

## London Borough of Enfield

### Children Young People and Education Scrutiny (08/03/22)

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**Subject:** Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership Strategy

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Children's Service, Education and Protection

**Executive Director:** Tony Theodoulou, Executive Director of People

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#### Purpose of Report

1. This report provides information relating to the ongoing development of a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership Strategy.
2. This report seeks feedback from Members of Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny on the strategy's proposed draft vision, principles and priorities, as part of ongoing engagement with stakeholders.

#### Relevance to the Council Plan

3. We have high aspirations for every child and young person with SEND in Enfield. At the heart of the strategy is a focus on supporting all our children and young people with SEND to achieve their best at all stages of their learning, in everyday life, in their health and wellbeing; and as they take their next step into adulthood and working towards their independence. The SEND Partnership Strategy is therefore crucial to supporting our work to **inspire and empower young Enfield**, as part of building **safe, health and confident communities**.
4. The SEND Partnership Strategy seeks to embed a culture of embracing difference, and where we work together to make Enfield an inclusive borough where "SEND is everyone's business". Through prioritising inclusion, this strategy will positively contribute to a **Fairer Enfield** and contribute to wider work to build an **economy that works for everyone**.
5. Finally, the SEND Partnership Strategy will also assist the Council in its objective to be a **Modern Council**, which **targets resources smartly**. The proposed priority to strengthen our knowledge and understanding of our SEND community and their needs is intended to help us enhance the way we plan, strategically commission and deliver the services and support that children, young people and their families need, both now and in the future. This is crucial to ensure we effectively manage our resources to provide equity for all our children and young people, in a way that responds to the changing needs of our diverse community.

## Background

6. The SEND Partnership are responsible for overseeing the development of the new SEND Partnership Strategy and for delivering the final priorities. The partnership brings together representatives from our parent and carer groups and expertise from education, health, social care and the voluntary and community sector.
7. The new strategy will set out our shared vision, principles and priorities, as the SEND Partnership work together over the next 4 years to support every child and young person with SEND, from birth to the age of 25.
8. The new strategy builds on the crucial progress made since the publication of our [SEND Education Strategy](#) in July 2018. The previous strategy focused on 3 important priorities to:
  - 1) Identify, assess and intervene early where children and young people have SEND.
  - 2) Improve access and participation in early years settings and schools.
  - 3) Support a successful transition to adulthood.
9. The first draft of the new SEND Partnership Strategy has been developed following discussions with sponsors, research and benchmarking while taking into consideration Enfield's local context. Central to the development of the draft has been engagement with the SEND Strategy Development Group, a working group established under the SEND Partnership in Enfield to contribute to the development of the strategy and an associated action plan.
10. A targeted engagement programme on the strategy is underway to ensure we hear the views and ideas of our families, educational settings, our partners and stakeholders on the draft strategy; and suggestions for how we can enhance existing joint delivery. The engagement period will conclude ahead of the pre-election period in late March. Following this, the draft will be further developed, taking into consideration the feedback that we have reviewed.
11. The Draft will also be subject to further development as required in response to the upcoming publication of the Government's SEND Review Green Paper, which is expected by the end of March 2022.
12. Our final SEND Partnership Strategy for 2022 – 2026 is due to be published this summer, subject to approval by Full Council.

## Main Considerations for the Panel

### About our SEND Community: Children and young people with an Enfield Council maintained Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

13. Enfield Council currently maintains 3,930 EHCPs.<sup>1</sup> The national average growth in EHCPs over the last year is 11%. However, Enfield has experienced a higher level of growth of 14.41% over the last year. The number of EHCPs that Enfield Council maintains has increased each year since 2014. Currently, 539 children and young people attend out of borough educational settings.

14. The table below shows the percentage rate of increase in EHCPs year on year between 2017 to present. The table importantly includes the year of 2018 where the conversion from statements of SEN to EHCPs was finalised.

<b>EHCP increase (year on year)</b>	<b>Barnet</b>	<b>Enfield</b>	<b>Haringey</b>
% Increase from 2017	84.50%	<b>85.50%</b>	112.90%
% Increase from 2018	10.70%	<b>46.50%</b>	45.60%
% Increase from 2019	13.10%	<b>24%</b>	15.30%
% Increase from 2020	8.10%	<b>12.39%</b>	10.85%
% Increase from 2021	-	<b>14.41%</b>	-

15. Of the 3930 children and young people with an Enfield Council maintained EHCP, there are:

- **255** aged **0-5 years old** (early years)
- **1495** aged **6-11 years old** (primary)
- **1349** aged **11-16 years old** (secondary)
- **834** aged **17-25 years old** (post-16)

16. The primary category of need for our children and young people with an Enfield Council maintained EHCP is as follows:

- Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) – 1,466 (37.3%)
- Cognition and Learning – 1544 (41.28%)
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) 553 (14.07%)
- Sensory and/or Physical – 367 (9.27%)

### About our SEND Community: Children and young people attending Enfield schools and settings

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<sup>1</sup> number of Enfield Council maintained EHCPs as at 01/02/22, which includes pupils attending early years settings, primary and secondary schools (including special schools), post-16 education settings, as well as pupils attending out of borough educational settings.

17. In 2020/21, 10% of pupils attending Enfield schools received SEN support and 4.3% of pupils had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). On average there is a higher percentage of pupils attending Enfield schools with an EHCP than in England (3.7%) and across London (3.8%). Comparatively, a lower proportion of pupils attending Enfield schools receive SEN Support, than both the London (11.4) and England (12.2) average.
18. The most common primary need for our pupils attending Enfield schools who have an EHCP is Autistic Spectrum Disorder (33.3%) and the most common primary need for our pupils receiving SEN Support is Speech, Language and Communication Needs (30.2%).
19. Educational attainment is measured in different ways as children and young people move through their education. At Key Stage 2, 31.5% of pupils with SEN in Enfield schools (without an EHCP), and 9.1% of pupils with an EHCP achieve the expected standard of attainment in reading, writing and maths, compared with 74.6% of pupils without SEND. By the time pupils reach Key Stage 4, 24.2% of pupils with SEN (without an EHCP), and 4.9% of pupils with an EHCP achieve a 5+ in English and maths GCSE, compared with 46.9% of pupils without SEND.
20. In 2021, 40% of pupils who had an EHCP and almost 33% of pupils who received SEN support were entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). In 2019/20, 71.9% of Children in Need in Enfield had an EHCP, and 12.8% received SEN support (not including those on a child protection plan or those that are looked after); and 34% of pupils who had an EHCP and almost 28% of SEND pupils without an EHCP were looked after.
21. Between 2017-2020, zero pupils with an EHCP were permanently excluded from Enfield schools and the permanent exclusion rate for pupils with SEND (without an EHCP) was almost zero (decreasing from 0.31 – 0.15). During the same time, the suspension rate of pupils with an EHC Plan decreased from 17.6% to 9.4%; and for pupils with SEND (without an EHCP) the suspension rate fell from 13.9% to 9.2%. However, pupils with SEND have a higher rate of overall absence from school.

### **The proposed vision, principles and priorities**

22. The proposed vision for the SEND Partnership Strategy is:

“Our vision is for all our children and young people with SEND to feel safe, healthy, happy and included in their educational setting and communities. We want our children and young people to discover and achieve their goals and we want to enable them to be at the heart of decision making, so that they can make positive choices about their lives and futures. Together, our collective ambition is to make Enfield an inclusive borough where “SEND is everyone’s business”. An inclusive Enfield is a place where diversity and difference are understood and celebrated, and where barriers are minimised or removed.”

23. The draft SEND Partnership Strategy has 4 principles. Our principles are the foundations that underpin how the SEND Partnership will work with children, young people and their families.

Our draft principles are:

- Children, young people and their families are empowered, respected and included in the decisions that affect their lives and futures, and we recognise that all children develop differently
- Work together with children, young people and their families to build on their strengths and enable them to be as independent as they can be.
- Work in partnership to provide the right support as early as possible, in the right place and at the right time.
- Effectively manage our resources to provide equity for all our children and young people, responding to the changing needs of our diverse community

24. The draft SEND Partnership Strategy has 4 key priorities, which we believe are crucial to improving the life chances of our children and young people and supporting them to thrive, throughout their childhoods and as they prepare for adulthood.

Our draft priorities are:

**Priority 1:** Know our local area and understand and plan for the needs of our children and young people with SEND and their families.

**Priority 2:** Identify the needs of children and young people with SEND and provide the right support in the right place, and at the right time.

**Priority 3:** Provide an inclusive education and community environment for all our children and young people with SEND

**Priority 4:** Ensure Education Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are completed on time and to a high standard.

25. The associated objectives for each of the 4 priority areas can be found on pp. 4-5 of the accompanying SEND Partnership Strategy Summary document.

## Conclusions

26. The purpose of this report has been to provide information and to seek crucial feedback from Members of Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny. This engagement forms part of a wider programme of engagement with local stockholders.

27. As the SEND Partnership continue their work to develop the new SEND Partnership Strategy, the feedback received will be used to further inform the document, ahead of finalisation and presentation to Full Council this summer.

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### **Appendices**

**N/A**

### **Background Papers**

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

- **SEND Partnership Strategy - Summary for Engagement**