

<b>Report to:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board  Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 June 2023  22 June 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Joint Commissioning Plan 2023 – 2026		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education and Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health/NHS Place Director	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member for Education		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:**

A report to present the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Commissioning Plan for 2023 – 2026. Detailing the process of development and highlighting the key points.

**Recommendation(s):**

(1) Members are asked to review and endorse the adoption of the Strategy

**Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

It is a statutory requirement under the Children- and Families Act 2014 to have a defined Joint Commissioning Strategy.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

N/A

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs**

The contents of the report do not constitute additional revenue costs

**(B) Capital Costs**

The contents of the report do not constitute additional revenue costs

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>  Children and Families Act 2014	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>  There are no equality implications.	
<b>Impact on Children and Young People: Yes</b>  The report details the strategic approach to the Joint Commissioning of services for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>  The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
<b>The contents of the report represent a neutral impact on the climate emergency</b>	

**Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: The Strategy will deliver improved services for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The Strategy seeks to deliver comprehensive offer of support which is accessible in our local community.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The Strategy directly details how we will commission services in this area
Place – leadership and influencer: Sets out ambition to drive improvement in this area
Drivers of change and reform: The Strategy is a key piece of work for the SEND

Continuous Improvement Board.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7251/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5451/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

The Strategy has been developed with input from the SEND Continuous Improvement Board and Health and Wellbeing Board, and Sefton Parent Carer Forum.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting.

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## Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

The SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2023 – 2026  
Plan on the Page

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Children and Families Act places a legal duty on Local Authorities and NHS Place teams to secure services to meet the provision set out in individual EHC Plans.
- 1.2 This means that NHS Place Team and the Local Authority will work together to ensure the full integration of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

provision across education, health and care and strengthen the principles of joint planning and commissioning of services as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, including those that will:

- improve the identification of needs
- support and develop further joint commissioning arrangements between the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, Sefton Place, the Local Authority and Public Health
- build on work already undertaken in the joint health and wellbeing strategy
- support the creation of a draft joint commissioning strategy

1.3 The Children and Families Act requires the Local Authority and its partner NHS Place Team to act consistently with the joint commissioning arrangements, to keep arrangements under review and to update them.

1.4 Joint commissioning strategies will consider the whole system challenges of personalisation, personal budgets and resource allocation. In addition to this, strategic, costed and evidence-based decisions about early intervention will be identified to ensure shared outcomes. To this end the Local Authority and NHS Place Teams are working together to review current provision within children's services. Current provision will be compared to the needs identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and we will then explore opportunities to commission services jointly.

1.5 Ultimately, the joint commissioning arrangements and strategy will ensure that the Local Authority and the NHS Place Team are able to secure education, health and care provision for all children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities, including those who have an Education, Health and Care Plan

## **2. Process of development**

The report presents to Cabinet/health and Wellbeing Board a SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy for 2023 – 2026 the following steps have been taken in creating this document.

- Consideration of other key strategies including Education Excellence, the Children and Young Peoples plan and the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- A detailed review of the last 4 years of Parent Carer Surveys
- A comprehensive audit of the previous Strategy which ran from 2020 -2023. This identified the completed actions and brought forward anything that needed further work
- Consideration of national best practice and local need recorded through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

## **3. Key points**

The Strategy ultimately seeks to ensure that Sefton's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) offer enhances the experience and outcomes for children and young people, our focus is on co-production and collaboration to provide good

quality services, to achieve good outcomes for the children, young people, and families we serve.

It highlights 4 priorities.

1. High aspirations for all our children and young people
2. A comprehensive offer of support which is accessible in our local community.
3. The opportunity to provide support at the earliest opportunity.
4. To work with families and young people to maximise choice and control

These will be delivered through a delivery plan summarized as follows:

Outcomes & Actions	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
Delivery of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) Programme including Diagnostic Case Reviews and development of a DBV Action Plan for June 2023	X		X	X
Consider the social care needs of families when developing SEND services and pathways by recruiting a Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO)	X		X	X
Increase choice and control for those with complex health needs via Personalisation or Personal Health Budgets, utilising a partnership approach in the delivery of services. Actions will include developing a 18-25 diagnostic pathway and a graduated neurodevelopmental approach, reviewing OT sensory services and the development and implementation of shared care pathways.	X	X	X	X
Improved access to Early language and communication support tools including Speech and Language Therapy support, advice and assessment if specialist support required.	X	X	X	
Improved awareness of SEND amongst workforce including the continued promotion of the Local Offer and enhanced staff training.	X		X	
Increase accessibility of information for SEND through the creation of an information helpline hosted on Integrated Front Doors.	X		X	X
Improved access to timely and efficient mental health support through investing to support access and improve waiting times.	X	X	X	X
Embedding Technology Enabled Care (TEC) to secure the best outcomes for those with SEND through rollout of training to all staff; evaluation of the Brain in Hand pilot, workshop planning for the Sefton Youth Conference and raising awareness internally of TEC.	X	X	X	X
Partnership approach to service delivery including implementing the NW Framework SEND Purchasing systems.	X		X	
Enhancing provision of SEND services and groups first by mapping existing resources and	X		X	

Outcomes & Actions	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
reviewing best practice and producing a snap shot tool				
Committing to continually improving the SENDIASS offer by improving our delivery models to ensure sufficient capacity and impartiality by supporting continuous improvement through monitoring.	X		X	
Working across Health and Adult Social Care to review and ensure contract compliance and quality assurance across SEND contracts.	X		X	
Develop a joint outcomes framework and shared approach to needs assessment in the interest of continuous improvement and transparency.	X		X	
Adapting our strategic approach to understand educational sufficiency and its current pressures per the Delivering Better Value Programme, going on to deliver Sefton's Education Strategy via a delivery plan.	X	X	X	

#### 4. Next Steps

4.1 The Strategy reinforces our committee to co-production and we will go on to develop a joint outcomes framework and shared approach to needs assessment in the interest of continuous improvement and transparency. Working with the Sefton Parent Carer forum to ensure we prioritise what matters most to them and those Children and Young People with special educational needs and disabilities in Sefton.

4.2 We commit to producing an easy read version to support accessibility to the Strategy.

4.3 We will re convene a Joint Commissioning group as a subgroup of the SEND Continuous Improvement board to action the delivery. This group will be made up of key stakeholders across Education, Social Care and Health and ensure representation for the Parent Carer forum and children and young people themselves. This will include ensuring an appropriate and sustainable resource is allocated.

#### 5. Conclusion

This comprehensive Strategy has been developed with the intention to make a real and lasting difference to our Children and Young People. We ask members to consider its content, provide any comment and consider their endorsement to adopt the Strategy.