

Report for: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel -1st October 2026

Title: Haringey SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy Consultation 2026 – 2029

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

Lead Officers: Jack Newton, Director: Schools & Learning, Karen Flanagan, Head of Integrated SEND

Ward (s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non-Key Decision: Not applicable

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel on the outcome of the formal public consultation in relation to the Special, Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Strategy for Haringey 2026 to 2029, and the changes we have made to the strategy as a result of the feedback and next steps.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny panel note the contents of the report and strategy, directing any comments and observations to the Director for Schools & Learning: Jack Newton.

3. Report

Background Information

3.1 There is no single clause within the Children and Families Act 2014 (CFA) that states 'Local Authorities must have a SEND Strategy'. However, the combined duties of both the CFA and Equality Act necessitate strategic planning which includes the duty *To keep under review educational training and social care provision within and outside of its area for children and young people who have special educational needs or a disability and publicly consult about such arrangements (CFA, S27)*. Most local authorities respond to these duties through the publication of a SEND and AP Strategy following a public consultation.

3.2 Following extensive coproduction, Haringey's first [SEND strategy](#) was in place from 2022 – 2025, with an update in early 2025 to reflect the outcome of the local partnership [Area SEND Inspection](#) in 2024. Haringey achieved the highest rating possible with overall findings as outlined below:

"The local area partnership's special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed".

3.3 In preparation for the strategy, members of the Haringey SEND Executive Board (SEB) determined the strategic priorities remain broadly appropriate as do the intentions within it, therefore the decision was to refresh the strategy in line with these priorities. In addition to this, the strategy would continue to be kept under regular review underpinned by an annual action plan reporting progress to the SEB.

3.4 The five strategic priorities are:

- **Priority 1 – Early Intervention:** We will continue to embed or develop early intervention approaches, so children and young people with SEND and/or who are educated in Alternative Provision make progress from their individual starting points.
- **Priority 2 – High-quality local provision:** High-quality local provision for local children - wherever possible, we will meet the needs of Haringey's children who require support to meet their SEND needs or who are educated in Alternative Provision within or close to our own borough.
- **Priority 3 – Responsive local offer:** We will continue to keep our Local Offer under review to maintain the quality of our provision and support and respond to emerging or changing needs.
- **Priority 4 – Authentic coproduction:** We will continue to listen and act on the lived experiences of children and young people with SEND and/or who are educated in AP and their families or carers through authentic coproduction.
- **Priority 5 – Preparation for adulthood:** We will embed independence and preparation for adulthood throughout every phase of education and strengthen support at the point of transfer to their lifelong adult pathway.

3.5 The public consultation ran initially from 8 December 2025 to Friday 30 January 2026. Following feedback during an in-person event with SEND Power parent carer forum, this was extended to the 2 February 2026.

3.6 An online consultation was hosted via commonplace during which time stakeholders were invited to feedback and inform the strategy, there were also bespoke consultation sessions as follows:

- in-person event co-hosted with SEND Power
- online event co-hosted by Markfield/SENDIASS
- online session during SEND Powers Members Forum Meeting
- in-person session with SEND Elevated Youth Forum

3.7 Refer to the full consultation feedback and final draft strategy: [Appendix One: Haringey SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy Consultation and Appendix Two: Haringey SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2026-2029](#)

- In total there were 139 responses and one email response via the portal.
- The survey responses and engagement events evidenced there was strong support for the 5 high level priority areas, with Priority One (early intervention) and Priority Two (high-quality local provision) being the most important.
- Respondents and those we engaged were rightly more focused about the activity that will need to happen to underpin the 5 strategic priority areas.

3.7 A consistent theme in the feedback was the importance of ensuring that children and young people feel included and that they belong.

3.8 In response to this, we have strengthened the strategy by explicitly naming it '*Every child included. Every voice heard. Every difference celebrated*'. We have included a new and explicit overarching principle on inclusion and committed to developing a borough wide Inclusion Charter. Haringey's commitment to inclusion reflects the national direction of travel as set out in [Every Child Achieving and Thriving](#).

- 3.9 Many respondents highlighted the need for additional training across different phases of education, teachers and for wider support staff.
- 3.10 This continues to be a priority for us. Links and information to wider professional support and training can be found at [Professional learning | Haringey Council](#). The SENDCO cluster meetings provide valuable training and support consistency with embedding our ordinarily available offer. Nationally, [£200 million in national funding](#) has been allocated to support SEND training for both new and existing teachers.
- 3.11 The young people we spoke to through our youth council 'Elevated Youth' also felt more training was needed including for their peers. We will work with them to explore the development of a training resource - created by children and young people, for children and young people.
- 3.12 Requiring greater access to information and signposting was fed back to us in engagement sessions.
- 3.13 We updated the draft strategy based on the feedback to the consultation and our engagement sessions. This was to ensure we have highlighted resources such as the [London Waiting Room](#), and the [free 40 minute consultation with an Educational Psychologist](#) for example. It is clear we need to do more with signposting and feel this is something our [family hubs](#) can support with.
- 3.14 Concerns were raised about access to therapy, particularly mental health support, waiting times and a lack of access to overnight short breaks. We continue to work across the partnership to improve our offer, including support available at the universal level. We have also updated the strategy to ensure it makes reference to our recently opened Conway House, which offers overnight short breaks to eligible families.
- 3.15 There was very strong support for greater early intervention.
- 3.16 We have updated the strategy to reflect the work we have done, such as:
- maintaining a robust [Early Help Offer](#), including [parenting support and programmes](#) such as [Caring Dads](#), the [Cygnet Programme](#) and the [Incredible Years School Age Programme](#), increased the size and capacity of our [specialist teams](#), developed our [Speech, Language and Communication Pathway for primary-aged children](#) embedded an emotionally based school avoidance [EBSA](#) and social emotional mental health [SEMH](#) pathways.
- 3.17 We are committed to doing more by embedding the national reforms which have a key focus around early intervention and system wide support including [best start in life](#), [families first for children](#) and increase our 'experts at hand'.
- 3.18 Many respondents expressed the importance of having a range specialist and Alternative Provision locally.
- 3.19 We have ensured the updated strategy explains the work we have already done in terms of expanding our specialist offer, both in our special schools and the development of Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs). Two further ARPs, one at Fortismere secondary (ASD) and the other at Park View Secondary (SEMH started admitting children from September 2026).

4. SEND reforms

4.2 Greater inclusion is a central tenet of the reforms – something we welcome and support. Haringey schools are inclusive - at 54.9%, Haringey has a higher percentage of children placed in mainstream than London (51.6%) or England (45.3%)

4.3 We are confident the priorities and commitments in our SEND and AP Strategy aligns with the five principles of the national SEND (and wider) reforms agenda.

Every Child Achieving and Thriving: five Principles	Haringey SEND and AP Strategy
Early. Children and families should receive the support they need as soon as possible, with a quick response to changing needs.	Priority 1 – Early Intervention: We will continue to embed or develop early intervention approaches, so children and young people with SEND and or who educated in Alternative Provision make progress from their individual starting points.
Local. Children and young people with SEND should be able to learn at an education setting close to their home, alongside their peers, rather than travelling long distances from their family and community.	Priority 2 – High-quality local provision: High quality local provision for local children - wherever possible, we will meet the needs of Haringey's children who require support to meet their SEND needs or who are educated in Alternative Provision within or close to our own borough.
Fair. Every education setting should be resourced and able to meet common and predictable needs, including as they change over time, without parents having to fight to get support for their children.	<i>Education providers will be supported with a national programme of training as well as locally Developed Experts at Hand offer</i>
Effective. Reforms should be grounded in evidence, ensuring all education settings know where to go to find effective practice that has excellent long-term outcomes for children and young people.	Priority 5 – Preparation for adulthood: We will embed independence and preparation for adulthood throughout every phase of education and strengthen support at the point of transfer to their lifelong adult pathway.
Shared. Education, health and care services should work in partnership with one another to deliver better experiences and outcomes for all our children and young people. The voices of children should be at the heart of decision making.	Priority 3 - Responsive local offer: We will continue to keep our Local Offer under review to maintain the quality of our provision and support and respond to emerging or changing needs. Priority 4 – Authentic coproduction: We will continue to listen and act on the lived experiences of children and young people with SEND of who are educated in AP and their families or carers through authentic coproduction.

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4.2 The intended outcomes of the reforms are for greater inclusion in mainstream (as supported by national inclusive mainstream fund), support with mainstream adaptations (already in progress funded via High Needs Capital Needs Allowance).

4.3 It is anticipated that the additional support and training will mean fewer children will need to go through a lengthy and bureaucratic Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment or require an Education Health and Care plan in order to have their needs met.

5. Contribution to wider council plan

Haringey Borough Plan Vision 2035

5.1 *“A place where we can all belong and thrive”* is strongly reflected in this SEND and AP strategy. Continuing to improve and keep our services and provision under review as well as an even greater focus on inclusion will *mean “everyone in Haringey can share more equally in all that life here has to offer—both now and in the future”*.

5.2 Haringey Borough Plan Vision 2035 sets out six calls to action; of which action 3 is particularly relevant to the SEND and AP Strategy “Supporting children and young peoples’ experiences and skills” The priorities for Action 3 are:

- Working together to ensure every child gets a great start in life, with a focus on tackling inequalities linked to child poverty, childhood obesity and mental ill health.
- Driving opportunities and bridging skills gaps by identifying needs and providing training, apprenticeships, work experience and clear information about opportunities.
- Facilitating high-quality activities and spaces for young people to meet their diverse interests and needs.
- Hearing young people’s voices by encouraging participation in decision-making, civic and democratic life in the borough.

6. Statutory Officers comments

Finance

6.1 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.

Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

6.2 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.

6.3 The SEND Strategy presented to Scrutiny for noting and comment, 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.

6.4 It reflects the Council's commitment to work in partnership with its SEND and Alternative Provision Area Partnership to coordinate education, health and care for children and young people with SEND, or those educated in AP, and their families to discharge its wide-ranging statutory duties and obligations.

Procurement

6.5 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

Equalities

6.6 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.

6.7 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.

6.8 The provision of services for children and young people with SEND or who are educated in AP and their parents and carers ensures 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.

6.9 The duty to co-produce services with children and young people with SEND or who are educated in AP and their families is recognised and specifically addressed within the strategy.

6.10 The proposed strategy represents a measure to address the inequalities experienced by children and young people with SEND or who are educated in AP 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.

7. Use of Appendices

- Appendix One: Haringey SEND and AP Strategy Consultation Feedback Summary
- Appendix Two: Haringey SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2026-2029

8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A