

**Title:** Haringey SEND Strategy 2022-2025 AND Area SEND Inspection

**Report authorised by:** Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This paper reports on the outcome of the consultation which has informed the Special, Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy for Haringey for the next three years from 2022 to 2025 and the preparation of the draft written statement of action in response to the findings and recommendations from the local area inspection of SEND services.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Health and Well Being Board note the contents of this report and direct any comments and/or observations to the Assistant Director for Early Help, Prevention and SEND.

## 3. Report

3.1 Haringey's previous SEND strategy (2018-2019) addressed the immediate transformation of SEND services following the legislative changes, this strategy seeks to consolidate these changes and embed best practice.

3.2 Prior to consultation of the draft strategy, the Head of Service for SEND undertook a series of informal meetings and conversations with parents, facilitated by the Markfield Project. This series of six meetings informed the five identified priorities and the actions required to address these. There were also subsequent conversations with a range of stakeholders from the education, health and care sector including school leaders, governors, and early years settings.

3.3 The Five Priorities contained within the Strategy are as follows:

- **Priority 1:** We will support children at the earliest opportunity to access the intervention they need to achieve and thrive.
- **Priority 2:** Wherever possible we will meet the provision needs of Haringey's children and young people locally.
- **Priority 3:** We will have a varied local offer for children, young people, and families so that they can choose services that meet their needs.
- **Priority 4:** We will work together with children, young people and families using co-production.
- **Priority 5:** We will work together to prepare children and young people for their adult lives.

- 3.4 Following approval of the priorities from the SEND Executive Board, the draft strategy was then published on the SEND Local Offer webpages for a period of seven weeks public consultation from the 20 September to 7 November, during which time stakeholders were invited to feedback and inform the strategy via an online questionnaire.
- 3.5 Haringey SEND Strategy 2022-2025 has also been informed by the report into SEND co-production undertaken by an external provider 'Amaze', our extensive self-evaluation of the impact of SEND provision, the local area SEND Inspection findings from Ofsted and CQC and a review of historic complaints and ombudsman findings.
- 3.6 Consultation feedback on the strategy highlighted key responses as outlined below: Refer to Appendix One: Haringey SEND Strategy Consultation Feedback Summary
- a) there were 96 respondents representing a mixture of parents, practitioners, organisations and one young person.
  - b) respondents agreed with the priorities and identified Priority One (we will support children at the earliest opportunity to access the intervention they need to achieve and thrive) as the most important.
  - c) much of the feedback contained concerns that whilst these were the right priorities, there was a lack of confidence expressed in the ability of the council to realise these ambitions and amendments to the strategy were suggested including emphasising the importance of communication with families and schools and the importance of having a realistic budget to support intentions.
- 3.7 In July 2021, Haringey had its first local area SEND inspection which highlighted areas for development in SEND services including the need to improve the quality and timeliness of Education, Health and care plans; the co-production of individual and strategic SEND plans with children, young people and their families and the need to improve pathways and preparation for adulthood.
- 3.8 The SEND Ofsted/ CQC local area Inspection reported its findings on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Refer to Appendix Two: Ofsted CQC SEND Inspection Report Findings from the inspection found that there were significant areas of weakness that we must address through a written statement of action (WSOA) in the three areas as follows:
- the quality and timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans and Annual reviews.
  - the length of waiting times for Autism diagnosis and support whilst waiting for diagnosis.
  - the co-production and communication with children, young people with SEND and their parents and carers.
- 3.9 To inform the WSOA, six workshops were coproduced and led by parents, carers and officers from the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group for stakeholders, parents, carers, and our partners. These workshops explored the inspection findings and determined action required to address the areas of

weakness identified which are reflected within our draft WSOA which is pending approval from Ofsted.

- 3.10 Following public consultation for the SEND strategy, the strategy was amended to incorporate further views, including increased measures around impact, accountability and incorporating the actions necessary to address the Ofsted / CQC Inspection findings from the area inspection of SEND services.
- 3.11 The priorities within the Haringey SEND strategy 2022-2025 are necessary to address both the areas of weakness identified by the Ofsted inspection, but also to grow and develop existing services to deliver outstanding outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Whilst the overarching strategy covers a wider remit than the WSOA, the two are interlinked with one action plan to support the implementation of the strategy.
- 3.12 Both the SEND Strategy and draft WSOA have been endorsed and approved by the SEND Executive Board which holds accountability for the implementation of these. Regular progress reports will be provided to the SEND Executive and published on our local offer webpages.

#### **4. Alternative options considered**

Not applicable.

#### **5. Background information**

- 5.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 and ensuing Code of Practice (2015) created significant changes in the statutory duties of the Local authority in relation to the delivery of services for children, young people and families with SEND needs.
- 5.2 The most significant changes were the transformation of 'Statements of Special Education Needs' into multi-agency Education, Health and Care plans; the extension of statutory services for children and young people from 0-25 years and the statutory duty of the Local Authority to co-produce its local offer of services for children and young people with SEND with parents, carers, children and young people.
- 5.3 The responsibility for delivering SEND services in Haringey is shared between the Local Authority and NCL ICS (formally NCL CCG). These two organisations share joint leadership of SEND services, which they manage via the Joint SEND Executive Board. The priorities within the strategy will be driven by the SEND Executive Board with progress against the strategic plans reported regularly to stakeholders and published annually on the Local Offer website.

#### **6. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 6.1 The objectives of the SEND Strategy are aligned with the priorities within Haringey's Early Help Strategy and the 'Borough Plan – Priority 2 (People)' specifically:

- Best start in life: the first few years of every child's life will give them the long-term foundations to thrive
- Happy childhood: all children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family, networks and communities
- Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future
- All adults are able to live healthy and fulfilling lives, with dignity, staying active and connected in their communities
- Strong communities where people look out for and care for one another

## **7. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

### Finance

The strategy does not present any financial consequences. Projects and programmes resulting from implementing the strategy will be assessed and reviewed for financial implications when due.

### Procurement

Strategic Procurement notes the contents of this report. Whilst there are no immediate procurement related considerations, Strategic Procurement will work with colleagues to secure any external services required to support the SEND strategy.

### Legal & Governance

The Local Authority is required under the Children & Families Act 2014, and the associated SEND Code of Practice, to ensure that services for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities are appropriate and regulated effectively.

The SEND Strategy that the Cabinet is being asked to approve addresses the requirements to support and involve children and young people, promote the integration of provision, to cooperate with partners and to keep education and care provision in the Local Authority's area under review.

It also takes into account the findings of the SEND Area Ofsted Inspection findings and ensures that the Local Authority works with partners and schools to ensure all children and young people with SEND are provided for in nursery, primary and secondary schools, further education and training environments.

### Equality

The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex, and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

The provision of services for children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers ensures that the Council is meeting its statutory duties in relation to increasing the participation and equality of young people with special education needs and disabilities, via their access to education, health and care services.

The duty to co-produce services with children and young people with SEND and their families is recognised and specifically addressed within the SEND Strategy. The SEND strategy recognises that SEND affects children and young people differently according to age, gender, and socio-economic background and as such the strategy intends to ensure that the specific inequalities which affect these groups and that these actions are accountable within the accompanying written statement of action plan.

The proposed strategy therefore represents a measure to address the inequalities experienced by children and young people with SEND and their families; advance equality of opportunity for children and young people with SEND and their families and specifically to work closely via co-production to ensure that the necessary service improvements fulfil the needs of this cohort particularly those with protected characteristics.

## **8. Use of Appendices**

Appendix One: Haringey SEND Strategy Consultation Feedback Summary  
Appendix Two: Ofsted CQC SEND Inspection Report

## **9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Not applicable