

# Shaping the Local Offer in Rutland



The Local Offer is all the provision, services and support that families can expect to be available across education, health, social care and in the community for children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities. All organisations providing support or services as part of the Local Offer involve children and young people and their families in developing their support on an ongoing basis.

As a Local Authority, Rutland County Council must publish the [Local Offer](#) setting out what is available in one place. In Rutland the Local Offer website is part of the [Rutland Information Service](#) which brings together information about support, activities, advice and guidance for all residents in Rutland.

Here are a few examples of where families have helped develop or change the support available to them via the Local Offer:

## You said...

## We did...

Through the [Rutland Disabled Youth Forum](#), SENDIASS asked what resources would help young people to communicate at annual reviews. The group helped them create a tool using picture cards and made sure the set included all the things they would like to be able to talk about.

SENDIASS went away and created a tool to help young people get their voice heard and this resource is now available on their website:

<https://sendiassrutland.org.uk/get-advice/sendias-re-sources/interactive-picture-card-activity/>

Member of the Rutland Disabled Youth Forum shared positive and negative experiences of using the Advocacy services available. The young people explained that it felt complicated and hard to know who to talk to about what support we can get.

Rutland County Council have now created a central phone number for Advocacy advice and services so it's easy to make contact and talk to someone. More details are available on the [Local Offer](#).

[Youth Chaos](#) is a youth club run by [Aiming High](#) for children and young people with SEND which was moved to Zoom twice a week through the pandemic. Young people said that they really enjoyed the additional mid-week session and were keen for it to continue even when face to face sessions restarted.

Mid-week 'Chat and Chill' Youth Chaos sessions have continued twice a month on Zoom alongside the main face to face session every Saturday.

Parent/carers said that the [Aiming High Short Breaks Scheme](#) monitoring paperwork was a chore to complete.

The Local Authority has a duty to monitor how the Short Breaks funding is being spent, but parent/carers are now sent a link so this can be done much easier online.

During the pandemic, families said that they were unable to use their normal PA support due the risks involved and were finding being at home and keeping their child or young person active and engaged a challenge.

During the 2 most restrictive lockdown periods, spend guidance was relaxed to enable families to buy resources and equipment to support positive outcomes for the family.

Through the Aiming High and community support annual survey, families said that communication was still an issue and that they didn't always know what was available. Families also told us that their preferred methods of contact are via emails and Facebook.

Communication remains a challenge for us all and something we are continually trying to improve. RCC are continuing to improve the information on the Local Offer pages, RPCV and RRFSC have been developing their websites and online presence. We are all taking on board the general request for use of emails as the main communication method.

Some parents attending the ASD support group said that Zoom worked best for them as it meant they could attend with no childcare challenges. Parents involved at Visions Children's Centre also said it would be nice if some of the online sessions could continue into the future as well as face-to-face classes/events.

ASD support group is now running as a hybrid model with both face to face and online attendees.

Baby massage continues to be offered virtually and the Visions website has lots of videos that families can watch at a time convenient to them.

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Parents and young people said they were struggling to understand the impact and challenges that girls with ASD face.

A support session for parents was dedicated to ASD in girls. With the help of a small group of young people a new [ASD girls group](#) has been formed to help girls understand and cope better with their condition.

Out of Hours Club Rutland members struggled with the isolation during the pandemic and many told the leader that they had no tablets to be able to join in the Google Meet Sessions

Out of Hours Club Rutland applied for a grant and was given funding to purchase tablets to distribute to those that needed it. Now they are not only able to use the tablets to join in the OHCR Google Meet sessions but can join in other virtual group activities.

Out of Hours Club Rutland members and parents/carers said that they could not wait to begin the face to face sessions again even if was in small groups.

The OHCR trustees sourced a venue did a risk assessment and small groups of members were able to meet twice a month at The Wisteria. All normal activities have now resumed in accordance with the government guidelines.

Prospective chaperones requested that application forms were available online.

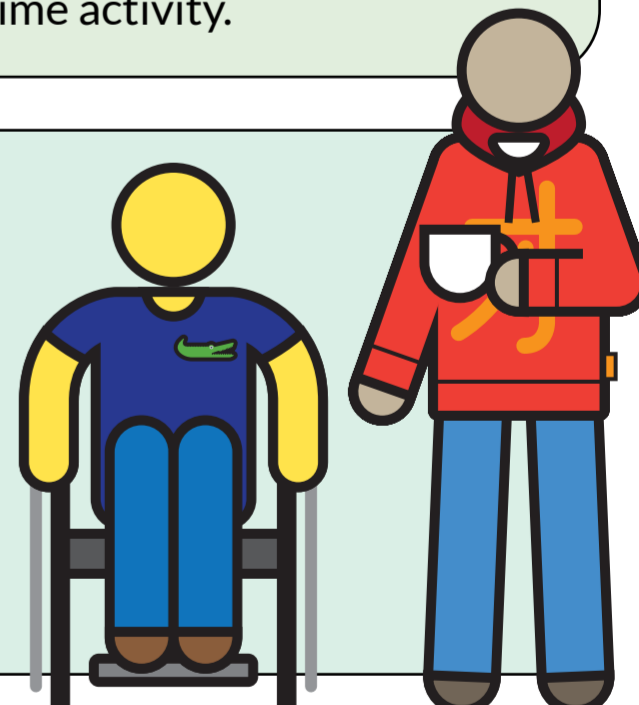
You can now download an application form and find out how to apply to be a chaperone on our [website](#).

Some members of the [Rutland Rotaract Family Support Centre](#) asked for drum lessons for children and young people as an activity.

Rutland Rotaract Family Support Centre has now purchased an electronic drum set and has a fabulous drum teacher who is now teaching the children drumming lesson as a term time activity.

The [Rutland Disabled Youth Forum](#) and families told the NHS Leicestershire Partnership Trust that the pathway to any diagnosis needs to be clearly described including what is available and the roles and responsibilities of those involved. Families and young people also said they would like a single point of contact to help them through the pathway and keep them informed.

This, and other feedback, is now influencing the Neurodevelopmental Transformation Programme team who are exploring new delivery models across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



A parent asked if EHC plans can be shared electronically as this would make it easier and quicker for them to access.

The SEND team agreed and many parents now have their child's plan sent by email as opposed to hard copies in the post.

RPCV are often approached by parents with questions about EHCP plans, and other topics relating to their child or young person.

These questions are now regularly collated and sent to [RCC answers](#) and accordingly ensuring all [questions and answers](#) respond on the local offer as well as on RPCV newsletters, social media and email contacts. These questions help inform practice and gain an awareness of parental concerns and worries.

During lockdown parents told the team at Visions Children's Centre that they needed face to face support for their own mental health.

The team at Visions arranged socially distanced walks with parents and children within restriction guidelines. Small face to face groups were also restarted as soon as it was safe to do so.

Some families said they were worried about their child's development.

Visions Children's Centre set up bespoke 1:1 online early year's sessions called Bookstart sessions. They are advertised on Facebook so parents are able to request them.

79% of parents with young children said the number one thing that would help their child and themselves was face to face groups, with 15% saying outdoor activities.

Visions are now delivering [13 face to face groups](#) and one virtual group each week including three outdoor sessions, two of which are Forest School. Aiming High are now delivering all of their support for children and young people with SEND as face to face sessions, many of which are held outdoors.

