

# Hillingdon Draft SEND Strategy 2022-2025

<b>Committee name</b>	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Jayne Mumford, Head of SEND & Inclusion (Interim)
<b>Papers with report</b>	Hillingdon Draft SEND Strategy 2022-2025 Hillingdon Draft SEND Strategy 2022-2025 – Summary of consultation responses Hillingdon Draft SEND Strategy 2022-2025 Detailed Results Summary
<b>Ward</b>	All

## HEADLINES

- The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with an update on the recently consulted on draft Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2022-2025.
- The strategy outlines how Hillingdon Council plan to further develop the SEND offer in Hillingdon over the next four years. The aim of the strategy is to improve outcomes and help raise the educational, achievements and health and care of Hillingdon's children and young people with SEND in order that they can fulfil their potential.
- Formal public consultation on the draft strategy took place from 14 July to 18 August 2022 and was launched on the Council and Local Offer website, with Easy Read versions made available. Stakeholders were consulted on the overarching vision and three key priorities
- Hillingdon's shared vision is for children, young people and young adults with special educational needs and disabilities in Hillingdon is that they lead happy and fulfilled lives in a society that accepts and understands them.
- The priorities set out in the strategy are:
  - to ensure children and young people with SEND have access to services early on in their life or when additional needs are emerging;
  - to ensure wherever possible, that there will be sufficient school places in Hillingdon for children and young people with SEND;
  - to support children and young people's transitions and prepare them for their adult lives.

- Feedback from the consultation responses confirmed the vision and priorities as a positive framework for improving SEND provision and outcomes for children and young people.
- Feedback will also be used to shape a final version of the SEND Strategy document and update priority group action plans.
- To ensure that the strategy accurately reflects everyone's views and captures the key principles that are felt to be important, the final SEND Strategy will launch in the Autumn term once it is considered by the Children, Families & Education Select Committee.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### That the Committee

1. **notes the contents of the draft Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2022-2025 which outlines the strategic vision and priorities for the delivery of SEND Services across the borough.**
2. **submits any comments to Cabinet on the draft Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2022-2025.**

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The strategy is for Hillingdon children and young people aged 0-25 years who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND), their families and the professionals who work together with them.
2. The draft strategy was co-produced by the SEND Strategic Partnership Board, with representatives from Hillingdon Council (education and social care), NHS NW London Integrated Care Board, education settings and Hillingdon Parent Carers Forums.
3. The strategy is set within the national context and our statutory requirement to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND under the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014. The strategic priorities have also been aligned to the recently consulted on Department of Education (DfE), SEND Review: right support, right place, right time (Green Paper) and the new Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) LA SEND Inspection Framework.
4. There are five established priority group workstream supporting the priorities outlined in the strategy. The SEND Operational Group monitors the work of the priority groups which are Early Intervention and Inclusion; Co-production; Health and Social Care Engagement; Transition Planning and SEND Sufficiency and Placements. Progress against the action plans is then reported to the Hillingdon SEND Strategic Partnership Board.

## **PERFORMANCE DATA**

None at this stage.

## **RESIDENT BENEFIT**

Through the consultation process Hillingdon residents and particularly those with children and young people with SEND were given the opportunity to review currently service provision and how this could be improved. We listened to residents and the Parent Carer Forums and shaped the SEND Strategy in the light of their comments and views. The strategy outlines the local areas commitment to improving the outcomes for children and young people with SEND and will encourage active engagement and participation from parents, carers, and young people in strategic developments.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Hillingdon has secured a DSG Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE, and actions outlined in the deficit recovery plan are helping to manage down the DSG overspend over the course of the next five years. Additional capital funding has also been secured towards school expansion works and this along with Hillingdon's capital funding will be used to develop additional school places in borough as part of the strategic objectives. The key priorities outlined in the strategy are also aligned to the DSG Delivery Group workstreams and areas of work contributing to the deficit recovery plan.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None at this stage.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Draft SEND Strategy 2022-2025

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Summary of consultation survey responses**

#### **Who were the respondents?**

There were 38 responses to the consultation survey, of which 74% were parent/carer respondents; 5% were Headteachers; 5% were other educational professionals; 3% were Health professionals and 3% were voluntary sector representatives. There was a lower response rate than was expected and this may have been due to the timing of the launch of the consultation, with it being so close to the end of term. We also would have wanted to engage with more young

people as respondents, however we now have a plan in place of how we can better engage young people in strategic development work.

The consultation survey asked respondents if they agreed with the shared vision and three key priorities outlined in the strategy. Asked if they agreed with the vision, 87% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the vision.

For Priority One, **making sure that children and young people with SEND have access to services early on in their life or when additional needs are emerging**, 82% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the priority one. When asked if respondents agreed with the actions identified to achieve delivery of priority one, 90% of respondents either strongly agree or agreed with the actions identified to deliver priority one.

#### **Overarching themes from the comments provided for Priority One included:**

- The work of the SEND Service is driven by budgets and not needs of children and young people with SEND.
- The quality of EHCP's needs to be improved and professionals need to work together more.
- Some professionals lack the right SEND knowledge.
- National and London figures show that Hillingdon is not identifying SEN need early enough.
- More understanding is needed on how these priorities will be delivered

For Priority Two, **ensuring that wherever possible we will have enough school places in Hillingdon for children and young people with SEND**, 90% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the priority two. When asked if respondents agreed with the actions identified to achieve delivery of priority two, 89% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the priority two and its aims.

#### **Overarching themes from the comments provided for Priority Two included:**

- Mainstream schools are not currently able to meet the needs outlined in some EHCP's. It was the view that specialist staff should be deployed in mainstream schools.

For Priority Three, **supporting children and young people's transitions and preparing them for their adult lives**, 92% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the priority three. When asked if respondents agreed with the actions identified to achieve delivery of priority three, 92% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the priority three and its aims.

#### **Overarching themes from the comments provided for priority three included;**

- The strategy needs to include the support offer for Adults with Complex Needs.

#### **Overall themes from additional consultation and engagement events**

#### **What our families are telling us?**

Through the consultation survey, additional consultation and engagement events and regular dialogue with our Hillingdon Parent Carer Forums and SENDIASS some of the key issues identified by parents include:

- Lack of understanding by some SENCO's, of children and young people with SEND. Parents feel that this impacts on their child getting the right type of support within school. They feel that more training and upskilling of SENCO's is needed, so they really understand the needs of children and young people with SEND.
- Lack of understanding in mainstream settings of children and young people with unmet autism or Social Emotional and Mental Health needs which are displayed through behaviour.
- Lack of capacity in special schools delaying moves that increase anxiety and non-attendance impacting outcomes.
- There is increased pressure on mainstream schools to support children and young people who would otherwise be in specialist provision, due to a lack of capacity in borough.
- A lack of places in Hillingdon to provide for those young people with autism or SEMH.
- Parents feel there needs to be a more integrated approach, with professionals working together, in order that they do not have to tell their story again and again.
- More early intervention support is needed for children and young people transitioning and moving into the borough. Parents find it difficult to navigate the systems and once they arrive in borough.
- Sometimes parents experience difficulties in contacting their SEN Officers and being kept update with the Education Health Care (EHC) process.
- The Children's Integrated Therapy Service is not meeting the needs of some children and young people with speech and language or occupational therapy needs, particularly for young people placed out of borough, or those out of education.

### **What professionals are telling us?**

- Mainstream Headteachers and SENCO's, are concerned that they are being asked to continue with provision for children and young people with SEND when specialist provision has been identified and are unable to meet need in borough.
- More skilled and trained staff are needed to meet the needs of children and young people with SEMH needs.
- The SEND Service does not identify some types of need as early or as well as other areas.
- The Children's Integrated Therapy Service is not able to offer early intervention and non-statutory support for children and young people with emerging therapy needs.
- Headteachers and SENCO's have told us there needs to be improved communication with the SEND Service and SEN Officers about EHCP processes.
- There is a need to ensure that Preparing for Adulthood outcomes are being outlined in the EHCP from at least Y9 – including health/social care ones, which will help to identify earlier where there is demand and gaps in future provision. This will also enable better planning when learners move from health and social care into adults at 18.

- There needs to be earlier identification of high cost/complex learners at phase transfer stage so that suitable provision can be identified.
- There was a view that there needs to be a move from a 1:1 to group support model for Alternative Provision to support integration into mainstream placements. Improved monitoring around this will ensure that young people with SEND are progressed to future settings more quickly.

## **Appendix 2**

Detailed Consultation Summary table