



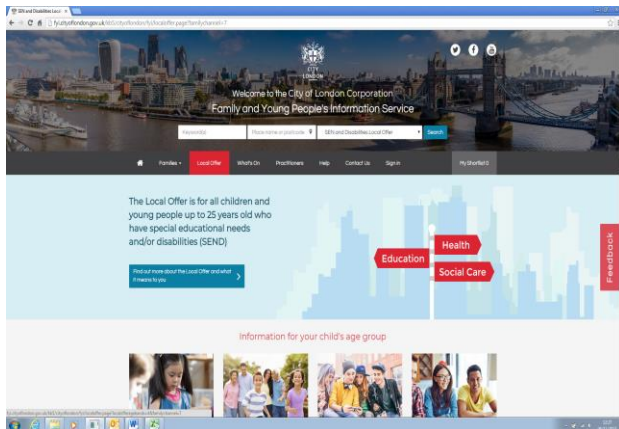
Welcome to the second edition of the Education Mile Newsletter. Our aim is to share regular local and national information for families in the City. If you would like to find out anything further on any items or you would like more advice or information, please contact the **Family and Young People's Information Service**, **020 7332 1002**, fyi@cityoflondon.gov.uk. Website: www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk.



Did you know? Colour and clutter can dim children's minds

Visual overload can make it very difficult for children to concentrate. Research conducted in 2006 by the Basic Skills Agency warned that cluttered rooms that dazzle children with a riot of bright colours could slow down their learning. "We need to recall the outdoor spaces we loved as children to guide us in interior colour choice. The calming colours of nature - greens, blues, browns, creams - are most conducive to a happy, calm learning atmosphere".

Improving the Local Offer website – You said, we did



We talked to parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in the City who told us that although they may not look at the web-site for day to day information and prefer to telephone the SEN Service directly, they also want to know the right person to talk to and what the information is. We also installed a self-service video booth in two primary schools in the City to consult children and parents about life in the City how things could be improved, especially if they have a special need or disability.

To view some of the footage, go to: <https://youtu.be/1xn3hYCvJa8>.

YOU SAID

In terms of design you said that you would like:

- information laid out more attractively so it is easier to look for information
- information which has the approach of 'this is what we can do for you'
- information which signpost users to other organisations rather than acting as a filter
- Services ordered by type of needs

In terms of content you said that you would like:

- a checklist of things you should be asking, a visual timeline and examples of paperwork and case studies for families starting on the Education, Health and Care (EHC) journey
- frequently asked questions which pre-empt the kind of things a parent may want to ask
- information for parents whose children have been recently diagnosed
- information on services available outside of school (e.g. clubs, weekend activities, etc.)
- details of access to buildings and activities for wheelchair users
- information on a “Freedom Pass” to access activities and venues
- information about transition to adulthood
- comments from other users and star rated reviews
- more blogs and vlogs



WE DID

We have now adapted the Local Offer website to match parental feedback.

We will continue to work with you and your children and young people to review and develop a local offer of services which is responsive to your needs and which leads to the best outcomes for your children and young people.

(<http://fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk/kb5/cityoflondon/fyi/localoffer.page?familychannel=7>)



Remember: Time for primary school applications

Children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 should start primary school in September 2018. Applications close on **15 January 2018 at midnight**. Find more information: <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

Universal Credit rollout

Universal Credit (UC) is a single monthly payment for working age households in or out of work. It replaces six existing benefits and is paid directly to one member of the household. UC is delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) through the Jobcentre Plus with administration carried out at UC service centres.



UC works by assessing a household's income over a monthly period and adjusting payments on the basis of income that month. When a household becomes eligible for UC they must first wait seven days before their claim can start. Their income is then assessed for a month, after which they should receive their first payment seven days later. This means that it takes at least six weeks for a household to receive their first payment after applying.

There are a number of exemptions for the seven-day waiting period, including terminally ill claimants, vulnerable claimants and those moving onto UC from another benefit or have claimed UC in the past six months. UC full service is now live in eight of London's 33 local authorities in at least some postcode areas. These are Croydon, Hounslow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets and the City of London.

Find more information: <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/members-area/member-briefings/leadership-devolution-and-democracy/universal-credit-rollout>