

Children with disabilities / health needs.

IFA carers may not be aware of some resources and support that they are eligible to receive. Below is advice on how IFAs can find out more about the 'local offer' in the areas where their carers are based.

Advice from a local authority commissioner:

- Agencies can look at the Local Offer for disabled children and children with additional needs. This should be a one stop shop directory but some are easier to navigate than others!
- If the child's Social Worker is already within the Children with Disability Team then this team should know about parenting support for SEND so start with the SW.
- If the SW is not within the Disability team, I still recommend the agency/ carer liaising with the Social Worker first. In my experience, SW are very supportive about additional support to facilitate/ stabilise a placement.
- If the child attends a special school, the foster carer can ask the school SENCO, they have a wealth of knowledge on preventative support.
- If the agency still wants to speak with the Commissioner, they could either ask the SW or the placement team for the contact details for the Commissioner for Children with Disabilities. I recommend explaining the context upfront.
- Some LAs have SEND conferences and forums, this is a great way to find out about services.
- LAs also have SEND Parent Carer Forums which Foster Carers could reach out to.