

Essex SEND Strategy

Update
Jan 22

My Life, My Rights
Essex Local Area
SEND Strategy 2021



Introduction – Cllr Tony Ball

Since we last presented to scrutiny we have:

- Engaged further with education, health and care colleagues including schools and settings through virtual workshops
- Engaged further with the Essex Family Forum
- Used all the above intelligence to create a full five-year SEND strategy which incorporates the feedback from scrutiny:
 - Alignment with Ofsted/CQC inspection outcomes
 - More detail on the rationale for a new SEND strategy
 - Actively promoting partnership working

The Essex SEND strategy will drive forward and embed the changes made to date across the Local Area and help to focus all services in education, health and social care on driving forward the required changes so that children, young people and their parents experience the difference.

The delivery plan that accompanies the strategy will set out the specific projects and contributions of all partners and the measures that we will use to evaluate the impact across the Local Area and hold ourselves to account.

Alignment with the Essex SEND Sufficiency Strategy is key. The sufficiency strategy sets out the provision, resources and skills required to meet the demand in Essex.

Rationale for a new SEND Strategy

Families, children and young people tell us that change is needed:

“My Life, My Rights”

Ofsted/CQC tell us that change is needed:

The 2019 SEND Local Area Inspection concluded that a joint written statement of action was needed to address three areas of significant weakness:

- Accurate identification of need
 - Quality of EHC plans
 - Joint commissioning

Professionals working within the system tell us that change is needed:

Challenges within the SEND system are becoming progressively more complex and increasingly require a system wide approach to resolve.

SEND Strategy Overview

01.

Section 1
Introduction

02.

Section 2
What do we need to improve in Essex?

03.

Section 3
The strategy vision and test

04.

Section 4
Test questions and golden threads

05.

Section 5
The local area pledge

06.

Section 6
The five strands



Microsoft Edge
PDF Document

Vision for SEND

Our vision for the SEND system is based on the fundamental rights of all children and young people as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

All children have the same rights.

The rights for children set out in the United Nations Convention have been agreed by almost every country in the world.

Our vision is that every child and young person:



is safe



has the best possible health and wellbeing



develops their personality, talents and abilities to the full



is connected to, and plays an active part in their local community



is able to live a full and meaningful life with independence and dignity

Our vision applies to all children:



whatever their age



whatever their circumstances



whatever their unique characteristics



and without discrimination

How will the strategy address the inspection findings?

The inspection found **variation in services across the local area**, which we will address through the **Equity** thread.



Equity

“Procedures vary across the local area, which delays the identification of children’s needs.”

“Children and young people have not benefited from equitable access to services to meet their needs”.

“some children and young people get access to assessments and support and others do not.”

The inspection found that the pace and impact of change had not been sufficient, which we will address through the **Ambition** thread.



Ambition

“The ambition to systematically promote good practice is high, but at an early stage across most services.”

“Weak use of measurable and clearly understood outcomes hampers the development of services ... across the local area.”

The inspection found that not enough was being done to **secure high quality outcomes for children and young people**, which we will address through the **Inclusion** thread.



Inclusive

“reasonable adjustments are not made to help [children] to attend each day and to do well.”

What does that mean in practice?

Improvements made to date:

Accurate identification of need

Following implementation of new guidance, training and support, Essex data is now in-line with national averages.

Quality of EHC Plans

All new EHC plans are quality assured and no inadequate plans are issued.

Through new quality assurance framework, training, support and guidance and improved collaboration across education, health and care, we are improving the % of 'good' and 'outstanding' plans and reducing the % of plans requiring improvement.

Joint commissioning

The new Joint Commissioning Framework demonstrates the commitment of local commissioners across Essex to develop shared commissioning and delivery models to meet the diverse needs of children and young people with SEND in the county.

Strategy will build on to deliver:

- Early identification and early support
- Effective One Planning & SEN support
- Inclusive communities and equal opportunities
- Excellent universal and additional services
- Preparing for adulthood from the earliest years

- All planning is person-centred
- Information is available and accessible
- Clear pathways to access support and services
- Effective One Planning & SEN support
- Joined up planning and support across E,H,C
- Preparing for adulthood from the earliest years
- High quality transitions
- Next steps and employability

- The right support, from the right people, at the right time
- Joined up planning and support across E,H,C
- Excellent universal and additional services
- Specialist excellence in Essex
- Preparing for adulthood from the earliest years
- High quality transitions
- Next steps and employability
- More opportunities beyond age 16

Alignment and Enablers



SEND Workplan and Strategy Delivery Plan
Joint Written Statement of Action
SEND Capital Programme
SEND Data Dashboard, forecasting and effectiveness measures
Effective early intervention and statutory processes



Public questions for PAF Scrutiny on SEND Strategy on 10th November 2021

- Ralph Holloway, Head of SEND Strategy and Innovation, met with Tara Strydom in November following the PAF Scrutiny meeting
 - Tara is a newly appointed Family Champion for Essex Family Forum
 - A further meeting with a wider group of parents from the Dengie area to discuss SEND and local provision is being arranged (an earlier meeting had to be cancelled to find a better time for parents)
 - Work is underway, following an initial meeting with Essex Family Forum and Essex Carers Network, on priorities for young people and their families as they move beyond school based provision
 - A case study approach will be used to capture the experience of a range of young people and families and looking at provision and outcomes beyond education.
-

Partnership Working

- The task of delivery is not just about the practicalities of plans and processes, but also about **how we work together across the Local Area**. The inspection noted a **shared commitment from senior leaders** to making sustainable change and we are continuously strengthening our ways of working together to achieve the vision set out in this strategy through a new **SEND Partnership Board** and associated governance structure.
- It requires a commitment across the Local Area to **work in close partnership with families** and ensure that children, young people and their families are fully included in all matters that affect them.
- We recognise that there are challenges ahead. The Covid-19 pandemic has put significant pressure on individuals, families, teams, communities and organisations and full recovery will take time. However, as we begin that recovery, **prioritising the things that matter and working together** will give us the best chance of improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Essex.

We must do this together.