



Special Educational Needs and
Disability (SEND) Strategy
North East Lincolnshire Council
2018 - 2020

Document Title: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2018-2020

Summary

Publication Date	
Related Legislation / Applicable Section of Legislation	The Children and Family Act 2014; The Care Act 2014; and The Single Equalities Act 2010
Related Policies, Strategies, Guideline Documents	The SEND Code of Practice 2014
Replaces	SEN Strategy 2014-2016
Joint Strategy (Yes/No)	No
Name of Partner(s) if joint	N/A
Strategy Owner (Name/Position)	Clare Linfitt, SEN Services Manager
Strategy Author (Name/Position)	Clare Linfitt, SEN Services Manager; and Lorren Hewson, Inspection and Service Improvement Lead (Education)

Review of Strategy

Last Review Date	June 2018
Review undertaken by	Clare Linfitt, SEN Services Manager; and Lorren Hewson, Inspection and Service Improvement Lead (Education)
Next Review Date	Autumn Term 2020

Document Approvals

This document requires the following approvals.

Name	Title	Date of Issue	Version Number
Sponsor	Roz Danks, Head of Education Services and Strategic Lead for Education		
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kath Wheatley		

Contents

Our Vision and Introduction

North East Lincolnshire Council's Outcome Framework and SEND Priorities

The Current Position

Principles

Strategic Intent and Delivery Areas

Related North East Lincolnshire Strategies and Documents

Consultation and Engagement

Governance

Our Vision and Introduction

Our vision for children and young people with SEND:

All children and young people will achieve their potential; become confident individuals, live fulfilling lives and successfully transition into adulthood.

Introduction:

This strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) is intended for children, young people, parents/carers and professionals. It aims to ensure that everyone is aware of and working towards the same vision underpinned by the same values. In line with the 2014 SEND Reforms it promotes a stronger focus on the personalisation of services and how services are increasingly 'joined up' to meet needs effectively across the age range of children and young people from birth to 25 years of age. The success of the strategy will be seen in the improvements that children and young people experience in their learning, self-esteem and the outcomes they achieve when transitioning through their lives.

Against this background, the previous SEN Strategy has been reviewed through consultation with a range of stakeholders. It was acknowledged that early and previously reported progress had been maintained and re-affirmed areas of practice that needed continued and continuous effort. In this sense, no new priorities or unidentified gaps were identified during the review process. However, the need for prioritisation, continued effort and further development in the following areas, emerged clearly as follows:

- Effective engagement of children and young people in planning their provision and having a wider voice in the development of services designed to meet their needs at all stages of the process of identification, assessment and delivering services
- Supporting parents, carers and families to participate as partners in the planning of provision for their children and in the wider development of service provision
- Strengthening the focus on multi-agency support and co-ordination for complex needs through the maintenance and continued development of the Local Offer
- Ensuring sufficiency of provision to meet the demand for special school places to address short, medium and long term capacity in special schools.

This strategy has been developed with reference to:

- National policy and legislative framework
- Local strategies and policies
- Existing networks and partnerships between a range of stakeholders including parent groups, schools, academies and academy trusts

North East Lincolnshire's Outcomes Framework and SEND Priorities

This SEND Strategy aligns with North East Lincolnshire Council's Outcomes Framework and the vision of North East Lincolnshire as a place, working collaboratively to build stronger communities and a stronger economy for the benefit of all local residents. The Council's five strategic priorities and associated success indicators are detailed in Figure 1 below:



Figure One: NELIVES

SEND Services and provision in North East Lincolnshire are likely to have direct impact on all of the key success indicators. Table 1 overleaf demonstrates the thread between the above Outcomes and the SEND Strategy priorities.

Appendix 1 at the back of this document outlines the voice of the children and young people on achieving these key indicators.

Table 1: The thread between NEL’s Outcomes Framework and the SEND Strategy priorities

	Learning and Growing	Investing in our Future	Vitality and Health	Economy and Strength	Safe and Secure
	All people in NEL fulfil their potential through skills and learning	All people in NEL live in sustainable communities	All people in NEL enjoy good health and well being	All people in NEL enjoy and benefit from a strong economy	All people in NEL feel safe and are safe
Priority outcomes for children and young people in NEL with SEND.	Learning provision for all children and young people with SEND is of high quality across all providers.	Children and young people with SEND live confidently in supportive communities where people are able and want to get involved.	Children and young people with SEND have the information and advice to support self-reliance and independence, their health is protected and they have access to safe, responsive and effective quality health and social care services.	Children and young people with SEND have the skills and confidence to in the future secure and sustain employment (if appropriate) and community living.	Children and young people with SEND access and receive the help and support they need at the earliest opportunity.
Key actions to improve priority outcomes for children and young people in NEL with SEND.	Support schools, academies and settings to raise educational attainment and wider outcomes for all children and young people with SEND including those identified at SEN Support.	Plan, facilitate and support the development of services and provision to meet identified needs particularly for the most complex and or vulnerable groups of children and young people. Where data and outcomes tell us that there are particular difficulties for children and young people with SEND at this time, specifically: 1. Autistic spectrum condition (ASC) 2. Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH)	Strengthen and promote the focus on multi-agency support and co-ordination for complex needs continual development and promotion of the Local Offer and high quality SEN statutory processes.	Provide a strategic approach to support the development of a wide range of services and provision for children and young people with SEND through joint commissioning.	Effective engagement of children and young people with SEND in planning their provision and having a wider voice in the development of services and provision designed to meet their needs at all stages of the SEND processes.

The Current Position

Within North East Lincolnshire children, young people and their families are at the heart of all planning to ensure that they feel involved and valued when it comes to identifying and meeting their individual needs. All practitioners are person centred and sensitive to pressures on children, young people and their families.

The relationship between North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) and the North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NELCCG) was strengthened in 2017-2018 by adopting a 'union' model resulting in a Joint Chief Executive across both organisations. A Joint Commissioning Strategy has been developed and is implemented across both organisations.

North East Lincolnshire Council is currently undertaking a 3 year 0-19+ Transformation Programme which is a wholesale review and reshaping of all services to children, young people and their families. These critical services keep children, young people and their families safe and provide support and assistance when it is most needed. Many of these activities are managed and delivered in conjunction with a range of partners and form a complex system. The programme's work is focused on redesigning activities to enable children, young people and their families to seek advice support and guidance at an early stage of any problems that they may be having, and not wait until there is a crisis. The aim is to move the demand for support towards prevention.

A Single Access Pathway was launched in April 2018. It has been developed to offer a single point of access and a clear pathway for families to access help for children and young people who have difficulties with communication and interaction, cognition and learning, social emotional and mental health difficulties, children and young people with Physical Difficulties and/ or those with Medical conditions.

In respect of SEND services and provision:

- A strategic SEND Executive Board is in place. It is a multi-agency board which consists of professionals from education, health, social care and parent/carer representatives to shape and ensure the smooth implementation of the strategic direction for all aspects of SEND. The board has a number of subgroups that report to it including: Early Years SEND Strategy Group; 5 -16 SEND Strategy Group; Post 16 Further Education SEND Strategy Group; SEN Engagement and Participation Strategy Group; SEN Newsletter Editorial Group; Local Offer working group; and Special Educational Needs Advisory Group (SENAG)
- The SENAG multi-agency panel considers and makes decisions on:
 - Education, health and care assessment requests (EHCARs)
 - Education, health and care plan (EHCP) assessment outcome decisions
 - Requested changes to existing EHCPs including educational provision and or new placements; health and social care provision; and any funding changes including personal budgets
- SEND Services and associated partners work closely and strongly with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS); North East Lincolnshire Parent/Carer Forum (NELPPF) and other local parent groups to ensure the voice of children, young people and their families is captured.
- SEND Services and associated partners work closely with all schools and academies and a strong Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) Forum is established and well supported.
- Since September 2014, the local authority has devised and implemented a reflective training programme in conjunction with the SENCo Forum.

- In January 2017, 'My Plan' was introduced. It is a universal way all education providers to record pupils SEN support information. It puts the child/young person at the centre of SEN decision making.

Principles

Principles of our work with children, young people and their families:

- Children, young people and their families' views are at the centre of all our planning to empower them to make informed decisions.
- Early identification of individual needs ensures quality and personalised support for children and young people.
- Successful outcomes for children and young people are encouraged by robust partnership working and joint commissioning.
- Children and young people need to be able to develop and achieve, wherever possible, within their local community.
- Children and young people should be safe, resilient and achieve their full potential.
- A holistic approach to priorities for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.
- Having the correct information and realistic expectations ensures successful transition for children and young people throughout their lives.
- All staff are proactive and confident in our role corporate parent role responsibilities for looked after children and young people.
- A skilled, confident and supported workforce is essential to do their job well.

Where we would like to be:

- Improved and well evidenced inclusive practice in all of our mainstream settings to ensure that the needs of children and young people with an EHCP or at SEN Support can consistently be met.
- Improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND particularly those at SEN Support.
- A robust strategic plan to:
 - Meet the demand for special school places to address short, medium and long term capacity in special schools; and
 - Address capacity in mainstream provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.
- Improved effectiveness and deployment of our SEND resources.
- An established SEND Children and Young People's Forum which is able to reflect the broader SEND agenda and be representative of the wide range of children and young people's SEND in North East Lincolnshire.

Strategic Intent and Delivery Areas

Strategic intent and delivery areas

- Strategically promote and encourage a culture of inclusive practice in all schools, academies and settings in order that the needs of children and young people with an EHCP or at SEN Support are consistently met and they achieve improved outcomes.
- Develop, in partnership a sufficiency strategy for SEND to address the emerging challenge of special school places being insufficient to meet demand.
- Ensure the specialist elements of SEND Services are configured and deployed to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Work with early year's provision, schools, academies, settings, teaching schools and a wide range of partners including parent/carer groups to promote and support high quality training on SEND.
- Continued promotion of the need for early identification of SEND particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and young people who are looked after (LAC) or at risk of becoming looked after and those who are, or at risk of becoming children in need (CIN).
- Continued promotion of early identification of need and the use of 'My Plan' or similar tools in early years provision, schools, academies and settings.
- Support early year's provision, schools, academies and settings to develop policy and practice at transition for children and young people with SEND.
- Ensure that wider social care needs are consistently captured in EHCPs.
- Ensure that social care and health outcomes are consistently integrated by working closer together with a range of partners.
- Continued development and revision of the Quality Assurance Framework for EHCPs to include how the collective learning will be utilised to drive improvement.
- Continue to offer personalised and creative provision when children and young people are not able to access mainstream provision.
- Ensure that children and young people are able to access personal budgets to include education, health and care elements where eligible to support improved outcomes.
- Develop more opportunities to access good quality local provision and sustainable employment and supported employment for young people with SEND aged 16-25.
- Further develop pathways to support young people with SEND in the transition from children's services to adult services.
- Continued review, development and promotion of the Local Offer.
- Continued promotion of coproduction and joint working in everything we do.
- Develop a forum to ensure there is a systematic way of capturing the voice of children and young people with SEND.

Related North East Lincolnshire Strategies and Documents

Related North East Lincolnshire Strategies and Documents:

- NELC's Outcomes Framework
- Joint Commissioning Strategy
- The Local Offer
- Families First Prevention and Early Help Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Education Strategy
- Local Area Inspection (LAI) SEND Self-Evaluation Form and associated action plan
- Education, Health and Care Plan Personal Budgets Statement
- Quality Assurance Framework for EHCPs

Consultation and Engagement

Consultation and Engagement:

In developing this strategy we have consulted with children and young people, parents/carers and a range of professionals across Children's Services and our partner agencies. All views have been considered in finalising the strategy.

Governance

Governance:

Overall responsibility for delivery of the North East Lincolnshire SEND Strategy 2018-2020 sits with the SEND Executive Board with delivery of the associated action plans managed and monitored six weekly.

Appendix One

The voice of the child and young person aligned to the key indicators within the Council's Outcome Framework .

Learning and Growing	Investing in our future	Vitality and health	Economy and strength	Safe and Secure
I have achieved my expected outcomes and I am working towards my aspirations.	The services I need most are in or near my own community.	I know where I am now, where I am going and the options I have to get there.	I get the provision that is right for me.	I have confidence in the professionals working with me.
I experience positive relationships with professionals regarding provision of education, health and care.	I feel supported to use a range of services.	Information in my EHCP or SEND support plan is of a high quality and my plan was undertaken within the correct timeframe.	I am more than satisfied with the quality of services I am offered to meet my needs.	I feel that I am an equal partner in the planning and decision making of my EHCP or SEND My Plan.
People involved in my plan (EHCP or SEND My Plan) share information, have understanding and work together to make my plan meet my needs.	I can access the activities that meet my needs and interests.	I am learning how to manage my own health and wellbeing to the best of my abilities.	I have my plan (EHCP or SEND My Plan) and I am ready for the future.	I am involved in designing and reviewing the services I use.
My EHCP or SEND My Plan clearly states what helps me to learn and the support I need and receive.	I have an effective support network, with friends and family.	I know where to go to get information, advice and guidance.	I am accessing learning that helps me prepare for and enter the world of work / adult life.	I have choice and control over things that are important to me.
I have a review of my EHCP or SEND My Plan at least once a year and I am listened to when I say what is/is not working well.	I feel included in my educational setting, peer group settings and my community.	I feel safe and well and I know where to go to get support when I do not.	I know what I want to do in the future and I am being supported to achieve my outcomes.	My family and I have been supported from the start and I get support in a timely manner.
I feel my education has helped me to achieve my goals.	I feel I contribute positively to my community.	I am confident that my health needs can be met now and in the future.	I feel there is something positive for me to do in adulthood.	People hear my voice and act on what I say.