

SEND Improvement Update

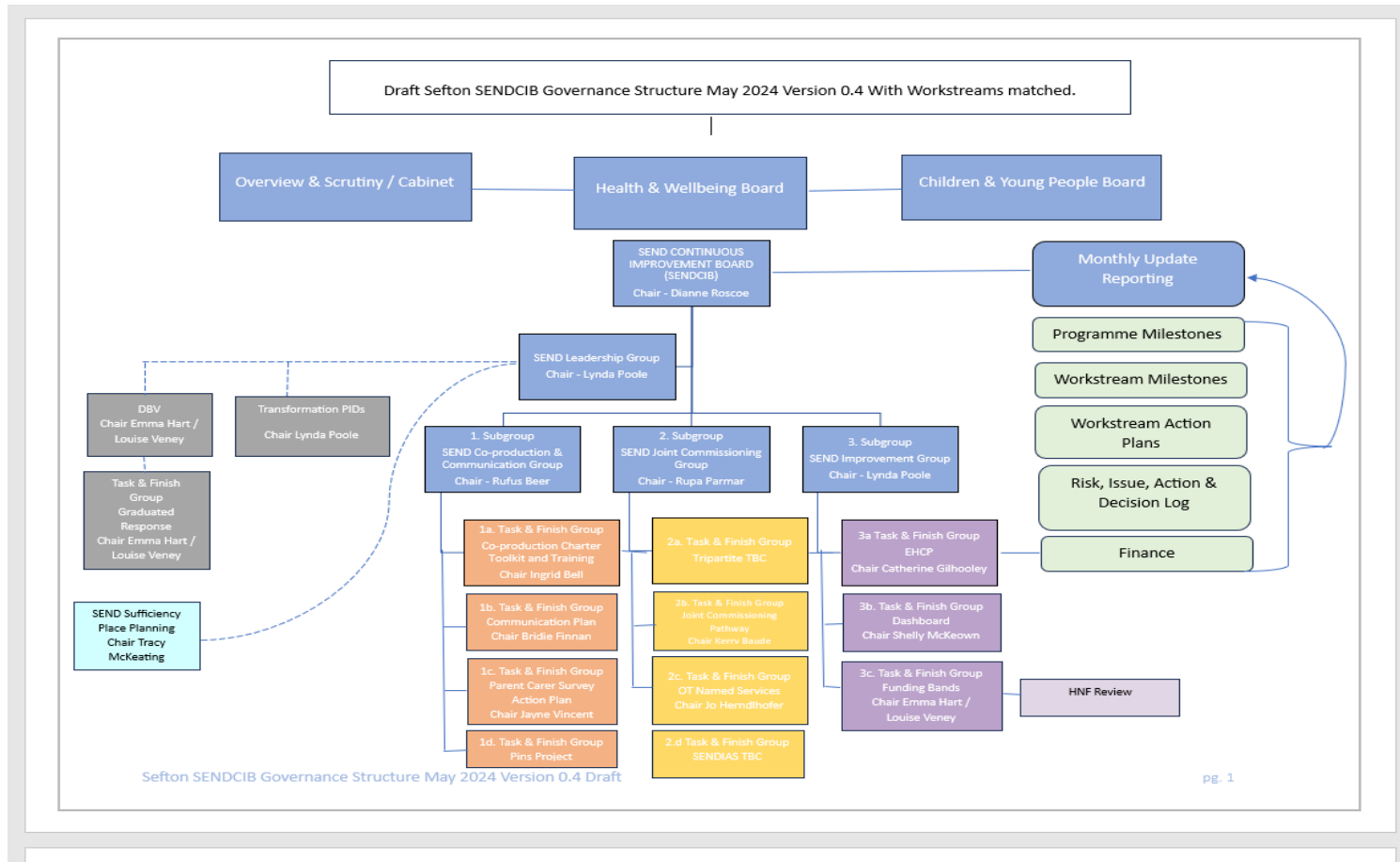
October 2024

Background and Context

- These slides provide an update on the Sefton SEND Local Area's inspection preparation and planning together with a summary of the actions we are taking.
- We continue to approach our planning and preparation to focus on understanding our improvement progress and how that would stand up to scrutiny rather than attempting to pass the 'exam'.
- Under the revised inspection approach there are now three potential inspection outcomes:
 - "The local area partnership's SEND arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed."
 - "The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements."
 - "There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently."

SEND Inspection Planning Update

SEND Governance



SEND Improvement Groups Focus

SEND Improvement Group improvement focus:

- Improving the timeliness and quality of EHCP's.
- Reduction in Health Therapy waiting times
- Improving the SEND complaints handling process.
- Improving the quality of the SEND service.
- Improving the quality of SEND performance data.
- Improving SEND related CSC services.
- Reducing the HNB deficit.

SEND Co-Production Group improvement focus:

- Development of the SEND communications strategy and plan.
- Development of the Sefton co-production charter.
- Improving the Local Offer user experience.
- Contribute towards improving parent carer satisfaction.

SEND Joint Commissioning Group improvement focus:

- Development of a short breaks service.
- Development of the Joint Commissioning action plan.
- Development of the SEND outcomes framework.
- Development of the pathway towards a 0-25 SEND offer.

SEND Dashboard Summary

EHCP & EHE Performance Overview

Area	Latest Data Update	Change from prior month	Actual latest figures & %
Active EHCPs	July 24	↑ 1.7%	3,492
EHCP plans finalised within 20 weeks	July 24	↓ 11.9%	45%
EHCP health advices completed within 6 weeks	April 24	0%	100%
Social Care - % of cases responded to within 6 weeks	June 24	↑ 1.0%	86%
Education Psychology - % of cases responded to within 6 weeks	June 24	↑ 2.0%	90%
EHE Open Referrals	May 24	↑ 65.0%	366

Compliance with the 20-week timeframe for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) currently sits at 43% for the year.

June's compliance was 57% and July's compliance was 45%. August's compliance was 52% and September's running figure is currently 70%.

The backlog of cases has reduced from 240+ cases to 38 cases, and of those 21 have plans drafted and 17 have no plans currently, mainly due to school places. It is envisaged that by November 24 there will be no or minimal backlog.

Trajectory for EHCP 20-week compliance – Is on target for a year end 60% average.

SEND Dashboard Summary

Speech and Language		Dietetics		Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	
0-18: Longest waiter • The longest wait is 38 weeks and there are no expected 52-week breaches.	↓ 38 weeks	0-18: Longest waiter • The longest waiter is 35 weeks and there are no expected 52-week breaches	↑ 35 weeks	0-18: % assessments started <12 weeks Slight improvement on assessment completed in 30 weeks (38%) with 79% completed in 65 weeks.	(99.1%)
0-18: Open pathways waiting <18 weeks	60.0%	0-18: Open pathways waiting <18 weeks	↓ 77.9%	0-18: Longest waiter The longest wait was 155 weeks. They are a complex YP who has had several appointments and concluded their diagnostic pathway in July 2023. A further review was requested by parents and completed in June - MDT booked for August for final conclusion.	↑ 155 weeks (1 YP)
0-18: Referral to 1 st contact	↓ 23.1 weeks	0-18: Referral to 1 st contact	↑ 14.4 weeks	18-25: Average waiting time • YP with SEND are prioritised	↑ 80.5 weeks (May)
Specialist CAMHS				Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	↓
0-18: Referral to help <6weeks	↓ 49.7%			0-18: % assessments started <12 weeks improvement in diagnostic pathway 39% within 30 weeks and 69% within 65 weeks	(99.5%)
0-18: Open pathways waiting <18 weeks	↓ 62.3%			0-18: Longest waiter The longest wait is 128 weeks – an MDT was completed in May, but diagnosis inconclusive. Further information collected and further MDT scheduled for August when the pathway should be concluded.	↑ 128 weeks
0-18: Longest waiter Longest wait was 62 weeks. Appointment attended in May as requested by the patient.	↓ 62 weeks			18-25: Average waiting time YP with SEND are prioritised	↑ 17.2 weeks

Key areas where delay is occurring and improvement focuses lie are dietetics, SaLT, CAMHS, ASD & ADHD pathways.

Waiting well and community services promoted through Local Offer.

Team around the school and inclusion services offering support.

National recruitment issues – looking at retraining / skill sharing etc as alternatives.

Summary Of What Good Looks Like In SEND

Leadership.....

- There is a well governed SEND agenda/change strategy.
- Plans and priorities are co-produced with parent's carers children and young people.
- The DCO role is embedded and has sufficient authority and capacity.
- Effective arrangements are in place for working strategically with Social Care.
- There is a clear process for engaging with setting leaders to review the SEND strategy.

SEND Arrangements.....

- There is an agreed SEND vision for all partners.
- A clear strategy, arrangements and governance is in place.
- There is clear and accurate performance data across the Local Area.
- Formal arrangements are in place around agreeing of resources.
- Effective processes are in place for Special/Unusual commissioning requests.

SEND Support.....

- There is a clear graduated response in place that effectively identifies needs.
- All partners have been involved in the development of the EHC plan process.
- All relevant staff across the system are clear on the EHC Plan process.
- Outcomes in EHC plans are SMART and they are relevant to the child's aspirations.
- Specialist assessment co-ordination relating to preparation for adulthood is effective.

Co-Production.....

- Local leaders have an effective parent carers and CYP engagement strategy.
- The Parent Carer Forum are involved in all stages of service planning.
- There is a local area co-production charter with the Parent Carer Forum.
- Health and the LA exercises its statutory SEND duties in relation to engagement.
- The local area receives feedback directly from children and young people.

Impact & Performance.....

- Data that monitors progress is gathered across the local area partnership.
- There is a data sharing arrangement between the local authority and health partners.
- The local are uses data effectively to monitor progress of its SEND arrangements.
- There is a clear policy in place for handling SEND complaints and providing feedback.
- Parents and young people have access to independent mediation advice.

Progress Leadership

- Nadine Carroll has been appointed as AD for Education Excellence and took up her post on the 1st August 2024. An interim Head of SEND and Inclusion has been recruited, whilst a wider recruitment exercise will look for a permanent member of the team. This will give strategic capacity and allow staff acting up to focus on service delivery and increase the pace of transformation work currently underway.
- Weekly EHCP dashboard in conjunction with Business Intelligence is being produced to enable real time up to the day monitoring of performance and blockages.
- Weekly finance meetings set up.
- Weekly sufficiency meetings established with both Head Teachers and Estates, which have resulted in a number of in borough places being created. A larger piece of work is looking to establish considerably more places. Currently 269 children are place in Special Education settings outside of the borough at an average cost of over £58K each or approximately £800K over their school years.
- DBV updates to DfE continue to receive positive feedback about the improved stability and recent leadership changes as well as several areas of good practice.

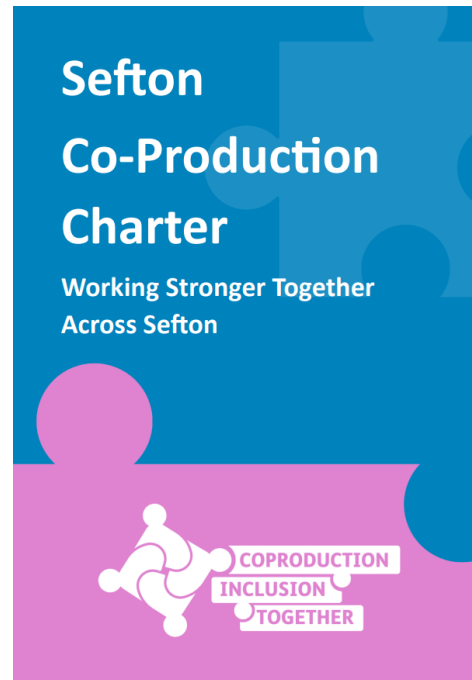
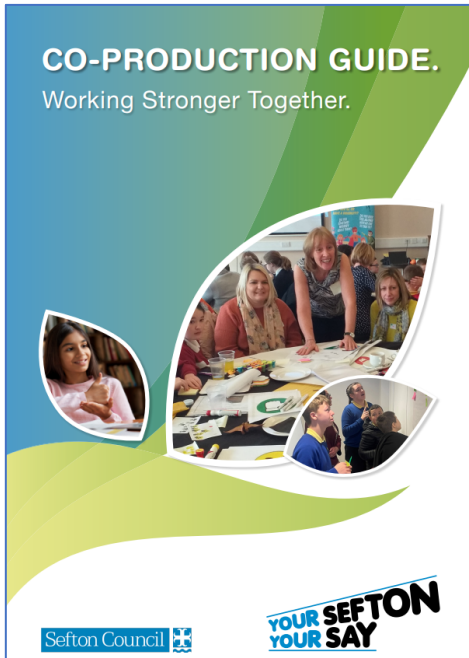
SEND Inspection Planning Update

Progress Send Support

- A Children's Services Transformation Team has been established and the Programme Manager for this area has been appointed. The team is currently being supported by 2 interim project officers, whilst permanent posts are filled. This team will be responsible for the planning, delivering and monitoring of the departments transformation programme going forward including Childrens Social Care, SEND and Home to School Transport.
- Use of resources, especially staffing and funding, are being reviewed, this will include using admin support to free up Strategic Support capacity to support more strategic work areas.
- Links and relationships with schools /other settings are positive and the appointment of an AD has been welcomed. Officers continue to receive positive feedback from Early Years Settings, Partners, Schools, the SPCF and young people about the positive impact they are making to children and young people's lives and this is highlighted each month (along with challenges) at SENDCIB through a Voice of the Child case study.

SEND Inspection Planning Update

Progress Co-production



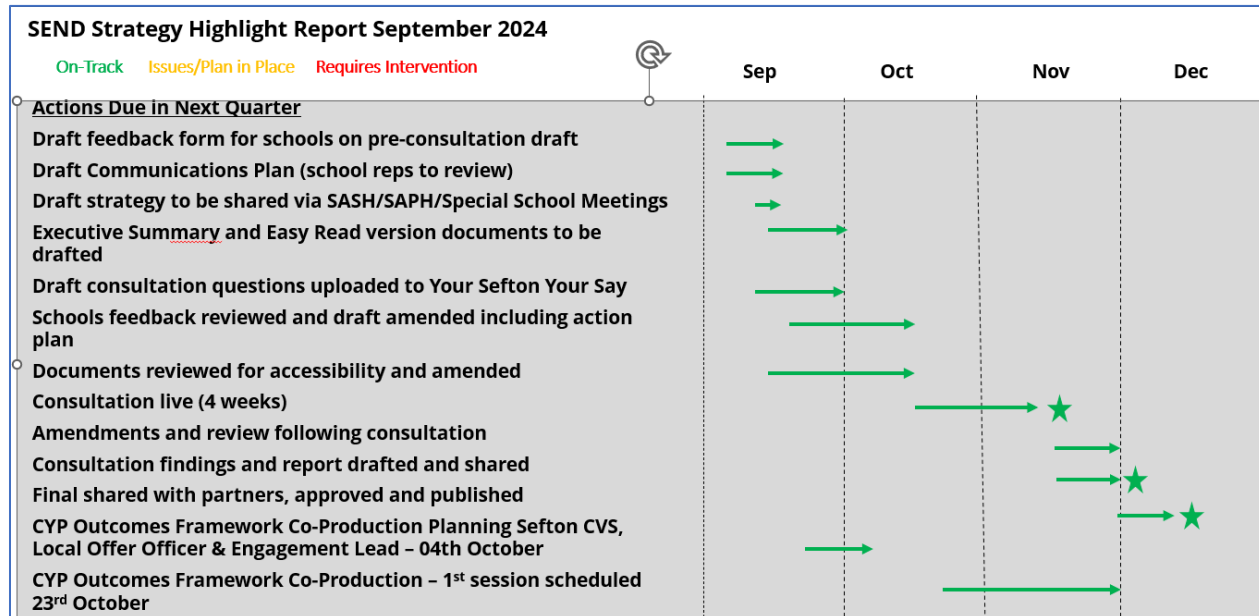
Coproduction Charter Update

- The coproduction charter has been finalised and signed off and shared with partners.
- The charter will be launched at the Local Offer Live (LOL) event in October ½ term.
- A training tool kit, has been coproduced with parents and carers and a train the trainer roll out is planned.
- The charter can be found at sefton-coproduction-charter.pdf
- Along with a guide for staff and other resources at [Working Stronger Together \(Co-production\) \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk/working-stronger-together-co-production)

SEND Inspection Planning Update

Progress SEND Arrangements

- SEND Strategy – A draft SEND strategy has been developed and a timeline created to ensure that it has been coproduced and consulted with Head Teachers, Families, Young People and Partners.



SEND Inspection Planning Update

Progress SEND Arrangements

- Sufficiency – A number of meetings have been held with Head Teachers to collate views, expectations and to map the landscape. Data has been analysed and it is predicted that 300 new places are required in Sefton in the next 3 years along with the creation of more nurture-based provision in mainstream schools. Work between Education and other council services is ongoing on our approach to creating sufficient places through the development and extension of existing assets
- Despite a drop in birth rate, Early Years are seeing a large increase in numbers of children requiring support from 500, two years ago, to 900 currently. Mainly with ASD, ADHD, SALT, SEMH need, and this is all currently being captured as part of a Sufficiency plan.
- Alternative Provision – AP task and finish group established, Analysis of AP placements completed including mapping of reason behind AP commission and primary need. QA framework developed and AP register in creation, along with an annual process for delivery.

Progress SEND Sufficiency

Presfield School: The Local Authority converted a storage area within the school to a classroom for 4 pupils. This has enabled the LA to name to the school of parent's choice.

Freshfield Primary: The addition of a double unit modular classroom to the site will increase the SEN Unit provision from 20 places to 28. The modular classroom is due to be onsite during the Autumn term and has allowed the LA to support 4 pupils which had been named to their mainstream reception class to move across to the SEN Unit

Bishop David Shepperd - Building work has commenced on site to develop a new SEN Unit.

Expressions of interest will be share with secondary provision for 3 Units across the borough.

There is a proposal to build a class room on Merefield site for 8 additional pupils

A modular classroom at Bedford primary has now been approved developing 12 places. This will prevent children having to access expensive out of borough places

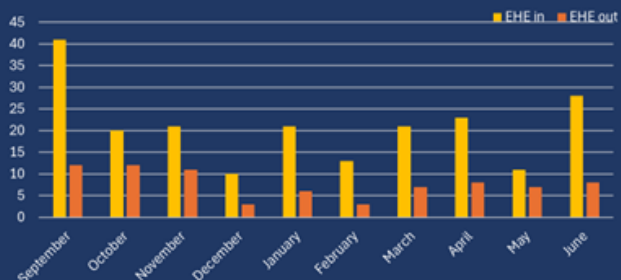
Electively Home Educated - Year End

EHE – end of year summary pupil movement / destination

Movement 408 pupils year end (Aug) :

346 pupils recorded as EHE Sept

Pupil Movement: EHE referrals in / EHE ceased (out)



	EHE in	EHE out
September	41	12
October	20	12
November	21	11
December	10	3
January	21	6
February	13	3
March	21	7
April	23	8
May	11	7
June	28	8
Total	72	

	mainstream Sp / AP Provision	Out of borough
September	8	2
October	11	0
November	9	0
December	1	1
January	5	1
February	1	0
March	7	0
April	4	2
May	2	2
June	8	0
TOTAL	56	8

What is the data telling us

Increase in pupil movement at start of academic year. Reflects advanced notifications to EHE for Y6 pupils and some difficulties experienced at transition

What are the issues:

Impact on admissions team in terms of holding secondary school places. Year on year overall rise reflecting nation trend and regional trend

What are we doing to improve:

- Working with admissions / Monitoring and placement. Letter process re: parental intention to keep / reject allocated school place at Y7. Fair Access maintain EHE within protocol for families re-engaging with school provision so additional needs are addressed and placements are appropriate. Pupils allocated school they deregistered from wherever possible at Fair Access.
- Increase contacts / dialogue with schools at point of intent / consideration of EHE
- Working with ADCS (National Consultation) and EHE NW re: proposals for national registration

Delivering Better Value - Update

Programme Name: Delivering Better Value (DBV)

Programme Sponsor: Nadine Carroll

Reporting Period: 07/07/2024-07/09/2024

Budget Status: ●

Programme Status: ● On Track

	Project	Status	Milestones / Achievements	Risks / Issues / Benefits
1	Inclusion Service Capacity	●	SENCO been in place since April to July 2024. The seconded sencos have worked on GA and toolkit development.	Potential changes to senco secondment. This will be managed from existing capacity.
2	Early Years SEND Capacity	●	All staff in place and working in settings and schools.	No risks or issues to report.
3	Educational Psychology	●	EBSA guidance is published. ELSA Training (Early Years and School Age). New assistant EP has started Sept 2024	Changes in EP delivery means Emotionally Informed Classroom will be unable to be delivered as part of the EP offer.
4	Workforce Training Programme	●	Staff training booked for Autumn Term. Conference moved for sensitivity around conference date following the incident in Southport. Other training being explored in response to the incident.	No risks or issues to report.
5	Graduated Approach	●	Toolkits are near completion with a launch date booked for 17 th Oct. This will be a joint launch with the SALT toolkit. Flyer been agreed by IC team and will be sent out by end of next week	No risks or issues to report.
6	Communication With Families	●	Focus groups to discuss Local Offer and development of communication strategy across the authority over September. Parental Workshops on GA delivered Summer 24.	No risks or issues to report.

Next DFE Reporting Date: 4th Oct 2024

Upcoming Activities / Milestones: 1. SEMH outreach hub meeting 17th Sept. 2. Continued meetings with settings. 3. Development of training offer booklet for 2024-2025. 4. GA toolkit launch 17th Oct

Parent Carer Forum



Parent Carer Survey 2024 – feedback highlighted gaps in communication and signposting and as a result a series of workshops are taking place to look at preferred methods of communication, along with the development of a new termly newsletter and news page on the Local Offer.

Parent Carer Forum reps are no longer available for meetings on Thursdays as they have secured paid employment on this day, they are also incredibly busy volunteers and have limited capacity.

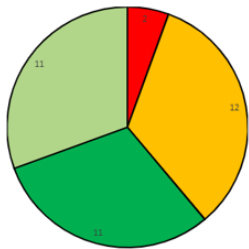


Parent Carer Local Offer Live Event - Southport October 30th 2024 with over 60 tables so far confirmed and a Preparing for Adulthood conference 9th October 2024.

Annex A and SEF Update

Ofsted Inspection Readiness

Annex A



■ High Risk ■ Work underway but not complete ■ Complete ■ Complete but an update required once call comes

High Risk	2
Work underway but not complete	12
Complete	11
Complete but an update required once call comes	11

High Risk	Work Underway but not complete
Self-Evaluation	Approach to EHCP Plans (QA)
Short Breaks	SEND Strategy
	PB information
	Outcomes evidence
	Multi-agency audits
	Out of area placements
	Care services overview
	Health pathways
	Commissioning strategy and arrangements
	Needs of the children and young people (AP)
	Settings and attendees (AP)
	Monitoring and oversight (AP)

The update shows that work has progressed in many areas of the evidence library, with many of the amber areas underway or almost complete.

A draft SEF has been produced and from this a gap analysis and action plan are being created for presentation at the November Board.

The Short Breaks review has been delayed and highlighted as a risk, as capacity was diverted to the creation of the SEND Strategy and a revised timeline for the review starts in January 2025.

Actions for October / November

- SEND strategy consultation and engagement, and final draft document.
- SEF finalised along with gap analysis and action plan
- Roll out of DBV training programme and parent / practitioner toolkit.
- FASD training programme launched and rolling out across the partnership
- Financial modelling of mainstream school banding for SEND funding
- Parent carer workshops around communication and the creation of a communication strategy
- First edition of the new termly newsletter
- Finalisation of sufficiency plan and proposals to create new places
- Embedding of new leadership, recruitment of vacancies, development of teams including transformation team to ensure work programs are planned, delivered and monitored
- Ongoing support as part of Southport recovery. Octobers' conference is postponed until February 2025 – due to the need for schools to return smoothly for the Autumn Term and sensitivity of the timing

SEND Inspection Planning Update