

# DERBY'S SEND LOCAL OFFER

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## Local Offer User Group Notes

Meeting Tuesday 26 September 1.00pm-2.30pm

### Attendees:

Amanda Allsop (AA) Peter Cades (PC), Sally Morton (SM),  
Charlotte Dolman (CD), Dan Marson (DM)

### Actions from previous meeting were confirmed.

Email members [the page link](#) to the new [transition leaflet for parents](#). **ACTION: CD**  
Disability Direct contacted: **ACTION: DM to follow up**  
Members agreed meetings should be more focused on a particular topic.

## Summary of discussion

Items to be tabled at future meetings:

- Short Breaks
- Adult health and social care – the practicalities
- Virtual school

AA mentioned needing more members. Do Home to School Travel have contacts?  
Could a call out for new members be added to their standard letters? **ACTION: DM to investigate**

### Restructure of the ADHD and autism webpage

PP questioned why ADHD and autism were headed together.  
AA it excludes other neurodiverse conditions.  
DM suggested neurodiversity should have its own page.

General discussion about:

- Parents journey, no mention of the trauma.
- Should it be 'What to do if my child's struggling?'
- Parents might not know the word neurodiverse or the meaning of SEND until later in their journey.
- The struggle might not be at school but present at home only.
- Could be bullying rather than SEND.
- These pages create labels before a parent has a diagnosis.



DM said we could create the journey leading to a resolution with content explaining a graduated response from health visitors to schools to GPs.

PC suggested looking at other Local Offers. He attended a Phase 2 briefing where case studies were useful.

AA found the [Derby & Derbyshire Emotional Health and Wellbeing](#) website difficult to navigate.

PC queried the use of SEND or SEN and whether there should be something on physical disabilities.

DM highlighted the new page called [Physical impairments](#).

PC noted it appeared to be about wheelchairs only.

AA noted the need to mention schools.

PC referenced his experience as a wheelchair user at a special school.

DM agreed and that this is also true of primary schools.

AA questioned what can be done?

DM reasonable adjustments giving these examples: could be ensuring toilets on the ground floor, timetabling lessons accordingly with the right staff available on the ground floor.

PC said ASD assumes children have special needs when they don't.

AA pointed out that [Understanding your child's needs](#) is the wrong title as it then becomes a list of diagnoses.

DM believed the title is correct but maybe the headings are wrong.

AA sensory processing could be 'Overwhelmed by sounds or smells.'

PC suggested 'Does your child struggle with....'

DM suggested 'My child is sensitive to....' which could lead into a parents journey.

AA what about Single Point of Access (SPOA)?

DM agreed it could be the journey to SPOA, the services required and then post diagnosis.

PC suggested looking at [Westminster Local Offer](#). **ACTION: DM to investigate**

AA needed to leave but asked about the council's SEND team restructure. Her review was not good and didn't meet targets.

DM agreed these were not consistently met. Restructure is ongoing. He is interviewing. He is splitting the teams into specific areas of expertise.

PC questioned the success rate of new EHCPs within 20 weeks.

DM said around 36%, a third are on time.

AA was frustrated as plans are incomplete.

PC agreed by the end of 20 weeks, the timeframe is out of date.

AA concurred 12 month outcomes don't start until the plan is finalized.

DM agreed targets should be longer, school targets should be day to day and be more flexible. **ACTION: DM to contact AA to discuss**

PC pointed towards the [autism zone](#) page on the Westminster Local Offer.

DM agreed to look at this Local Offer and Telford's as well as outstanding Ofsted inspections. **ACTION: DM to investigate**

PC shared items from a meeting where they talked about the option of going into mainstream school, it was felt to be a positive move forward even though there were issues around which uniform to wear, but all agreed it wasn't about money but the children.

DM agreed but the reality is a £20m deficit.

PC asked what's the balance?

DM said it evens itself out.

SM it isn't just about school age children but post-19.



DM agreed and is meeting with Derby College to discuss special provision.  
SM said plus things like social care, health and physio.  
PC also shared from his meeting that maybe Ivy House was going to be PMLD only but he thought this wasn't inclusion and the school would become a hospital.  
DM agreed and the offer from our other special schools should have a broad profile, a spectrum of need whilst acknowledging Ivy House already has a strong profile.  
PC also shared from his meeting that there was buy-in from headteachers about the mainstream idea.  
DM said he had received 42 expressions of interest from mainstream schools and he was meeting to discuss their expectations and where they needed to be.  
PC also shared from his meeting their discussion around schools getting more spokes.  
DM said a model for how a spoke should be run was still in discussion, needed to be financially viable, there are lots of factors.  
PC lastly from his meeting, they discussed buy-in from parents, how to sell the idea.  
DM said again schools are best placed to sell it, it's all about trust. He can work with the schools, use case studies and clear key messaging.  
PC agreed and statements from parents, how it made it better for my child at spokes.  
DM highlighted the need to reassure young people too about going to spokes.  
DM & PC discussed the opportunities across school grounds and estates. However, PRU's made them nervous, seeing the need to tighten the model around risk.

#### **AOB**

None.

#### **Next meeting**

CD to circulate suggested topics for discussion.  
CD to look at dates for the next meeting.

