



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Joint Commissioning
Framework 2023 - 2026

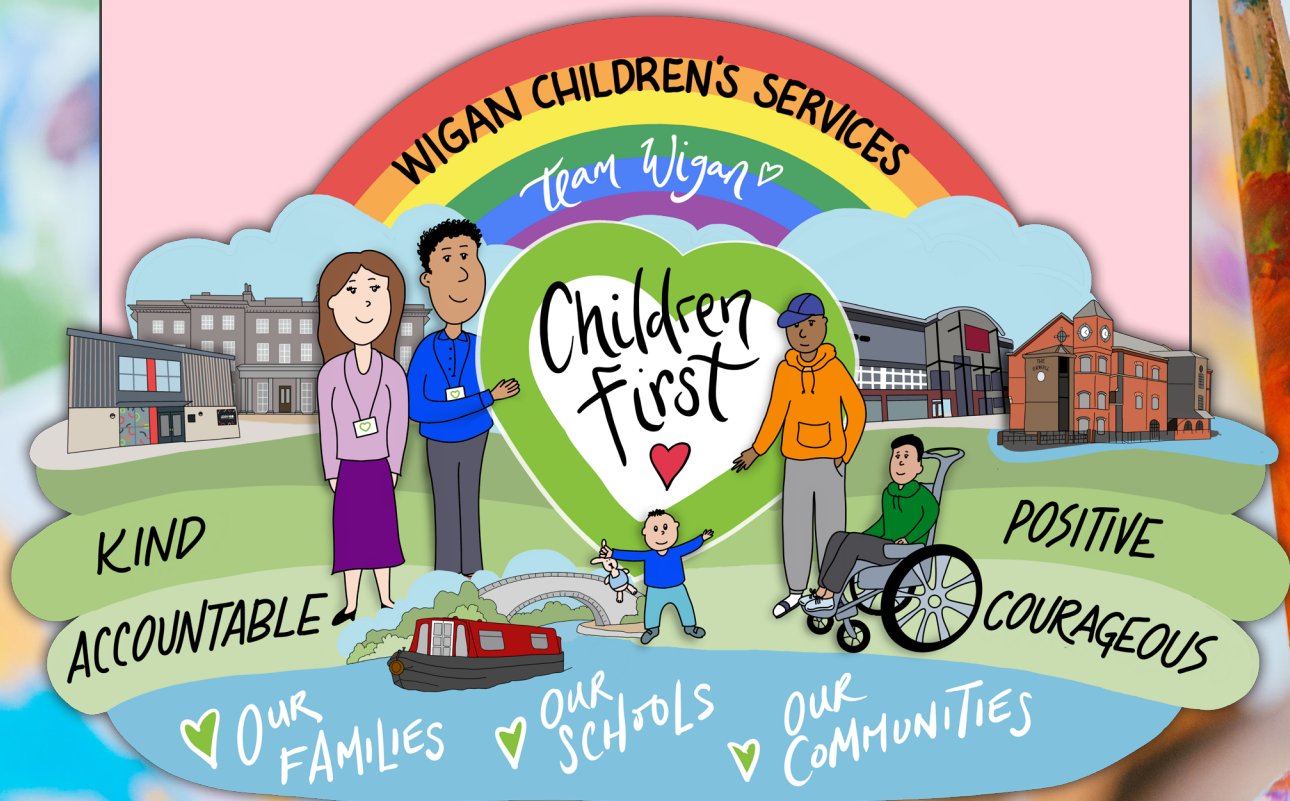
Greater Manchester
Integrated Care Partnership



Wigan
Council

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Introduction

Our vision is that all children in Wigan are happy, healthy and safe; feel listened to and have the maximum opportunities to be ambitious. If children or their families need help and support it should be at the right time, by the right person and in the right place for them.

This document sets out our commissioning intentions and approach to joint commissioning as we continue to improve services for children and young people with SEND and their families.

Working alongside partners and families to co-produce this framework has provided an opportunity to ensure the aims and outcomes are based on the lived experience of our children and their families. We are continuing to listen to and work with families so that the services they receive are timely, of a high quality and right for them.

We recognise that in Wigan there is still work to do to improve our Joint Commissioning for SEND services and as a partnership we are committed to work together to plan and commission services collaboratively and make the best use of all available resources.

We want to ensure that all of our children and young people thrive, that they enjoy growing up in Wigan with a great education offer, great communities and safe places to play and socialise and have the support they need as they prepare for adulthood and their employment journey.

We recognise that no one service can do this alone, and we will only achieve the outcomes we have coproduced, if we work together to identify, plan for and commission the resources and services that will meet need.

We have recently undertaken a borough wide SEND survey across the borough with all our children and families and the results of this will inform future commissioning and delivery of services.



Colette Dutton

Colette Dutton, Director of Children and Young People's Services, Wigan Council



Melissa Maguinness

**Melissa Maguinness
Deputy Place Lead (Wigan)**

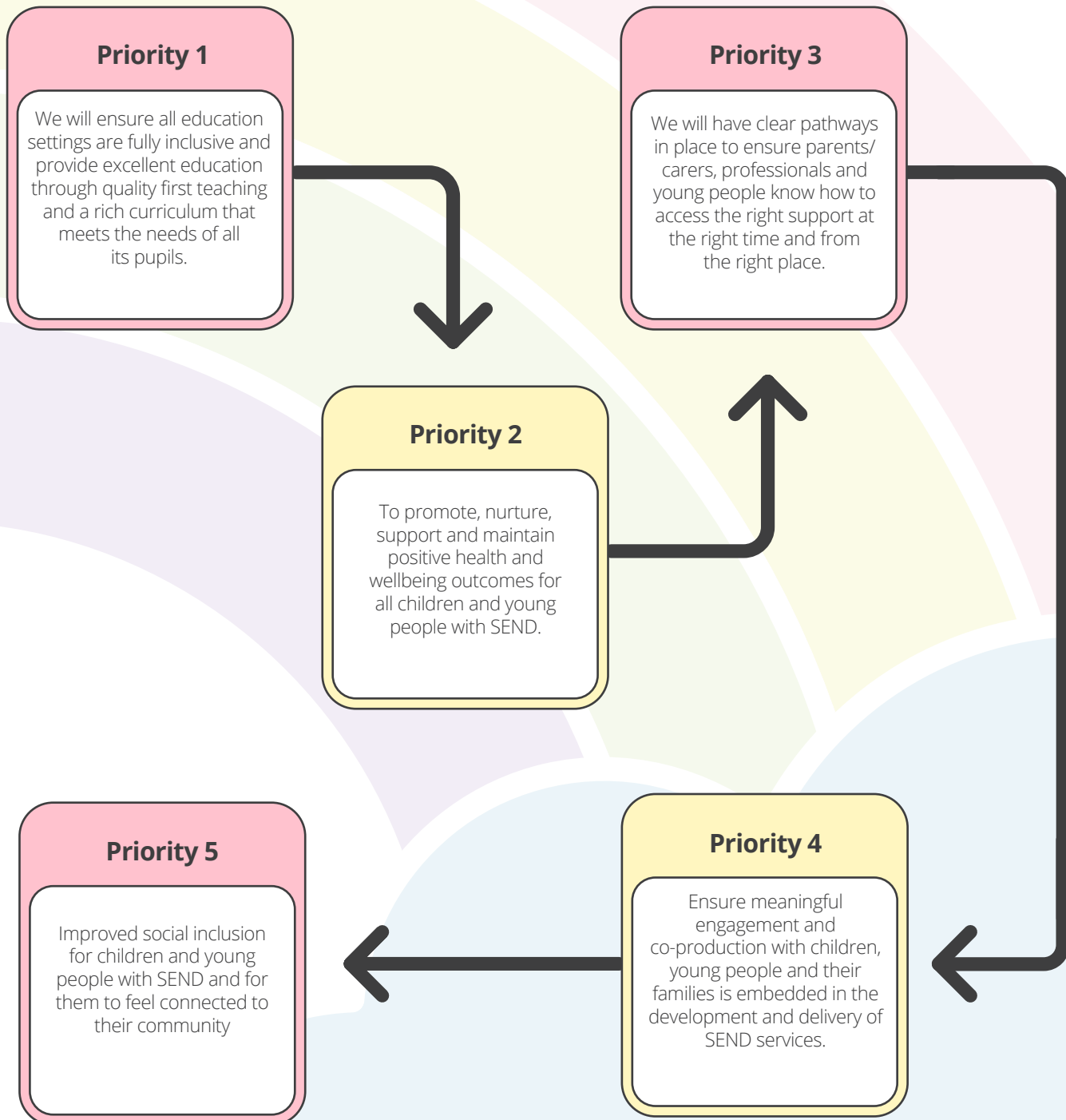



Our Priorities

Our excellence in education & SEND strategy has 5 key strategic priorities which have been co-produced with our children, young people, families, schools, and other partners. These are:



Our education and SEND strategy is for ALL children and alongside this we developed a further set of priorities for enhanced focus for children and young people with SEND. These are:





At the heart of our approach is the voice of our children, young people and our families through true and effective co-production.

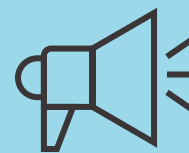
Co-production is a family-centred way of working that involves parents, carers, children, young people and professionals working together in the design, planning and delivery of services in Wigan.

Wigan's co-production principles designed jointly in 2023 with parents, carers and wider stakeholders are as follows:



Space

- We will provide opportunities to meet in a safe place and share ideas.
- We will ensure everyone's experience is inclusive and accessible.
- Everyone should have an equal opportunity to express their views.



Voice

- We know that participation is voluntary and we can withdraw at anytime.
- We support each other to share our views, including sharing and receiving accessible information in a meaningful way.
- There are a range of ways to express ourselves that work for us.
- We will all understand the process to identify the topics we want to discuss and how we can contribute.
- We have links to local, regional and where appropriate, national partnerships and initiatives to widen the influence we have on the decisions that affect us.



Audience

- We know how and when our views will be shared and with who.
- We listen to and value everyone's views.
- We will ensure that the relevant people are involved in the right conversations.
- We will act on agreements and do what we say we will do.
- We are confident that we will support each other to communicate our own views.
- We will be open to change.
- We are publicly acknowledged for our participation in the decisions.



Influence

- We know what and how to influence decision making and we understand there may be limitations.
- We will be given appropriate and acceptable feedback throughout the process, and we are informed how our views are used.
- Our views contribute to decisions.
- We are given opportunities to evaluate the process.

Outcomes framework

Through our work with our children, families and through the partnership, we have developed a set of 8 core outcomes that we want to achieve for our children and young people. As we implement our plans, we will check ourselves against these outcomes through regular reflection and review to ensure we are continually improving.

(We will adjust these if necessary following the outcome of our most recent SEND survey with our children and families).



I am heard



I am included in my community



My family is supported



I am as healthy as possible



I am ambitious



I am emotionally well



I am and feel safe

Our approach to joint commissioning

Joint commissioning is where there is shared ownership of the assessment of need, planning of services and where partners work together to ensure we are able to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families.

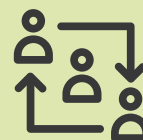
The ongoing design, planning and implementation of the commissioning of our SEND services will be underpinned by the following principles:

We will:

Place children and their families in the centre of the commissioning cycle and involve them in the whole process of design, planning, monitoring, evaluation and redesign of services.



Work in partnership to maximise resources and effectiveness to enable access to the right services at the right time.



Be brave and take tough decisions and stop doing the things that are not having a positive impact.



Ensure that the outcomes above are at the heart of the strategic planning and commissioning process.



Provide access to earliest and early help services.



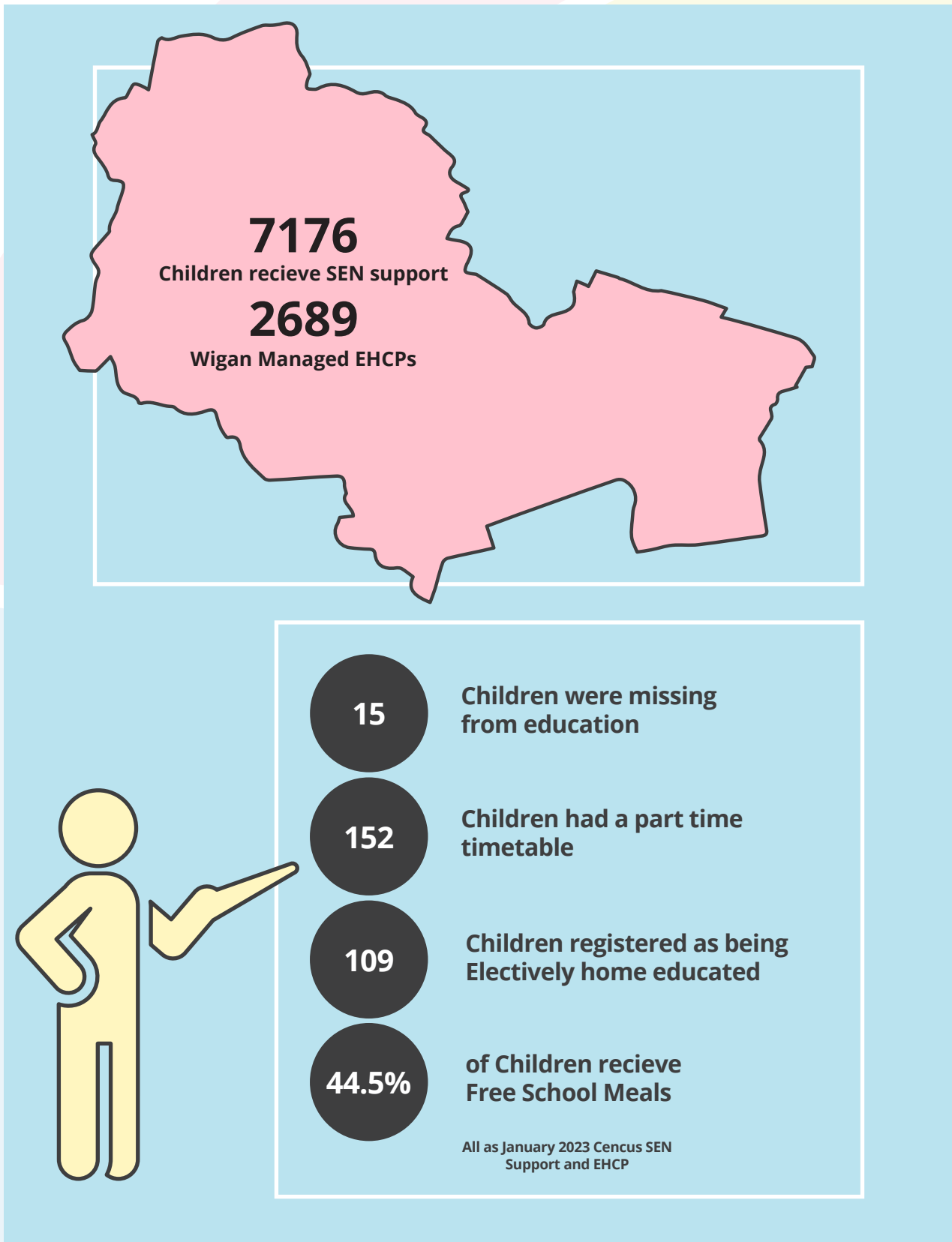
This framework has been produced through co-design sessions with children, families and wider partners over a period of months during 2023. It is informed by our SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. We are committed to design, plan and deliver support across our systems utilising our collective resources in the most innovative and effective way.

We want to reimagine the offer to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to ensure we meet increasing demand and complex needs effectively and that the support services and provision offered are right and delivered within local communities.

Our Wigan population

A SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a review of the current and future health and care needs of children and young people 0-25 living with special educational needs and disability. The key headlines are depicted below:

What do we know about children with SEND in Wigan?





Breakdown of EHCPs

- 7** Nursery
- 988** Primary
- 1072** Secondary
- 538** Post 16
- 193 OOB** Children have EHCP

All as January 2023 Census SEN Support and EHCP



Growth Primary Area of Need 2019 - 2023

57.5%
Autism

99.5%
Speech, Language and Communication

42.1%
Social, Emotional & Mental Health

92.8%

EHCP educated in borough

41.5%

EHCP educated in mainstream

EET Post 16: **91.8%**

Post 18: **70.5%**

CLA with EHCP 117

all special schools are

Good or Outstanding

Priority 1 – Inclusion

We will ensure all education settings are fully inclusive and are a positive option for our young people and their families.



Why?

- Families have told us that they want their children to go to mainstream schools to be more inclusive and to have the right training, skills and support for their children and young people to do well.
- Schools have told us they need appropriate training and resources to support all children well.



What?

- We have recently reviewed our graduated response and are delivering training across our education settings and with other professionals to help them understand and implement this effectively. In addition, we have also developed our 'ordinarily available inclusive practice guide (OAIP)' and we are embedding our emotionally based school avoidance offer.
- We will provide excellent education through quality first teaching and a rich curriculum that meets the needs of all its pupils.



How will we know we made a difference?

- More children and young people with a Wigan managed EHCP will be educated in within a Wigan school or provision.
- Suspensions and exclusions will reduce.
- Attendance across our settings will improve.
- Where appropriate, more children with an EHCP will be educated in mainstream schools.
- There will be more social and leisure activity options available for children and young people with SEND to access.



Priority 2 – Improve Health Outcomes

To promote, nurture, support and maintain positive health and wellbeing outcomes for all children and young people with SEND.



Why?

- We have seen a significant increase in the number of requests for EHCPs in particular for children and young people identified as having autism and Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) issues. In addition there are an increasing number of children presenting with speech and language needs and older children presenting with mental health and anxiety.



What?

- Better understanding of needs resulting in a strengthened offer for families including post diagnostic sessions and riding the rapids ten-week intervention programme to support their child's behaviour
- Occupational therapy team have developed their clinical offer to include assessments and treatment for children experiencing feeding difficulties due to sensory processing difficulties. This includes a multi-disciplinary approach with speech and language and dietetics.
- Neuro developmental system wide approach addressing need not diagnosis and working together to deliver better outcomes.



How will we know we made a difference?

- More families accessing pre and post diagnosis support.
- More children with sensory processing difficulties accessing multi-disciplinary support.
- Reduction in school absences related to mental health and anxiety.

Priority 3 – Right support at the right time

We will have clear pathways in place to ensure parents/carers, professionals and young people know how to access the right support at the right time and from the right place.



Why?

- Families have told us that they are not aware of some services and are unclear how to escalate concerns.
- Reduction in school absences related to mental health and anxiety.



What?

- Early help and prevention board has ensured that SEND is part of the key learning required of the core workforce across the partnership.
- Co-produced development of the Family Hub offer for children and young people with SEND
- Reviewed and co-designed the short break offer
- Graduated Approach and Ordinarily available provision documents refreshed and now available alongside training for professionals.



How will we know we made a difference?

- Fewer requests for EHCPs and referrals into Children's social care.
- Families reporting that they can access local information easily via the local offer.
- Professionals feel confident that they know how to support young people and where to get support and advice.

Priority 4 – Engagement and coproduction

Ensure meaningful engagement and co-production with children, young people and their families is embedded in the development and delivery of SEND services.



Why?

- Families have told us they want to be involved in shaping services and evidence shows that this is the most effective way to design services.



How will we know we made a difference?

- Attendees at the SEND Drop in sessions say they would recommend the session to a friend.
- More families will attend the sessions and contribute.
- Feedback from children, young people and families will see an increase in satisfaction levels and report that they feel engaged in their own plans and our strategic plans.



What?

- Launched our Big SEND Survey to hear from the widest range of CYP with SEND and their families
- Themed codesign workshops have taken place throughout the year to support the SEND Vision, outcomes, coproduction, joint commissioning, short breaks and holiday activity fund.
- Tripartite funding for a parent carer development and participation officer employed by the Parent Carer Forum(PCF), alongside funding of the hub space to ensure the PCF have a suitable and protected space and an annual event to promote and celebrate the work of the forum.
- SEND drop ins for parent and carers are held monthly during term time with representatives from relevant services.

Priority 5 – Improved Social Inclusion

Improved social inclusion for children and young people with SEND and for them to feel connected to their community.



Why?

- Families have told us that their children aren't able to easily access local community activities and that there aren't enough options available.



What?

- The first 'Local Offer Live' event held in partnership with the Parent Carer Forum and SENDIASS/Embrace was successful in reaching over 400 young people and their families.
- We have redesigned the short breaks offer and continue to review, ensuring that the investment will promote inclusion from more young people with SEND.
- We want to ensure that more specialist as well as mainstream provision is available.
- We are developing our employment and internship offers so that young people have more positive opportunities post 16.



How will we know we made a difference?

- An increased number of local organisations are able to include children and young people with SEND.
- Children and young people report that they feel included in local activities of their choice and feel part of their communities.
- More young people with SEND move on to meaningful employment successfully.





Framework for continual improvement

Understand

- Importance of 'Personalisation', 'Outcomes' and 'Co-production' throughout the joint commissioning process.
- The needs of the whole community – JSNA or other means. Including unmet need of children and young people with SEND and their families.
- Asset focused, person centred thinking and planning approach to ensure the 'real wealth' of families is acknowledged.
- Map all provision within the local offer, regardless of provider, understand how they are used and how they achieve, including feedback from users.
- Use the Local Offer to extend mapping beyond service users
- Understand the costs of in-house and externally commissioned services and outcomes they achieve.
- Benchmark to provide challenge and understand future demand on services
- Understand what works – to inform commissioning decisions.

Plan

- Health and Wellbeing board to discuss and agree a strategy for 'personalisation'.
- Use the joint commissioning levers (individual, operational, strategic)
- Develop a strategy which includes a commitment to extending personalisation, co-production and self directed support for CYP with SEND and their families and the intended outcomes.
- Refocus children's plans and strategy's to include personalisation co-production and self directed support for CYP with SEND and their families and the intended outcomes.
- Agree the roles that play an essential part in enabling personalisation
- Plan and develop a workforce strategy which includes awareness raising for parents, carers and young people, staff and managers.

Do

- Create sufficient leadership capacity to ensure change can happen.
- Ensure the overarching vision for 'personalisation' is understood.
- Enable commissioners and procurement colleagues to work with families and providers to extend personalisation and improve outcomes.
- Develop the provider market by talking to providers with a good record of extending personalisation through enabling access to universal services.
- Involve potential providers and budget holder in on going activity to grow understanding of how personal budgets will impact on their offer.
- Work with providers to support them to make the transition from block contracts.
- Maximise opportunities for budget holders to secure value for money services
- Provide training and provision for peer to peer support for families to hear from other families on how PB's can be used to extend personalisation.

Review

- Introduce a coherent system of review focussed on outcomes that is robust, simple, transparent and consistent.
- Review impact on overall vision and principles, as well as commissioning activities.
- Involve CYP and families with SEND in reviews at all levels.
- Ensure reviews are designed to address risk management and safeguarding issues.
- Ensure feedback mechanisms in place to Strategic Commissioning Teams and Health and Well Being board.
- Annually review the process and outcomes of EHC plans and personal budgets from the perspective of CYP and families.
- Use any feedback to benchmark and inform future action planning.

Future priorities

- Ongoing review of the detailed action plans for each of the five priorities above and continued scrutiny through the SEND Partnership Board and wider governance arrangements.
- Development of our outcomes framework and measuring the activity against the outcomes framework
- Regular updates of the SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to inform the commissioning cycle above.

