our Local Offer reflects our SEND community and is truly inclusive.

A key issue for the Forum has always been to keep our children safe. Whilst statutory services are subject to rigorous checks this is not always the case for those within the private sector. Please do take the time to watch our video about 'Using the Local Offer Safely' and read the guidance notes. You can find this on the website homepage using the 'How to use our Local Offer' button.

Statement from the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum



"I particularly like West Sussex's Local Offer, it is really visually appealing, enticing, easy to navigate and contains a very positive message about valuing children, young people and their families. The inclusion of an up-to-date events board and the thought that has gone into all the different navigation tools proves this is way beyond just a service directory."

**Anna Gill OBE**  
Associate for the Council for Disabled Children and for Contact a Family

\* The term parent includes anyone with responsibility for caring for a child/young person with additional needs or Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND).

### Get in-touch

The Local Offer is part of the West Sussex SEND IAS service. If you would like to talk to the Local Offer Officer please give the service a call - 0330 222 8555 or email [localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk).

The SEND IAS service is an impartial service operating at arms-length from the Local Authority. The Local Offer is used by the SEND IAS service as the first port of call for finding up-to date events, services and information that parents and young people need. This ensures the service can continue to advise and signpost to further services, events and information.

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service



# Local Offer West Sussex

Looking for services, events or information?



A growing online events calendar, services and information guide for children and young people with additional needs or special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) from birth to 25, their families and professionals.

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact us on 0330 222 8555.

[www.local-offer.org](http://www.local-offer.org)



@WestSussex.LocalOffer  
@LocalOfferWS






## Find events, services and information


“The Local Offer is becoming the essential tool for families and young people with SEND. It enables them to find the services, events and information they need. This then gives them a voice which is central in shaping provision. It also enables us to have direct understanding from our customers as to the elements and qualities of our services that are working well and for us to find out how we can strive to become event even better.”


**Andrew Baker  
and Sueloo Brown  
Time Aside**


### Accessibility:

- Jargon free
- Designed to be used on the move with your phone or tablet
- Compatible with modern screen reader technology
- Print information to view offline
- Access the Local Offer at Children and Family Centres or Libraries
- Contact your Local Offer Officer: localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk or call 0330 222 8555

 Find information on a range of topics including education, health, social care and leisure.

 Add events straight to your electronic calendar


 Get Google directions to the event / workshop / session


 Find events for children, young people, parents\* and professionals

 Get contact information

 Watch Videos

 Comment on services

 Save services to your pinboard

 Use filters to make your search appropriate for you

**For more tips and guidance on using our Local Offer please check ‘How to use our Local Offer’ for video guides.**

## Welcome

At whatever stage you are as a parent\* of a child / young person with additional needs we welcome you to our Local Offer. Our Local Offer aims to enable you to find a supportive group for coffee and a chat, activities and events for you and your family or give you the information you may need.

If you are going through the process of receiving a diagnosis or don't have a diagnosis, you may find our 'Just Diagnosed?' page helpful.

## Our Vision for our Local Offer:

### First Port of Call:

Our aim is for everyone to be able to find services, events and information using the Local Offer and to receive support from within their local community as well as through regional and national services.

### Think Local Offer:

If you use a service that is not yet on the Local Offer, let them know why they should join us. After using that service leave a comment to help inform others about using that service.

### Identify Gaps:

Where services and information aren't available we will ensure decision-makers are made aware of this so this knowledge can influence future commissioning decisions.

### Improve Quality of Services:

By directly involving children, young people, families, providers and professionals we hope to make the provision of services more responsive to the local needs and aspirations.

**Continue to grow and improve to reflect the changing needs of the SEND community.**



## Working Together

In West Sussex we recognise the value of working together to share our expertise and knowledge and put it all in one place on our Local Offer. We would like you to be part of the continuing development and improvement of our Local Offer.

### Children, Young People and their families can:

- suggest events, services and information that are not yet on our Local Offer. This can be done by contacting your Local Offer Officer: localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk;
- ask services to get listed and post their events;
- share experiences of services on the Local Offer by leaving a comment on service summary cards;
- share information and events on Facebook / Twitter and
- share top tips and advice which can be posted on the 'Tips & Advice' page.

### Professionals can:

- tell children, young people and their families about the Local Offer;
- suggest events, services and information that are not yet on our Local Offer: contact the Local Offer Officer and
- share information from the Local Offer with families they are working with using their Pinboard.

### Service Providers can:

- add their service(s) and continue to review their information to ensure it stays up to date;
- post their events / workshops / training on the calendar;
- share their services/events posted on our Local Offer via Facebook/Twitter and
- encourage children / young people / their families to share experiences of using their service.

### All can:

- give feedback about the Local Offer website and gaps in service(s) provision within the county via 'Feedback button'.

