

# SEND PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)  
Impartial Information, Advice and Support  
Service for Bath & North East Somerset



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term time only

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**Website:** [www.bathnes.gov.uk/sps](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sps)

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## 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 Bath and North East Somerset at [Rainbow Resource](#)

### 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:

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Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

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- *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 [Rainbow Resource](#).

Parents who want to be more involved in developing and reviewing the Local Offer can contact Parent Carers Aiming High through the [Carers Centre](#).

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 Bath and North East Somerset Council on the [council webpages](#) or for more detail at [Rainbow Resource](#)

SEND Partnership Service 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.

## Useful Webpages

### Carers Centre

[www.banescarerscentre.org.uk/](http://www.banescarerscentre.org.uk/)

### Local Offer

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/localoffer)

### Rainbow Resource

[www.rainbowresource.org.uk/](http://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/)

### SEND Code of Practice

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25)

## Glossary

### Must

The **SEND Code of Practice** says in Section i of the Introduction:

*...where the text uses the word '**must**' it refers to a statutory requirement under primary legislation, regulations or case law.*

This means that wherever the term 'must' is used all the organisations listed in Section iv of the Introduction to the Code have a legal duty to do what the Code says.

### SEND Code of Practice

This is the statutory guidance that supports Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

It tells local authorities, early years settings, schools, colleges, health and social care providers and others what they must and should do to identify, assess and provide for children and young people with SEN or disabilities.

You can download a full copy of the Code [here](#).

You can download a shorter version for parents [here](#).

We have made all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate and up to date at the time of publication. It does not constitute legal advice and the SEND Partnership Service cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or damage suffered as a consequence of any reliance placed upon it.

**This document can be made available in a range of community languages, large print, Braille, on tape, electronic and accessible formats.**