

# Briefing note

**To:** Schools Forum      **Author:** Kevin Burns - SSIO- Vulnerable Learners  
**Date:** 16 March 2020      **Purpose of the Paper:**

Information	√
Consultation	
Decision	

**Title of Briefing:** Developing an Inclusion Strategy for Child and Young People (0- 25) with SEND in North Tyneside

## Purpose:

To provide an overview of the proposal to develop a cross-partnership, multi-agency approach to the inclusion of children and young people with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25.

## Summary of current position:

- The previous Inclusion Strategy ran from 2015-2019. It is not clear what demonstrable impact it had on the lives of our children and young people.
- There are several pressures on the Local Authority, the Council and its partners in ensuring that they are meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.
- Efforts to enhance partnership working have resulted in increased support and challenge with multi-agency partners. The inclusion strategy would look to build on these strong foundations and shared commitment.
- Partners and parents tell us that the 'graduated offer' available to children and young people with SEND is not always clear and easy to access across education, health and care.
- As services we are aware that our response is currently reactive and there is a shared desire to move to a more proactive approach to inclusion.

## Main Body of the report

### Broad Aims

- For all partners to commit to a joint, multi-agency inclusion strategy to make North Tyneside a 'great place to thrive'; where our children and young people with SEND, including those who may need support to have a 'gloriously ordinary' life.
- We will be ambitious in our aspiration for all children and young people with SEND and aim to ensure our joint offer facilitates this ambition and that of the children, young people and their families.

- This commitment will be clear, transparent, fair and reflected in all our daily practice. Our daily practice will also reflect our pledges to children and young people:
  - we intervene early with evidence based, family focussed services
  - we work in partnership to keep children in school
  - we keep children and young people safe at home and connected to their local communities
- The strategy will identify and celebrate the successes of our children and young people with SEND and offer a clear focus on where we want to improve.
- We will be unambiguous in what success will look like and in the areas where improvements are identified. Where improvements are identified we will be clear about the resources required and when we intend to achieve it. We will publish clear end goals so that impact can be measured and evidenced.
- For all partners to engage with the development of a truly multi-agency approach to inclusion of children and young people with SEND. This engagement will include identifying key personnel who will help shape and deliver the strategy in line with agreed timescales.

### **Justification - Why this? Why now?**

By the measures that external agencies choose to check our performance North Tyneside has developed a comparatively successful offer to our children, young people and families. By the standard to which we hold ourselves we recognise there are ways in which we can enhance and improve the lived experience of our residents.

We have worked in partnership to establish an increasingly strong relationship between Local Authority services (in both education and care) and colleagues in health (both the NHS Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group) there is opportunity to capitalise on this foundation. Our ambition is one joint working and collaboration to ensure our children and young people with SEND are enabled to reach their potential.

This strategy will support us in our drive to ensure that all our children and young people have the best possible life, experience and access to opportunity. It will also support us in enabling children and young people with SEND to be ready for the next stage in their education, employment or training. This will entail finding ways to ensure that those who may need support to access a 'gloriously ordinary' life receive it when they need it most. We will focus on what our children, young people and families tell us is important to them to help them become active citizens within their communities.

We will also aim to develop a shared and consistent understanding of our roles and responsibilities toward children and young people with SEND. The duty to make best endeavours and reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of our community will be used as a check and challenge to our work.

We recognise that our population is changing and that some of our approaches and services have not been dynamic enough to meet this changing profile. We need to ensure that our children and young people can access the right support at the right time. This strategy will ensure we are clear where we experience pressure that impact on children and families and what we will do to respond to these. It will also help us to focus on our drive to intervene early with evidence-based services.

## **We recognise that our key pressures include:**

- increasing numbers of children and young people being supported with an Education, Health and Care Plan, placing additional pressure on all services
- North Tyneside has a comparatively high proportion of children and young people with EHCPs and a comparatively low proportion who are deemed to need a lower level of support- this would appear to be at odds with our demographic and suggests our identification is not always accurate
- increased pressure on places in specialist establishments resulting in placement pressures and the increased use of out of borough provision
- an increasing prevalence of children and young people who are presenting with issues around emotional health and wellbeing (67% increase in SEMH as a primary need between 2016 and 2019 from 624 to 1040) as recognised our approach has not always been dynamic enough to reflect this change
- increasing numbers of children and young people who are presenting with communication difficulties and increasing numbers who receiving a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD as a primary need has increased by 79% between 2016 and 2019 from 213 to 381) as recognised our approach has not always been dynamic enough to reflect this change
- access to early help and intervention that is responsive to need is not always timely enough
- waiting times for therapeutic support
- pre-diagnosis support that is responsive to need
- post-diagnosis support that is responsive to need
- a shared understanding that the children and young people with SEND are a diverse group who may face other challenges around for example deprivation, social inclusion and maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- providing a strong and varied offer, linked to outcomes and aspirations, for our post- 16, post-18, post- 19 and adult population

Our aim is to address these with specific action and a better shared understanding of what support is available for our children, young people and families at a 'universal', 'targeted' and 'specialist' level. We will ensure that we are addressing the 'right' priorities for our children, young people and families by working in co-production with all stakeholders but specifically parents, children and young people.

## **What will success look like?**

A clear, published statement of intent that makes clear the inclusion strategy for 2020-2024. This will describe our purpose, principles and priorities across education, social care and health. It will identify within our priorities the actions we will take from 2020-2024 to improve the lived experience for our children and young people with SEND.

Through effective governance via the SEND Strategic Board these priorities will be enacted, and success measured. This will be published as an annual update and reviewed with stakeholders on a quarterly basis.

**Suggested Timeline:**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Success Measure</b>
Define core purpose, principles and priorities to inform initial consultations via the Delivery Group and the SEND Strategic Board	<b>March 2020</b>	Core purpose, priorities and principles document developed and agreed with partners
Establish task and finish group from across the multi-agency partnership to drive each aspect of the strategy via the Delivery Group and the SEND Strategic Board	<b>March 2020</b>	Task and finish group established with terms of reference, work plan and timescales published
Publicise consultation events	<b>April 2020</b>	Stakeholder events for consultation are devised and advertised. The stakeholders include parent carers, young people, schools, education providers and other professionals from across social care, health and education.
Consultation on principles, purpose, and priorities	<b>May 2020</b>	Consultation events
Based on consultation develop strategy document	<b>May 2020</b>	Draft Strategy document developed
Consultation on strategy document	<b>June 2020</b>	Draft Strategy document shared with stakeholders and reviewed
Develop multi agency action plan	<b>July 2020</b>	2020 to 2024 action plan developed based on the Strategy document.
Share action plan with multi agency teams	<b>July 2020</b>	Re-drafted Strategy document and action plan shared with partners and reviewed
Final stakeholder events to sense check and engage all stake holders	<b>July 2020</b>	Draft Strategy document and action plan shared with stakeholders and reviewed
Launch event for strategy and set timeline for accountability	<b>September 2020</b>	Through effective governance via the SEND Strategic Board these priorities will be enacted, and success measured. This will be published as an annual update and reviewed with stakeholders on a quarterly basis.

**Recommendations:**

Schools Forum is asked to:

1. Note the content of the report