

Response to West Berkshire SEND Local Offer Survey

You Said We Did

We received a lot of positive feedback as well as some suggestions on how we could improve.

We are grateful for all your responses to the recent survey we opened during the summer.

In this 'You said, We Did' we capture the feedback from the survey and show what we are doing in response.

There were some common themes from survey responses that we have merged to make it easier to follow eg. 'You said'



You Said

“There needs to be more of a variety of activities for all ages and abilities in the area including holiday clubs and after school clubs”

We Did

Short Breaks sits within Priority 4 (Developing Local Specialist Provision and Support) of our new SEND and Inclusion Strategy (2024-29). We have completed a short breaks audit and will now be acting on the results by working with stakeholders to develop an enhanced short break offer to better meet the needs of children & young people with SEND and their families locally.

You Said

“There needs to be more help and support offered when filling in Education, Care and Health Assessment forms”

We Did

We have the [SENDIASS \(Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service\)](#) Helpline tel : 0300 303 2644, who are there to help and support parents. We're looking to improve the signposting on the Local Offer to make their details more accessible.

We have a [Parent Champion Programme](#) which is parent/carer volunteers who talk to parents about the local services and opportunities available to families.



You Said

“West Berkshire need a wider range of support for children and young people with SEND. There needs to be access to suitable provision for those unable to cope in mainstream and not suitable for specialist provisions”

We Did

Our vision in West Berkshire is “Children with SEND receive the right support, adjustments, and interventions, at the right time, to thrive in childhood and prepare well for adulthood”. We are developing local specialist provision and support to reinforce our continuum of provision, so needs are identified and addressed in a timely way. Our new [SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2024 – 2029](#) outlines our plans.

“We have processes and plans in place to ensure that you’re able to access the information and know where to go if you need more help.”

You Said

"The SEND Local Offer doesn't provide clear information about how to ask for an Education, Health and Care plan, it was a really difficult process to go through and I found this system really hard to navigate."

"I think there needs to be more information shared with parents. There needs to be more support for SEND families"

We Did

We are developing the Local Offer in response to the survey. We have a Parent Champions group, Parent Carer Forum and SEND Youth Forum to support co-production in making the Local Offer more user friendly and easier to navigate. We have processes and plans in place to ensure that you're able to access the information and know where to go if you need more help. Updates on the progress we are making will be found on [SEND Blog pages](#) on the Local Offer. You can [subscribe to receive future blog posts direct to your inbox here](#).



You Said

"There is limited information about the support available to help children and young people move between phases of education"

We Did

We are developing a Parents Transition document which will provide all the relevant information and support to guide you in the transition between different phases of education. The document will be provided to all parents. The school also have a transitions guide which will be consistent with the Parents Guide so you can work together making the process as smooth as possible for everyone involved. Both shall be available by December 2024.

You Said

"Some information could be clearer; There were activities which were aimed at children with SEND but when I clicked on weekend activities this also had adults and elderly care. Maybe more filters that can applied to filter for age, activity type, level / area of need"

We Did

This is included in the short breaks audit. We are looking to increase capacity within the teams to constantly review the Local Offer and maintain its effectiveness.



You Said

“There is not always enough information and support for over 16 year olds and the transition between School into Higher Education/ university/ apprenticeship or employment”.

We Did

Preparation for Adulthood is one of the priorities (Priority 6) in the SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2029. The key areas that will be focused on are;

- Improve access to high quality information regarding preparation to adulthood for young people with SEND and their families.
- Increase opportunities for young people with SEND to secure employment, including the development of Supported Internships and Apprenticeships.
- Work with local mainstream schools and specialist Further Education providers to improve provision for work-related learning.
- Work with Adult Social Care to ensure opportunities for young people with SEND to meaningfully engage and participate in their local community.
- Ensure pathways from children’s to adults’ health services work smoothly and are clearly understood.

Keep updated on our progress through the on [SEND Blog pages](#) on the Local Offer.



You Said

“Whilst there is a wealth of information on the Local Offer, it is not always easy to navigate to what you are looking for, it’s not comprehensive and doesn’t necessarily reflect all available provision”.

“It doesn’t include some local providers and information on those that are listed is limited or out of date. Some of the information - for example, information on EHNCA and EHCP process - is very muddled or just a series of flow charts which don’t reflect what happens”

We Did

Within the development on the new Local Offer our aim is to make it easier to navigate, meaningful and useful to residents. Our Communication Plan will ensure that developments and changes reach audiences as quickly as possible.

Thank you for helping us to improve our Local Offer – if you would like more opportunities to contribute in this way please contact bkelly1@westberks.gov.uk for more information about how.