

## The Local Offer

September 2014 has seen the introduction of the new '**0 – 25 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice**'. The Government has listened to parents' opinions and brought in a new personal approach for families and children with Special Educational Needs and Disability. As part of this new code of practice, schools along with the local authority have to publish their local offer. The local offer is there to enable parents and young people to see clearly what support and help is available to them in the local area.

Suffolk's local offer can be found through the follow link:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/localoffer.page?localofferchannelnew=0>

It is a one stop shop for all you need to know in regards to services and support in Suffolk.

To see what Pot Kiln can offer [click here](#).

### **What is Special Educational Needs and Disability?**

The 2014 SEN code of practice defines this as:

**A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.**

**A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:**

**(a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or**

**(b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.**

#### **Definition of disability**

**A child is disabled if he is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from a mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed. Section 17 (11) Children Act 1989**

**A person has a disability for the purposes of this Act if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. (Section 6), Equality Act 2010**

The Code of Practice defines Special Educational Needs within four areas. These are explained below:

### **Cognition and Learning**

- A child may have a significant difficulty, delay or disorder affecting the skills needed for effective learning. The child's level of need will either be a moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), or profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)
- Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

### **Communication and interaction**

- Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication.
- Children and young people with ASD, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

### **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties**

- Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

### **Sensory and/or physical needs**

- Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time.
- Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.