Appendix C

Option 1: The Local Offer

Every Local Authority has a duty under the Children and families Act 2014 to set out in one place information about provision across education, health and social care for children and young people who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. This is called ‘The Local Offer’.

Our Local Offer was developed with parents, carers and young people and was formally launched in September 2014.

The purpose of the Local Offer is to:
- Provide clear information
- Make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children, their parents and young people as well as service providers.

The Local Offer is not simply be a directory of existing services. Its success depends as much upon full engagement with children, young people and their parents as on the information it contains.

The Local Offer must include provision inside and outside our local authority area. It must include provision outside the local area that is likely to be used by children and young people with SEN for whom we are responsible and disabled children and young people.

The Local Offer should be:
- collaborative: we must involve parents, children and young people in developing and reviewing the Local Offer
- accessible: the published Local Offer should be easy to understand, factual and jargon free. It should be structured in a way that relates to young people’s and parents’ needs (for example by broad age group or type of special educational provision). It should be well signposted and well publicised
- comprehensive: parents and young people should know what support is expected to be available across education, health and social care from age 0 to 25 and how to access it. The Local Offer must include eligibility criteria for services where relevant and make it clear where to go for information, advice and support, as well as how to make complaints about provision or appeal against decisions
- up to date: when parents and young people access the Local Offer it is important that the information is up to date
- transparent: the Local Offer should be clear about how decisions are made and who is accountable and responsible for them.

Our Local Offer can be found at:
To date (June 2017) there have been over 81,000 hits to the Local Offer website. However, the recent inspection of SEND services across the Local Area highlighted:

- The local area involved parents at the initial stages of setting up the local offer. However, not enough parents know about, or use it to find advice and help.

We have stepped up the marketing and promotion of the Local Offer to include posters and flyers in GP surgeries, health centres, schools and early years settings.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 provide a common framework for the Local Offer. They specify the requirements that all local authorities **must** meet in developing, publishing and reviewing their Local Offer, and cover:

- the information to be included
- how the Local Offer is to be published
- who is to be consulted about the Local Offer
- how children with SEN or disabilities and their parents and young people with SEN or disabilities will be involved in the preparation and review of the Local Offer, and
- the publication of comments on the Local Offer and the local authority’s response, including any action it intends to take in relation to those comments

Areas of potential enquiry by the Committee could be to:

- Review the Local Offer in terms of ease of use and accessibility
- Meet with parent/carer forums to discuss usage

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