Norfolk Area SEND Strategy

2019 - 2022

Area SEND Leadership Board

Listening to children, young people and their families....supporting inclusion, meeting needs and changing lives together

NASSH Norfolk Association of Special School Headteachers

EDUCATE NORFOLK

TRUST NORFOLK-SEN

NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney North Norfolk, South Norfolk Norwich, West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Groups

NgN

Norfolk County Council

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Introduction

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced the biggest changes to SEN in a generation: a new statutory duty on the local authority to ensure that the views, wishes and feelings of parents are given importance and the right support and information is in place to ensure they can participate in decisions which help to achieve good outcomes for their children.

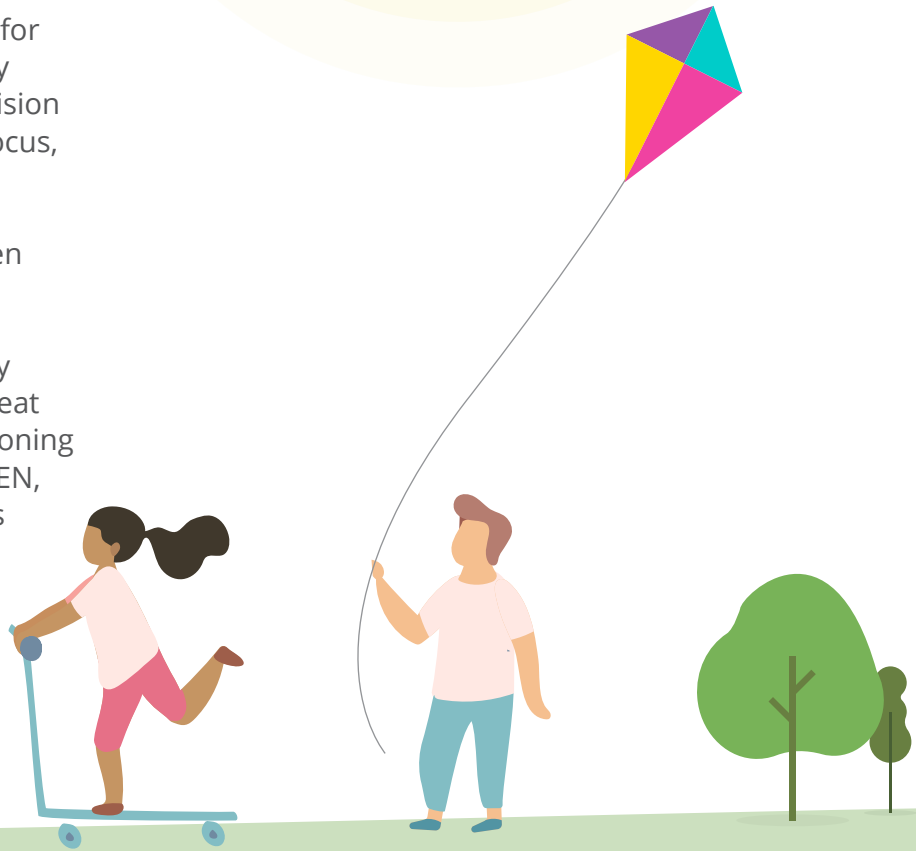
Now, in 2019, we have completed a review of our progress in delivering the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014: listening to children, young people and their families... supporting inclusion, meeting needs and changing lives together. The Strategy aims to meet the requirements of the Children's and Families Act in a way that is inclusive and realistic: supporting inclusion, improving services and changing lives together. Starting in 2018 there has been a renewed focus on our arrangements for SEND across the county. Two significant developments have led to this prioritisation of SEND in Norfolk.

The appointment of a new permanent Director of Children's Services, Sara Tough. Following improvements that have been formally acknowledged within the social care elements of services to children. Sara is now focused on SEND for similar improvement

Norfolk's five clinical commissioning groups agreed that one of the CCG's would lead on all strategic developments in relation to Children and Young People. The Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG are leading this work and their Chief Officer Melanie Craig has highlighted the need to ensure the health and wellbeing of children and young people is a key priority.

This increased, joint, strategic oversight for services for children across the statutory agencies in Norfolk has resulted in provision for SEND being identified as requiring focus, support and challenge.

The Norfolk Area SEND Strategy has been produced by the Area SEND Leadership Board and has input from key partner and stakeholder representatives - Family Voice, Norfolk County Council, NHS – Great Yarmouth & Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group, Educate Norfolk, Trust Norfolk SEN, Norfolk Governance Network. It outlines the strategic aims and key priorities for ensuring that the challenges facing Norfolk with SEND can be addressed, in addition to celebrating the good work of SEND across the county.



Foreword

We are writing to all children and young people, their families and the professionals who support them. We want you all to know that we have a joint commitment to making services for SEND in Norfolk the best they can possibly be.

We are self aware and know the challenges that face all of us in making all the necessary improvements. However, we are also rightly proud of the many achievements that occur everyday across the county, where children and young people receive the right support to help them to achieve their full potential.

We have been working hard over the past year, with our colleagues and partners across the council, health services, parent/carer groups and education providers to ensure that we could set out our joint strategy and action plan for the next 3 years. We we will review this regularly to make sure it is delivering our vision for SEND in Norfolk and we will ensure that it changes and adapts to the ongoing feedback that we receive, including changes that may take place within national frameworks for children's health, social care and education services.

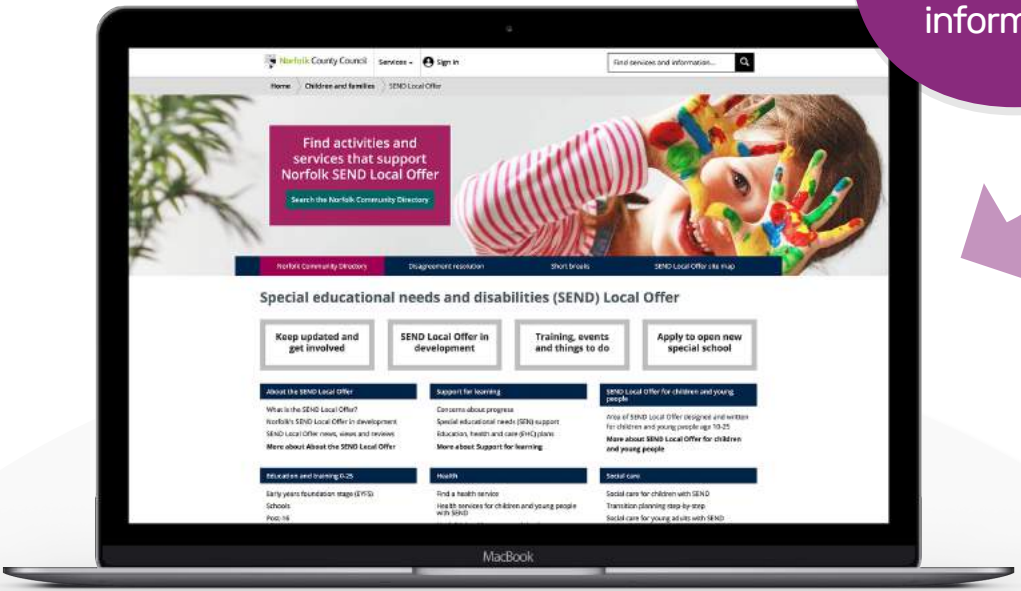
At a time of continued pressure on public finances we are proud that Norfolk is investing in excess of £120 million in SEND provision and services and we will continue in our collective ambition; listening to children, young people and their families...supporting inclusion, meeting needs and changing lives together.

Sara Tough
Executive Director for Children's Services

Melanie Craig
Chief Officer, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups for Norfolk and Waveney & Executive Lead, Norfolk and Waveney STP

...and if you want to know more about SEND in NORFOLK

Visit our website for more information!



www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer

Our vision for SEND in NORFOLK

We are ambitious for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and uphold the national vision, as set out in the SEND Code of Practice, which aspires that all children and young people will achieve well in their early years, at school and at college, and lead happy and fulfilled lives. We want them to have choice and control over decisions about their health, education, employment and relationships.

To achieve our ambitions for children and young people we will focus on reducing inequalities and closing the gap between those who already do well and those who may need extra support to thrive.

Principles that underpin our vision are:

- Offering our help early to **prevent and reduce** demand for specialist services
- Joining up work so that similar activities and services are easily accessible, **done once and done well**
- Being business-like and making best use of **digital technology** to ensure value for money, and
- Using evidence and data to **target our work** where it can make the most difference

Early Intervention

- Systematic, proactive and appropriate early identification of needs, early help and provision available locally within supportive communities

- Supporting all settings including early years to improve inclusion and educational outcomes for children with SEND
- Ensuring sufficient specialist places are provided locally to meet current and future need

Person Centered

- Person centered approach to service delivery
- Children, young people families and professionals will have appropriate, timely access to services and to have identified needs met through core commissioned services
- All children and young people to be educated in provision that has a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rating
- Provide choice and control for children and young people and parent/carers wherever possible

Co-production and Local Offer

- All children and young people to be educated in provision that has a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rating
- Provide high quality, sustainable local provision and services to meet the needs of all children and young people with SEND
- All our plans, services and policies are co-produced with children, young people and families
- All stakeholders take responsibility to uphold and implement the Strategy

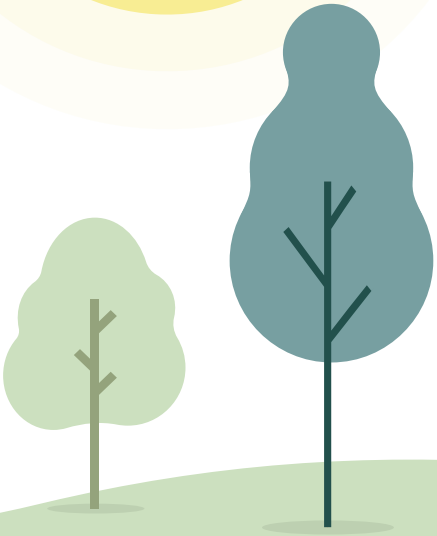
Preparation for Adult Life

- Ensure all young people with SEND are successfully prepared for all aspects of adult life – employment, for higher education, to live as independently as they are able and to enjoy good health in adulthood and to be full participants in their communities

There are good stories to tell about some of our SEND services and provision, including how children, young people and their families experience our system. However, we know that too often experiences and outcomes are not good enough and **as a partnership we have identified four cross cutting themes to frame our improvement plan**, we need to achieve and sustain better outcomes for children and young people.

We are self-aware, and **we have identified key, short term, issues that need addressing alongside longer-term developments.**

listening to children, young people and their families... supporting inclusion, meeting needs and changing lives together:
go to page 10 for full details



Our Priorities for SEND in NORFOLK

Working together as partners - children's and adult services, clinical commissioning groups, parent/carer groups and education leaders - have identified four, over-arching, priorities for our collective support for SEND in Norfolk. These priorities have been chosen to direct our work over the next three years and reflect feedback we continue to receive about where improvements are needed and where good quality services need to be sustained.

1. THE SEND JOURNEY

Simplifying the 'pathway', for families and professionals, through the SEND continuum of need.

2. SEND PROVISION

Co-produce jointly commissioned, integrated, SEND services and provision and ensure sufficiency of specialist placements.

3. IMPROVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL OFFER

By ensuring it is communicated effectively and kept under review. The Local Offer will be responsive to the needs and aspirations of children and young people, their families and professionals who support them

4. PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIFE

Ensure seamless transition for young people and their families into further education and employment, including support for housing, health and social inclusion

What are our key achievements, since the reforms, for SEND in NORFOLK

Early Intervention

- Effective provision within Early Years

Co-production

- Co-production of the Local Offer – our Local Offer is fully co-produced with children, young people and their families, we are proud of our Local Offer content and the transparency in which we report success and challenges in equal measure
- Co-production is working across the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCGs) and Children's Services
- Partners and stakeholders are kept informed via regular 'e' newsletter, You Said We Did Page and Twitter
- New joint working between Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) Co-Ordinator's and Social Workers
- The Norfolk Area SEND Multi-Agency Steering group is co-chaired by Family Voice Norfolk, CCG's and Children's Services Education and Social Work leads for SEND

family voice norfolk together improving services

NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney North Norfolk, South Norfolk Norwich, West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Groups

Norfolk County Council

Person Centered

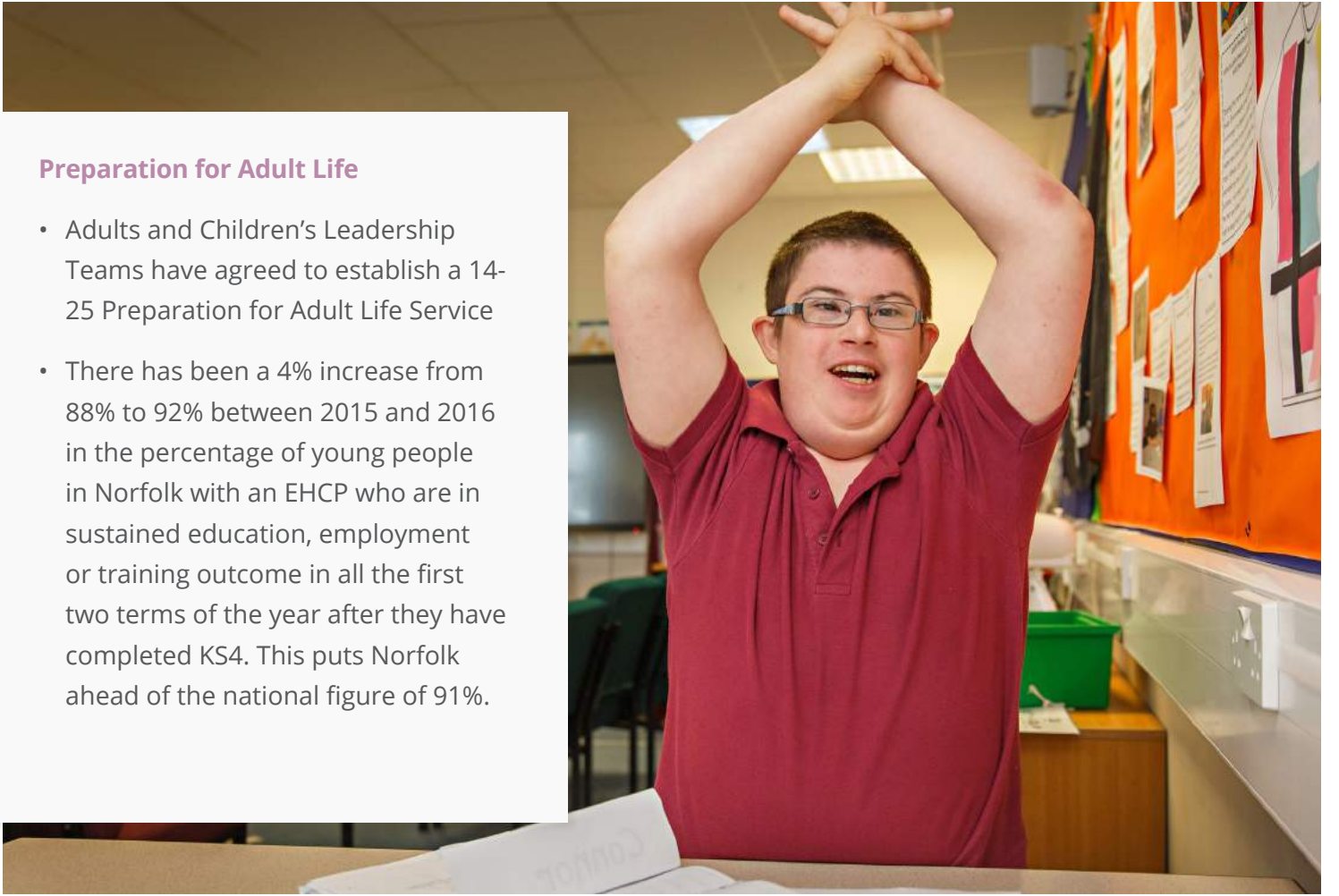
- Leader across the region for Personal Budget take-up
- Two new special/complex needs school have opened
- Good range of services directly provided and/or commissioned across Children's Services and CCG's
- Norfolk has developed effective joint commissioning of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) with both specialist SEND provision within Early Help: 50 jointly commissioned education/ therapeutic placements within Engage Multi-Academy Trust
- 87% satisfaction rate for short breaks

Local Offer

- Norfolk's SEND Local Offer is a national exemplar
- Local Offer sets out examples of provision where Personal Budgets are used to promote choice and control. Most recently as part of co-produced travel offer to parents and young people
- Norfolk Family Voice is a strategic partner of the Local Authority (LA) and CCGs. Membership is a 1000+
- The annual parent/carer's conference is hosted by Family Voice - LA and CCG providers are invited to deliver workshops on a range of relevant issues
- Good range of services directly provided and/or commissioned across Children's Services and CCG's

Preparation for Adult Life

- Adults and Children's Leadership Teams have agreed to establish a 14-25 Preparation for Adult Life Service
- There has been a 4% increase from 88% to 92% between 2015 and 2016 in the percentage of young people in Norfolk with an EHCP who are in sustained education, employment or training outcome in all the first two terms of the year after they have completed KS4. This puts Norfolk ahead of the national figure of 91%.



What are we currently focussing on for SEND in NORFOLK

Early Intervention

- Developing a co-ordinated 0-25 service offer for children and young people who have SEND
- Put in place the recommendations of the 'All Age ASD Strategy'

Person Centered

- Continue to improve the rate of Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP) assessments completed within 20 weeks, through our increased staffing and by embedding the quality assurance model across the LA and CCGs
- Embed the quality assurance model for EHCP across the LA and CCGs
- Plan for significant expansion of state funded special and complex needs provision, with 3 or more special schools located strategically across the county and meet the rising demand in ASD and SEMH
- Ensuring travel time is significantly reduced through more local provision and opportunities for children/young people to travel more independently
- Review of Short Break offer
- Increasing the number of Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs) by 170 places across the county which are in mainstream schools
- Continue to work in partnership with schools to decrease the number of permanent exclusions for SEND young people
- Virtual School for SEND to be the 'champion for children' focusing on support and challenge

Co-production and Local Offer

- Improve the % of Norfolk schools producing compliant SEN Information reports
- Put in place a formal joint commissioning framework to support the good progress made 'on the ground' between Norfolk's Children's Services and CCG's
- Supporting state-funded maintained special schools to maintaining Good or Outstanding status
- Plan for significant expansion of state funded special and complex needs provision, with 3 or more special schools located strategically across the county and meet the rising demand in ASD and SEMH
- Continue to work in partnership with schools to decrease the number of permanent exclusions for SEND young people

Preparing for Adult Life

- Transition multi-agency steering group working on the Preparing for Adult Life a 14-25 Service by April 2019
- Embed the quality assurance model for EHCP across the LA and CCGs

What are our key challenges for SEND in NORFOLK

Early Intervention

Early identification of need

Person Centred

- Ensure Statutory Duties for EHCP Performance are improved – we know we are one of the lowest performing LA's in the country for the completion of new EHCP assessments within 20 weeks
- Use the additional staff added to EHCP teams to meet an initial target of 55% by December 2019 and 90% by end of 2020
- Parental trust and confidence in SEND support to be increased
- Improve access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) services
- Implement lessons learnt from analysis of tribunals and complaints made to the Local Authority (LA) concerning SEND

Co-production Local Offer

- Engagement of all families with SEND – develop an information booklet and directory of services
- Address the delay in placing children and young people who have been assessed as needing a complex needs/special school place (See SEND Sufficiency Strategy)
- Ensure that LA Services are designed to intervene, challenge and support on behalf of SEND children, young people and their families
- Increase most cost effective, local provision to meet high needs
- Increase mainstream school's capacity to meet specialist need and decrease the demand for higher cost provision
- Improve the quality of provision across the county – every child should have access to high quality local educational provision
- Create an additional 170 Specialist Resource Bases (SRB) places across Norfolk
- Review the short break offer
- Improving services and provision for transition into Adult Life

Strategy & Action for SEND in NORFOLK

1. THE SEND JOURNEY

Simplifying the 'pathway', for families and professionals, through the SEND continuum of need.

2. SEND PROVISION

Co-produce jointly commissioned, integrated, SEND services and provision and ensure sufficiency of specialist placements.

3. IMPROVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL OFFER

By ensuring it is communicated effectively and kept under review. The Local Offer will be responsive to the needs and aspirations of children and young people, their families and professionals who support them.

4. PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIFE

Ensure seamless transition for young people and their families into further education and employment, including support for housing, health and social inclusion.

Strategy & action

1. THE SEND JOURNEY

Simplifying the 'pathway', for families and professionals, through the SEND continuum of need.

Priority 01:

Identify children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

- We will identify and assess SEND needs in Norfolk early
- We will continue our effective specialist screening programme from birth, eg for hearing impairment
- We will make the 'ASD pathway' easy to understand for families and reduce timescales for diagnosis
- We will continue to target funding and services towards 'SEN Support' for Early Years Settings & Schools
- We will target an improvement for progress and attainment at Key Stage 2 for pupils at 'SEN Support'
- We will significantly increase the number of Education Health & Care Plan assessments completed within 20 weeks
- We will simplify transition planning from 14 years + and into adult life
- We will ensure there is increased clarity for special school placement decisions and the arrangements for transition from mainstream school

Strategy & action

2. SEND PROVISION

Co-produce jointly commissioned, integrated, SEND services and provision and ensure sufficiency of specialist placements.

Priority 02:

Assess and meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

- We will identify gaps in our SEND service offer and ensure that when provision is developed it is equitable across Norfolk
- We will be effective in meeting current need for specialist placements and plan appropriately for future predicted needs across education, health and care specialist provision
- We will ensure appropriate special educational provision is available for children with special educational needs within 'SEN Support'
- We will provide appropriate school places closer to home and reduce travel time and associated costs
- We will improve the quality of the educational provision for children with special educational needs to ensure consistency across the county
- We will address current unmet needs for children/young people within mainstream schools who have been assessed as requiring special school placements
- We will improve the level of inclusion in mainstream education and supporting schools to achieve positive outcomes for children with special educational needs

‘The vision is for Norfolk is to be a county where all children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reach their potential...’

2. SEND PROVISION

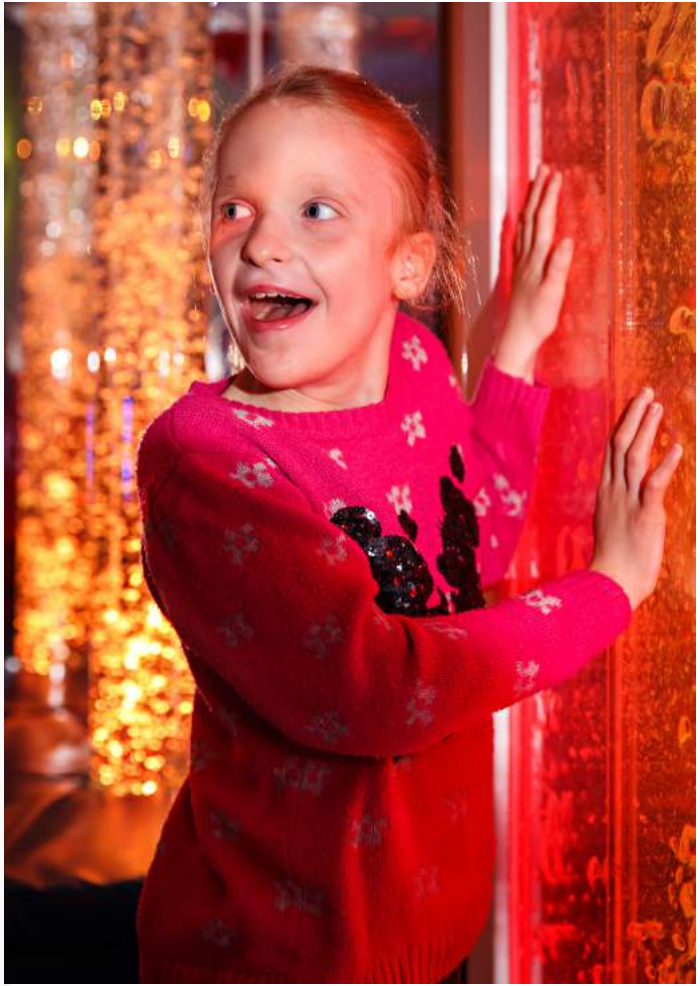
Norfolk County Council has an ambitious strategy to transform education for children with special educational needs and disabilities, investing in new specialist school places and strengthening support to mainstream schools. At its heart, is a focus on early help and inclusion.

The vision for Norfolk is to be a county where all children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reach their potential and thrive, where parents are confident in the improved local SEND and Alternative Provision offer of sufficient, affordable, good quality, local specialist provision.

'We are investing £120million over five years to develop at least 3 new special schools...'

The aims of the SEND & Alternative Provision Transformation Programme are to:

- Provide good quality education closer to children's home, improving children's day to day lives by reducing travel times and supporting them to learn close to their families
- Champion good quality education for children with special educational needs, whether they are in a early years, school and college mainstream provision or special schools and alternative provision
- Ensure that children that need special school places can access them, by increasing the number of places in the county
- Reduce exclusions and ensure that children's needs are met in their local mainstream schools, wherever possible
- Ensure that the council understands and can meet future needs
- Return to a balanced budget within the High Needs Block and the SEN Transport budget

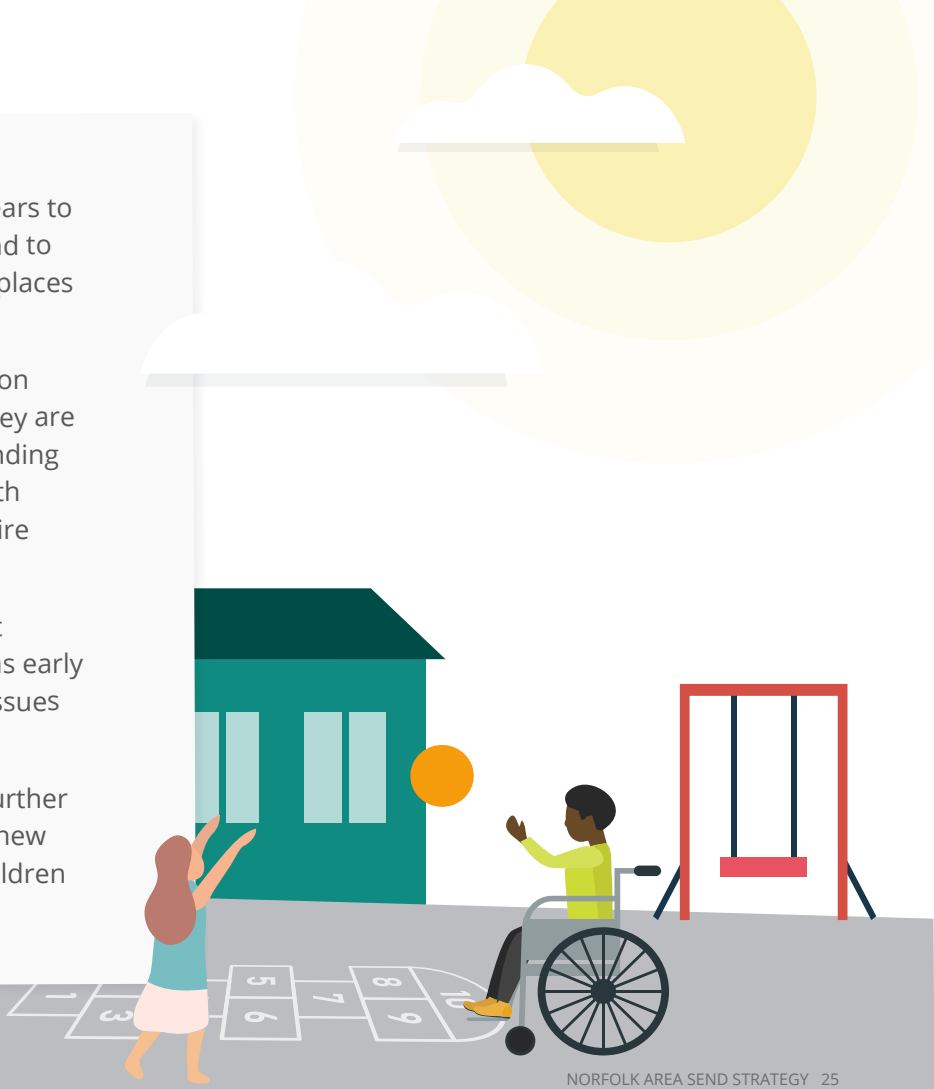


We are investing £120million over five years to develop at least 3 new special schools and to create 170 new specialist resource base places in mainstream schools.

We also want to strengthen the support on offer in Norfolk schools, ensuring that they are inclusive and are using the dedicated funding within their budgets to support those with special educational needs and who require alternative provision.

We want to work together to ensure that children's needs are identified and met as early as possible, where possible preventing issues from escalating.

We will all be working together to help further shape our strategy and ensure that any new provision and support is right for our children and young people.



Strategy & action

3. IMPROVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL OFFER

By ensuring it is communicated effectively and kept under review. The Local Offer will be responsive to the needs and aspirations of children and young people, their families and professionals who support them

Priority 03:

Improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

- We will continue to carry out an audit of school 'SEN Information Reports' to ensure families know what their local school SEND offer is
- We will promote a co-production approach across Early Years Settings, Schools and Colleges to mirror the co-production that the county council and clinical commissioning groups have developed with parent/carer groups
- We will further develop and promote the Norfolk Service Directory to assist families gaining information and access to services
- We will continue to develop the Norfolk Local Offer website to enhance the co-produced offer

Strategy & action

4. PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIFE

Ensure seamless transition for young people and their families into further education and employment, including support for housing, health and social inclusion

Priority 04:

Improve the effectiveness of interagency working across education, health and social care and the involvement of children, young people and parents and how satisfied they are that their needs are being met and their outcomes improving.

- We need to develop a multi-agency pathway for 16+ young people that continues into adult life and provides timely and appropriate learning opportunities for all to reach their potential
- We need to support young people to manage and understand their own health and well-being
- We need to ensure there is suitable provision delivered to all young people with SEND aged 16-25 (including education, work experience, employment, apprenticeships, training including voluntary and community projects)
- We need to ensure that parent/carers feel confident about the future for their young person
- We will continue to develop plans for a 'Preparing for Adult Life' Service across Children's and Adult Services within the council
- We will continue to develop and promote our independence travel training schemes
- We will fully develop the All Age ASD Strategy
- We will ensure that education, health and social care services work closely with young people and other agencies to ensure joint commissioning opportunities are developed for age 16-25

Evaluation of SEND in NORFOLK

I. Appendix

A. Glossary & Abbreviations

B. Children ‘or’ Young People

C. Definitions of SEN and Disability

D. The legal framework

E. SEN Sufficiency Strategy

F. SEND data and benchmarking

G. Timeline & Review

A. Glossary & Abbreviations

AAAB	All Age Autism Board
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Ability	What an individual can do: usually referred to as their underlying ability or general ability
Achievement	The process of attaining information: it is the ability to demonstrate accomplishment, eg an individual can achieve good grades
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
DCO	Designated Clinical Officer
EET	Education, Employment or Training
EHCP	Educational and Health Care Plan
EHNSS	Education High Needs Service
FE	Further Education
LA	Local Authority
LO	Local Offer

MIS	Management Information System
NASMA	Norfolk Area SEND Multi-Agency Steering Group
NCC	Norfolk County Council
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
OT	Occupational Therpy
RAG	Red, Amber and Green rating
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SaLT	Speech and Language Therapy
SRB	Specialist Resource Base

B. Children 'or' Young People

The Code of Practice paragraph 1.8 sets out the implications of the difference between 'child' and 'young person' in law. The Children and Families Act 2014 gives significant new rights directly to young people once they reach the end of compulsory school age (the end of the academic year in which they turn 16).

When a young person reaches the end of compulsory school age, local authorities and other agencies should normally engage directly with the young person rather than their parent, ensuring that as part of the planning process they identify the relevant people who should be involved and how to involve them. A person is no longer of compulsory school age after the last day of the summer term during the year in which they become 16.

The distinction is important because once a child becomes a young person they are entitled to take decisions in relation to the Act on their own behalf, rather than having their parents take the decisions for them. This is subject to a young person 'having capacity' to take a decision under the Mental capacity Act 2005.

Find out more

www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/local-offer-for-children-and-young-people

C. Definitions of SEN and Disability

Definition of special educational needs

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Children have a learning difficulty if they:

a) Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age; or

b) Have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of any kind generally provided for children of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post 16 institutions within the Local Education Authority area

c) Are under compulsory school age and fall within the definition at a) or b) or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them

Children and Young People with SEND

We know that children and young people with SEND will often have more than one type of need. These children and their families may require additional support to help achieve their full potential. Many of these receive multi-agency input from health services, early years and education and

social care, who work closely with families to maximise outcomes for these children and support their families

Categories of special educational needs

There are two main categories of special educational needs:

- The first is SEN Support and this describes children and young people who have been identified by their early years setting, school or post 16 education provider as requiring additional support. They provide this support directly
- The second is for children and young people who have the most complex needs and require an Education, Health and Care Plan. The LA carry out these assessments and determine their provision and placement

Definition of Disability

The Equality Act 2010 states a person (P) has a disability if:

a) They have a physical or mental impairment

b) The impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

The Government guidance states that the term substantial means more than minor or trivial. The term physical and mental impairment implies that a disability can arise from a wider range of impairments such as:

- Long term medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes
- Fluctuating or progressive conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis or motor neuron disease

- Mental health conditions such as bipolar disorder or depression
- Learning difficulties such as dyslexia
- Learning disabilities such as Down's syndrome and autism spectrum disorders
- Cancer
- Multiple Sclerosis
- HIV/AIDS

People with severe disfigurement will be protected as disabled without needing to show that it has a substantial adverse effect in day to day activities

D. The legal framework

In relation to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), all statutory services are currently bounded by three pieces of legislation and the associated statutory guidance:

1. The Children and Families Act 2014

- In the Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3 relates to SEN) and the SEND Code of Practice set out the following:
  - The strategic planning duties apply to all disabled children and young people and those with SEN
  - The individual duties generally apply to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Individual duties related to children and young people with a disability are also contained in the Equality Act 2010.

2. The Carers Act 2014

This mirrors the Children and Families Act 2014 to SEND as this legislation applies to young people with SEND from the age of 18, and wholly so from the age of 25.

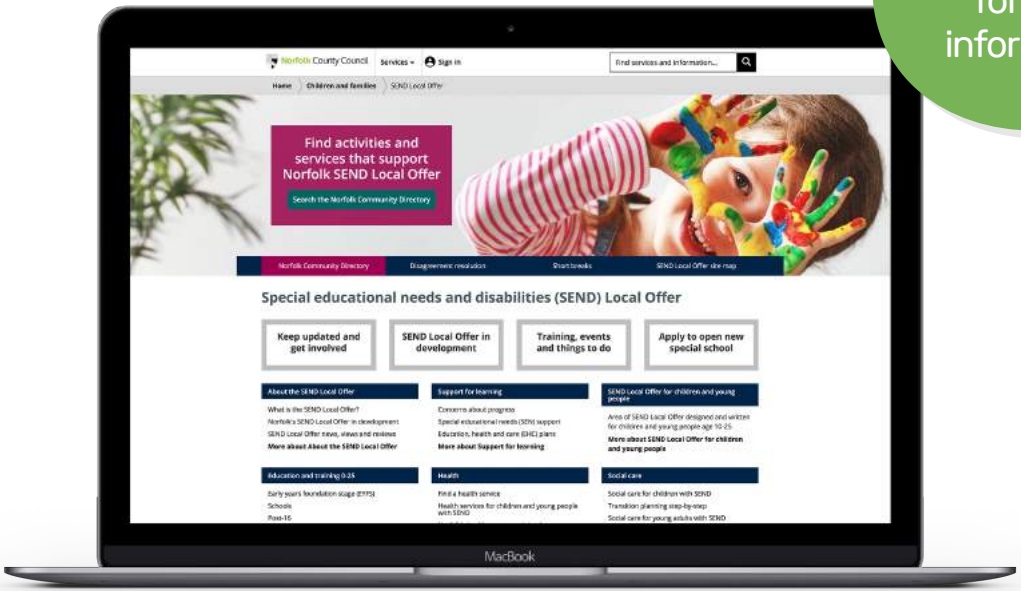
3. Equality Act 2010

- This brought together a range of existing equality duties and requirements within one piece of legislation.
- The Act introduced a single Public-Sector Equality Duty (PSED) or 'general duty'; this applies to public bodies, including maintained schools and academies; free schools etc.
- It covers all protected characteristics – race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy

and maternity and gender reassignment. This combined equality came into effect in April 2011.

- All settings: early years providers, schools/academies, FE colleges, sixth form colleges, 16-19 academies and independent special schools approved under section 41 of the Children and Families Act 2014 have duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- All publicly funded early years providers must promote equality of opportunity for disabled children.
- Schools, academies and colleges have wider duties to prevent discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

...and if you want to know more about SEND in NORFOLK



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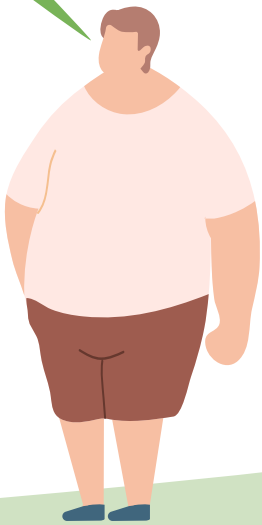

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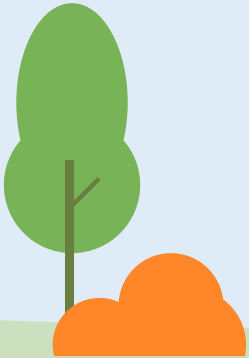
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