

Preparing and reviewing Oxfordshire's Local Offer for SEN and Disabilities (SEND)

Children, young people, parents and professionals have all been involved in the development of Oxfordshire's Local Offer. As well as a broadly representative group of children and young people and parents, Oxfordshire's Parent Carer Voice, local voluntary organisations and our young people's forum have also been actively engaged. People have contributed in a variety of ways to develop the content, consider ideas about how to publish the information and to comment on and review the work as it has progressed. Here we explain these in more detail:

1. Initial workshop

The Local Offer workshop in March 2013 focused on awareness raising and first steps. It was attended by approximately 20 parents, 4 young people and 15 professionals representing education, health and care services 0 to 25 years.

It provided an opportunity to consider:

- What have we got already that we can build on?
- What's working?
- What's not working?
- What would a good Local Offer look like?

The first steps identified at the workshop were:

1. Carry out an audit what's already out there
2. Every single agency (providers, community groups etc) to provide a page profile of what they provide
3. Get high level sign-up from all sectors, partners, providers and agencies to the Local Offer
4. Ensure that when a child or young person is identified as having special educational needs, relevant information on the local offer to be automatically sent to them and their family
5. Join up with local offers from neighbouring authorities.

2. Local Offer Task Group from January 2013 to July 2014

The task group met monthly and was co-chaired by the SEN Manager for Oxfordshire County Council and a parent who also works for Oxfordshire Family Support Network. Membership included other parents, voluntary organisations and professionals representing education, health and care services 0 to 25 years.

The task group reported to the SEND Reforms Programme Board and adopted the same agreed behaviours: *Involve people - Ditch the jargon - Let go of being the expert – Deliver in partnership - Create space for thinking - Be brave - Be open & transparent - Be realistic with expectations - Ask, listen & learn - Model these desired behaviours.*

3. Oxfordshire Young Enablers (OYE!)

OYE! is a forum for disabled children and young people of all ages. It was set up in 2008 by young disabled people who wanted to have their views and voices listened to and have greater say in decisions about services.

OYE! was asked about their views on the SEND Reforms and what was important to them. Some representatives from OYE! gave a presentation to the SEN Programme Board on 1st October 2013.



OYE! shared 6 key messages which were taken into account during the development of the Local Offer:

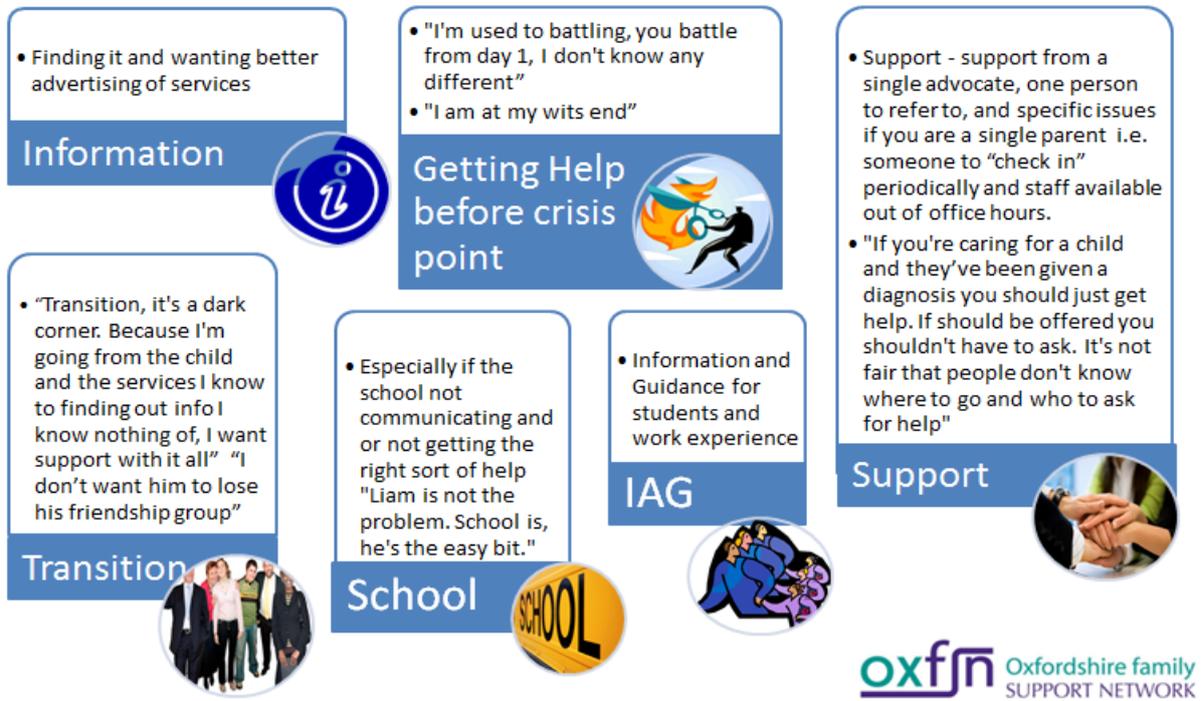
- People should respect me
- I want to spend quality time with my family and friends
- I want to go to school and get qualifications
- I want to be safe
- I want to trust those that care for me
- I want to enjoy an active social life

4. Family Information Fair, November 2013 at the Kassam Stadium.

This annual SEN and disabilities information fair was attended by over 300 parents and young people. There were presentations and stalls about all the new changes, including information about the Local Offer. It also provided an opportunity to find out what the most important issues were for parents and children/young people.

The most frequently talked about issues

Extract from report Family Info Fair "Listening In" Stall



5. Consultations

In March 2014 Parent Carers Voice Oxfordshire arranged workshops to consult parents on Oxfordshire's new guidance to help settings and schools identify and support children and young people with SEN. This guidance is intended to ensure transparent and consistent practice across the county. As a result of feedback from parents aspects of the guidance were revised to include their suggestions, and an appendix on 'Holding a review meeting' was expanded and a glossary was added.

6. July 2014 workshop for parents and members of the Local Offer task group

This workshop provided an opportunity for 12 parents to test some of the content being developed for the Local Offer. Although everyone had access to a laptop the discussions between parents and professionals highlighted how important it is to have someone to talk to.

There were a number of strengths identified:

- The huge amount of information on the Family Information Directory and the ability to filter by disability
- Clearly presented information
- Quick and easy to find information, (improvement from a year ago)
- Boxes and icons are visually appealing

These were some of the improvements that parents suggested and what we did in response:

You said	We did
Please use simple headings.	Headings have been simplified.
Maximise cross referencing so we don't have to look in so many places for information.	More cross referencing has been added.
Provide quick access to a dictionary of terms.	This is available in the Parent Partnership section.
Break the text up more with boxes and graphics to improve the visual appeal.	More boxes and icons have been added; also more filter functions will be added.
Clarify the different support services for education, care and health.	This section has been revised to give sections for each of these services.
We'd like an even better transition map.	A new map that reflects the latest legislation and guidance will be produced later this year.
Include clearer information about appeals	A section on appeals is included in the Information and Advice section
More information about opportunities for learning, training and social activities and the support available to access these.	Opportunities are listed in the Education and Training section and in Leisure and Recreation along with the support available.

7. Training for professionals, settings, schools and colleges

There has been an extensive workforce development and training programme throughout May, June and July 2014. Over a thousand people have attended events across the county. This has included multi-agency workshops for social care, education and health professionals, training for Early Years settings, schools (over 520 school staff attended), Further Education and training providers, and briefings for governors. Staff have been able to see the local offer in development and contribute ideas for improvement.

8. Change Ahead Road Shows for parents

Several road shows for parents/carers are being organised by Parent Carers Voice, Oxfordshire Family Support Network and Parent Partnership in October. The Local Offer will be shared and comments from parents will help inform further developments.

9. A workshop to 'road test' the local offer web pages

A workshop is being planned for November to continue to 'road test' the local offer web pages. Please contact us via sen@oxfordshire.gov.uk if you would be interested in coming along.