

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

Summary:

A report to present the draft Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy for 2023 – 2026 for consideration.

The report details the process of development and highlights the key points.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to

- (1) consider and approve the adoption of the draft Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy.
- (2) approve the commencement of all appropriate activity required to progress the actions as detailed in the Action Plan, including for example, procurement, consultation with employees and engagement with partners and contractual changes as the programme develops.
- (3) note that officers will comply with agreed HR policies and procedures including relevant consultation with Trade Unions and reports to the Cabinet Member (Regulatory, Compliance & Corporate Services) as required.
- (4) note that the Executive Director for Children’s Social Care and Education and the Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Place Director for Sefton will ensure strong leadership across the partnership and report to Lead Cabinet Members and the SEND Continuous Improvement Board on the progress of the Strategy.
- (5) agree that the progress made against the delivery of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy is also reported Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) on a six monthly basis commencing in November 2023.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

It is a statutory requirement under the Children- and Families Act 2014 to have a defined Joint Commissioning Strategy for children and young people with SEND.

Oversight of delivery by Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) will ensure that progress is tracked and any issues identified can be escalated to Cabinet in a timely fashion.

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:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): Financial and potential procurement and HR implications as a result of this Strategy across Cheshire & Merseyside ICB and the Council, will be subject to separate reports in line with Council procedures.</p>
<p>Legal Implications: Children and Families Act 2014</p>
<p>Equality Implications: An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is available for consideration at Appendix A,</p>
<p>Impact on Children and Young People: Yes The report details the strategic approach to the Joint Commissioning of services for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The Strategy has been developed in line with the Vision for Children's Services "we want our all of our services to enable and support every child, young person and family to reach their full potential."</p>
<p>Climate Emergency Implications:</p>

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
The contents of the report represent a neutral impact on the climate emergency	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: The Strategy will contribute to supporting those children who have complex care needs with no capacity to care for themselves and no other networks to support them.</p> <p>The Strategy will deliver improved services and outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The Strategy seeks to deliver comprehensive offer of support which is accessible in our local community.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: The Strategy directly details how partners will commission services in this area</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: Sets out ambition to drive improvement in this area</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: The Council plays a key role in leading change and reform to improve outcomes every child's future. The Strategy is a key piece of work for the SEND Continuous Improvement Board.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment: N/A</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener N/A</p>

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, children and young people 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:

Equality Assessment 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 Educational, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- 1.2 This means that the Council and NHS Place Team 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 SEND need in Sefton
 - support and develop further joint commissioning arrangements between the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, Sefton Place, the Council and Public Health
 - build on work already undertaken in the joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Place Plan for Sefton.
 - Build upon the findings of the 2023 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the 2023 Parent Carer Forum Survey to inform our priorities and sufficiency planning for SEND.
- 1.3 The Children and Families Act requires the Council 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 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 [SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk) (JSNA) and partners will then explore opportunities to commission services jointly.
- 1.5 Ultimately, the joint commissioning arrangements and strategy will ensure that the Council 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

- 2.1 The following steps have been taken in creating this draft SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy (SEND JCS) (Appendix B).
 - Consideration of other key strategies including Education Excellence, the Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the emerging Cheshire & Merseyside Joint Forward Plan which has been informed by Sefton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

- A detailed review of the last 4 years of Parent Carer Surveys
- A comprehensive audit of the previous Strategy which ran from 2020 - 2023.
- Consideration of national best practice and local need recorded through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

3. Key points

3.1 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 continued focus is on co-production and collaboration to develop and provide excellent quality services, to achieve excellent outcomes for the children, young people, and their families.

3.2 It highlights 4 priorities.

- High aspirations for all our children and young people.
- A comprehensive offer of support which is accessible in the local community.
- The opportunity to provide support at the earliest opportunity.
- To work with families and young people to maximise choice and control about the services they receive.

These will be delivered through a delivery plan summarised 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

Outcomes & Actions	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
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 reviewing best practice and producing a snapshot tool	X		X	
Establish a new SENDIASS service which will improve the SENDIASS offer, 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	
Respond to the gaps in sufficiency of educational provision as per the Delivering Better Value Programme, and Sefton's Education Excellence Strategy.	X	X	X	

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Strategy reinforces the partnership commitment to co-production and development of a Joint Outcomes Framework and shared approach to needs assessment in the interest of continuous improvement and transparency. Working with children and young people with SEND, their families and the Sefton Parent Carer forum and our wider partners to ensure what matters most to them is prioritised.
- 4.2 Establish strong governance arrangements between Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Sefton Place, the Director of Children's Social Care and Education, our Health partners and Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector partners to deliver a transformed and improved service offer for children and young people with SEND in Sefton. Partners will ensure that they continue with the communication and engagement approach outlined in this report and adapt the communications strategy to ensure participation in service improvement.
- 4.3 The Joint Commissioning Group as a subgroup of the SEND Continuous Improvement Board will action the delivery of the Strategy. 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.

- 4.4 This SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy (SEND JCS) has ambitious outcomes that will be evaluated through the iterative development of a range of success measures from baseline to short, medium, and long-term ambitions and goals. Although the SEND JCS has a three-year cycle officers will be carrying out an annual review of its impact through the four-stage process of:

Analyse (joint understanding) -

- Understand what the need is and where.
- Identify applicable resources.

Plan (joint planning)-

- Set priorities and set the direction for any change.
- Plan services, select interventions and allocate resources.

Do (joint delivery)-

- Commissioning and implement new approaches.
- Workforce and market development.

Review (joint review to improve service offer)-

- Review performance of services.
- Monitor processes.

The strategy objectives, outcomes and measures of success will then be amended as required to ensure it is still fit for purpose and effective.

- 4.5 Cabinet is asked to agree that the progress made against the delivery of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy is reported Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) on a six monthly basis commencing in November 2023.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 This comprehensive draft Strategy has been developed with the intention to make a real and lasting difference to our children and young people. Cabinet is asked to consider its content, the equalities assessment, provide comments and approve the adoption of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy.