

**North Yorkshire County Council**  
**Children and Young People's Service**  
**Meeting of Director of Children's Services and Executive Members**  
**5th October 2021**  
**Proposed North Yorkshire SEND Strategy**

**1.0 Purpose of the report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Present background and supporting information for the development of a North Yorkshire SEND Strategy.
- Seek Executive Members' views on the proposals for the strategy
- Seek approval to move to formal consultation on the proposal set out

**2.0 Background**

2.1 There are a number of strategies and plans in place covering the county of North Yorkshire, which are specifically related to, or include intentions, actions and reference to, children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

2.2 These strategies and plans include the following:

- North Yorkshire County Council Plan 2019-22
- Young and Yorkshire 2
- Health and Well Being Strategy 2015 – 2020
- Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25 2018-23
- School improvement Strategy 2019-21
- LAC/Care leavers strategy 2018-21
- Mental health strategy 2015 -20
- Local transformation plan for children and young people's mental health 2015-20
- Carers strategy 2017-2022
- Learning disabilities strategy 2017 -2022
- Autism strategy 2015-20 (under review)

2.3 Despite these strategies, there is a need to develop a new Local Area strategy for SEND that covers education, health and social care for children and young people aged 0-25. The most recent specific Council plan is the Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 2018-23 which was updated in May 2020 and which focuses on education provision.

2.4 Recently there have been a number of pieces of work which have highlighted areas of development for children and young people with SEND across partners and stakeholders. More detail on these are provided in the sections below. It is timely to now draw those together to inform and develop an overarching SEND strategy. Such a strategy will ensure that:

- The work that is being or needs to be done to ensure children and young people in North Yorkshire with SEND have the best opportunities, provision and outcomes, is agreed, understood, delivered and monitored.
- Children and young people with SEND and their families in partnership with those working with them from education, health and social care can shape the way forward.

2.5 In addition, recent developments for partners and stakeholders reinforce the timeliness of the development of an overarching strategy and the opportunity to do this. These include:

- The restructure of the Inclusion service in CYPS
- Recent review of Social Care support for Disabled Children
- The reorganisation of CCGs, in particular the new North Yorkshire CCG.
- The relaunch of the North Yorkshire parent/carer forum and the rebrand as Parent Carer Voice North Yorkshire, with a strong focus on co-production.

### **3.0 Supporting information**

3.1 This section sets out information in support of developing an overarching North Yorkshire SEND Strategy.

#### Statutory duty

3.2 Across and within education, health and social care, we must work together to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families. This is a statutory duty under the Children and Families Act, subsequent regulations and the SEND Code of Practice<sup>1</sup> which applies to local authorities and health bodies.

3.3 Developing an overarching strategy for SEND will support the delivery of these statutory duties.

#### Peer challenge

3.4 In February 2020, North Yorkshire County Council, alongside health partners, took part in a peer challenge led and coordinated by the Association of

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<sup>11</sup> SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years January 2015 1.23

Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). The peer challenge process is a regional approach across Yorkshire and the Humber and builds on the peer review model that was developed by the Local Government Association (LGA).

3.5 The peer challenge focused on SEND, specifically the following areas:

- EHCPs: statutory assessment and EHCP process
- Health: Effectiveness of Designated Medical Officers/Designated Clinical Officers (DMO/DCOs)
- Co-production: relationships with parents/strategic engagement.

3.6 The outcomes of the peer challenge were positive for North Yorkshire, for both the Council, and health partners. As part of the process, areas for consideration were suggested, including:

- Further work is required to develop a whole system approach to SEND at a shared pace. SEND, understandably, feels very 'education' focussed, but there are real opportunities for it to be further developed by drawing on best commissioning practice in adult services and outstanding social work practice in children's services; as well as looking to the stronger engagement of social care in SEND processes.
- Develop a system wide, system owned vision and outcomes based strategy, with an underpinning joint commissioning strategy.
- Develop system wide performance information at strategic and operational level to inform commissioning and the broader SEND agenda.<sup>2</sup>

3.7 These recommendations by the peer challenge support the need for an overarching SEND strategy.

#### Children and young people with SEND

3.8 The number of children and young people identified as having SEND in North Yorkshire has increased since the introduction of the SEND reforms in 2014 through the Children and Families Act and is predicted to continue to do so.

3.9 The proportion of the mainstream school population at SEN support has increased from 10.8% in 2017 to 12.32% in 2021 in primary schools and from 6.5% to 10.44% in secondary schools.

3.10 The number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) increased from 1938 in 2015/16 to 3574 in 2020/21. This is a 84.4% rise.

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<sup>2</sup> Peer challenge letter February 2020

3.11 Given the continuing and predicted rise in the number of children and young people with SEND, it is timely to develop a new Local Area strategy that all key stakeholders are committed to, that ensures their needs are supported in the most effective way.

#### Feedback from stakeholders

3.12 A frequent message from parents/carers of children and young people with SEND, and other stakeholders is that it is essential that those working in education, health and social care work together to meet children and young people's needs. This was a view expressed during the development of the Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision, particularly through formal consultation.<sup>3</sup>

3.13 Current feedback, from a period of informal engagement in June/July 2021, shows that there are mixed views on how services work with children and young people with SEND and their families, and how they work together to support them.

3.14 Co-producing an overarching strategy will be an opportunity to understand the issues and continue to make improvements.

### **4.0 Proposals for a North Yorkshire SEND Strategy**

4.1 Appendix 1 is a draft document containing initial proposals for a North Yorkshire SEND strategy. This section explains out how those proposals have been reached.

4.2 The first steps to developing the proposals involved considering:

- Statutory duties and guidance across education, health and social care
- Existing strategies and plans (see paragraph 2.2)
- Learning opportunities which have taken place e.g. LA OFSTED inspections; development of the SEND self-evaluation framework; the peer challenge (see paragraphs 3.4 – 3.7 above); National College Programme events across CYPS; High Needs Block Recovery workshop and the Joint Commissioning working group.
- Available data and information in respect of SEND and current gaps (e.g. lack of a SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)).
- 6 week period of informal stakeholder engagement

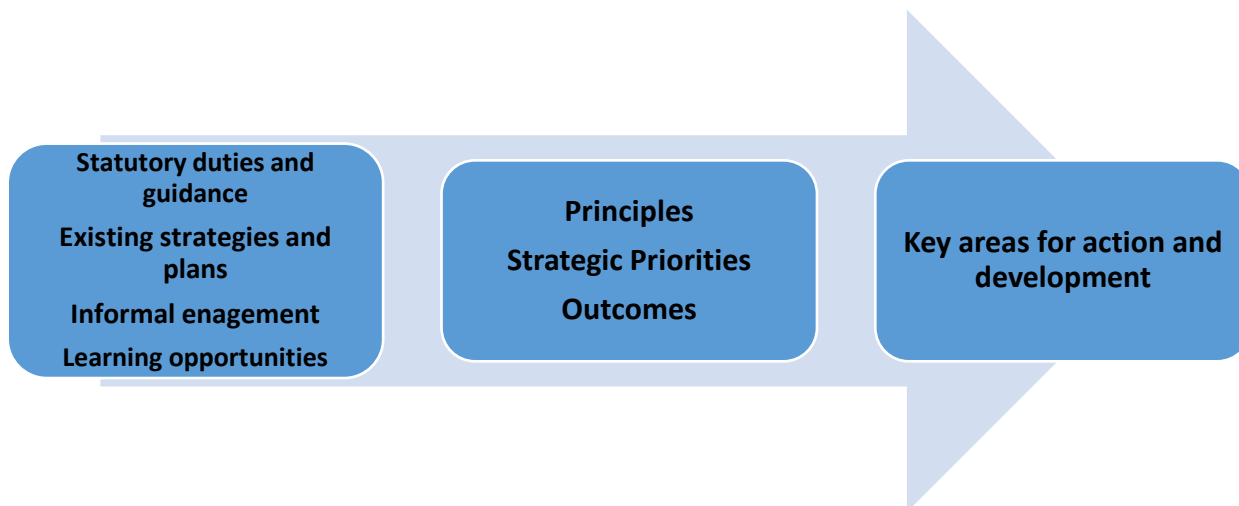
4.3 Through this work a number of principles, strategic priorities and outcomes for delivery were identified.

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<sup>3</sup> Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25 2018-23 page 22

4.4 This diagram summarises this process:

### Overarching strategy development



## 5.0 Proposals for a North Yorkshire SEND Strategy - summary

5.1 This section summarises the initial proposals for the strategy and should be read alongside Appendix 1.

5.2 From the period of informal engagement the following themes were identified:

### What is important for children and young people with SEND:

- Being cared for and valued, having meaningful friendships and being valued by supporting adults
- Being healthy, resilient, having confidence and a sense of purpose
- Sharing a range of experiences, enjoying learning and achievements being celebrated
- Developing independence, being involved in decisions and having meaningful prospects of employment in adult life
- Being safe
- Services are proactive in meeting need with a focus on early intervention
- Smooth transitions into adulthood

### What is working well?

- Joint working is improving and should remain a key focus of all
- Digital platforms have supported improved attendance and input at reviews and multi-agency meetings
- Post 16 pathways are improving
- Increasing recognition and understanding that 'all' have a contribution to make to the successful planning and outcomes for children with SEND
- Positive support via Locality SEND Hubs and SENCo networks

- Key staff and services provide high quality support

**What needs further improvement?**

- Communication at strategic and operational levels
- Improved Local Offer
- More seamless exchange of information between services and families
- Greater range and availability of local provision
- Increased range of social opportunities for CYP with SEND
- Knowledge, training and understanding of staff to continue to support children within mainstream settings
- Timeliness and quality of assessment processes in particular agreed outcomes and annual reviews
- Early and proactive support needs to be a focus for all services
- Availability of respite support and appropriate care staff

5.3 The following table sets out the principles, outcomes and priorities for the proposed strategy, which are recognisable in the context of SEND in North Yorkshire:

<b>Principles</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Strategic Priorities</b>
Be ambitious for all children	Most children and young people have their needs met locally in North Yorkshire	Early identification of need of Children and Young People with SEND
Value the contribution of all		
Work together to drive improvement	Improved social, educational and health outcomes for children and young people	Working together to provide high quality services and provision at the right time
Listen and communicate effectively	Increased parental and young person confidence in the North Yorkshire provision offer across education, health and social care	Improve Outcomes for children and young people with SEND
Strive for local solutions		Strengthen Communication, Engagement and co-production with parents/carers, children and young people
Invest in actions that will improve outcomes	Effective governance and accountability	Preparing young people for adulthood
	Efficient use of resources	Achieving best value

5.4 Key proposed areas for action and development include the following:

**Early identification of need of Children and Young People with SEND**

- Reviewing and altering Health notification processes

- Ensuring the school work force remains skilled in assessment and identification
- Reviewing our own assessment processes and introducing Digital EHCP
- Training for Education, Health and Care staff on assessing SEND and writing advice
- Work with Health to develop innovative approaches to Autism diagnosis and waiting lists

### **Working together to provide high quality services and provision at the right time**

- Embedding the use of the JSNA to identify joint commissioning opportunities
- Developing systems to ensure lived experience influences decisions on support and service delivery
- Review the pre and post diagnostic support for children and young people with autism and their families across the local authority, health and the voluntary sector
- Review the short breaks offer for families with disabled children and young people
- To pilot, review and embed a multi agency quality assurance framework for SEND Services

### **Improve Outcomes for children and young people with SEND**

- Monitor performance data through strategic forums such as Locality Boards and develop approaches where underperformance is identified
- Review early years SEND provision across the county
- Ensure that promoting independence in preparation for adulthood remains a focus and is embedded throughout all young people's educational journeys
- Work with employers across the local area to ensure that children and young people have a range of appropriate experiences of work
- Better integrate support, advice and guidance for parents with school based training so that interventions and approaches are fully understood and mutually supported

### **Strengthen Communication, Engagement and co-production with parents/carers, children and young people**

- Review the effectiveness and content of the Local Offer in partnership with young people and parent forums
- Review current communication mechanisms and networks so that a comprehensive communications plan can be developed
- Parent Carer Voice to continue to develop its membership with a focus on being wide ranging and representative of the wider population
- Ensure governance arrangements include proportionate representation from all key stakeholders

## **Preparing young people for adulthood**

- Further develop the range of opportunities and choice in relation to supported employment, work experience and volunteering to build the necessary skills to gain meaningful and rewarding jobs in adulthood
- Work with the Parent Carer Forum to review the range of accessible leisure opportunities available for young people with SEND in all localities
- Review the curriculum delivery in our schools to ensure PfA is fully supported and independent skill development is promoted for all
- Feedback from CYP, parents and carers utilised to improve access to health provision and continual service improvement

## **Achieving best value**

- Establish systems to regularly review service performance that is influenced by the lived experience of children and young people
- Communicate effectively so that our local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is widely contributed to, understood and influences coproduced developments to address areas for improvement
- Allocate all available capital funding to develop cost effective, high quality and local provision where it is needed most
- Develop further opportunities to jointly commission support and services where pooling or aligning budgets provides better cost effectiveness

Full details of all areas of proposed actions can be found in appendix 1.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

6.1 The financial implications to this proposed strategy are intended to create more opportunities for joint commissioning of services between partners and to ensure that resources available are used efficiently. It is anticipated that taking forward these proposals would improve support and outcomes without incurring additional financial pressure than would otherwise be expected from growth in demand.

## **7.0 Next steps**

7.1 The proposed North Yorkshire SEND strategy is intended as a shared strategy across education, health and social care and therefore across North Yorkshire County Council and health bodies. This means the discussion, engagement, agreement and approval routes need to include all relevant bodies.



7.2 To this end, these initial proposals were taken to the Children and Young People's Leadership Team (CYPLT) on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. The proposals are due to be taken to NYCC Management Board on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and then subsequently to CCGs covering North Yorkshire for comment and advice on next steps for each organisation.

7.3 Having completed a period of informal engagement, it is proposed that the following steps will be required:

- Public consultation starting 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- Formal approval of the strategy, including for the Council, approval by the Executive and the County Council February 2022
- Publication of the strategy. February/March 2022

## **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 It is recommended that Executive Members note the background to and initial proposals for a North Yorkshire SEND Strategy.

8.2 Executive Members are requested to approve moving to formal consultation

STUART CARLTON

CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

*Report prepared by Chris Reynolds, Head of SEND Strategic Planning and Resources*

# **Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2022-2025**

## **Introduction**

Our ambition and aim is that all children and young people with SEND have improved outcomes which will ensure they are well prepared for a happy, healthy and fulfilling adult life. Working in partnership with all stakeholders is of critical importance to ensure that children and young people have their needs identified early so that support can be more effective.

The North Yorkshire Local Area SEND Strategy [Insert Name] has been developed in partnership with, and the support of, North Yorkshire County Council, Local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and Parent Carer Voice. The strategy aims to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND across the county by identifying needs early, providing timely and effective support at all levels and being ambitious for their future.

Our shared principles are to:

- Be ambitious for all children
- Value the contribution of all
- Work together to drive improvement
- Listen and communicate effectively
- Strive for local solutions
- Invest in actions that will improve outcomes

This strategy will ensure that the Local Area works together, guided by agreed priorities, that have been developed in partnership with young people, parents/carers and professionals. This is important so that all agree a way forward that is clear and transparent, the views of all stakeholders have been heard and accountability is shared across partners.

## **SEND in North Yorkshire**

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced reforms in the way education, health and care work together with parents and young people to meet the needs of those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The specific requirements and duties of those statutory bodies are set out in the SEND Code of Practice, published in June 2014.

In recent years, following the introduction of the reforms, we have seen a rapid increase in the identification of SEND amongst children across the increased age range of 0-25. In North Yorkshire the rate of increase in identifying children with SEND is around 30% above the

national average and this means that the number of children and young people with EHCPs has more than doubled to around 3700, and the number of children identified at SEND Support accounts for 12.3% of the total primary school population and 10.44% of the total secondary population. The most rapid rise by primary need is Autism and followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

Although we remain slightly below the national average for children with EHCP's and at SEN Support we know that our significantly greater rate of growth has closed the gap between North Yorkshire and what is seen elsewhere. This is as a result of the focus that has been given to identifying needs sooner across the county.

Our forecasting moving forward suggests that growth will continue at a high rate and will likely result in the number of EHCPs in North Yorkshire reaching around 4100 by 2025. This will continue to make it important that we strive to deliver support efficiently and that greater capacity will be needed across universal, targeted and specialist support services and schools.

At present we continue have a greater proportion of children having their needs met within mainstream schools than is evident nationally. However, we also have more young people attending out of area schools and Independent Schools which we are keen to develop more local solutions for so that they can have needs met closer to home.

### **What are our ambitions for children and young people with SEND in North Yorkshire**

We want children and young people with SEND to receive appropriate levels of support to access suitable education, achieve their best outcomes so they are well prepared for a fulfilling, healthy adult life with opportunities for relationships, employment and participation in their community.

In North Yorkshire it is the intent of all key services across Education, Health and Social care to work in partnership with children, young people and their families to ensure this ambition is realised.

### **How will we help achieve these ambitions?**

We will:

- Be ambitious for all children and young people with SEND and for their families, making sure outcomes are improved and a real difference is made.
- Work together across health, education and care to ensure high quality provision and services which have been shaped from lived experiences of parents/carers and children and young people
- Ensure children and young people and parents/carers are fully involved in decision making at individual and strategic level

- Work collaboratively and embrace new ways of working to support innovative practice
- Be visible and communicate well with our families, communities and partners to make sure they are aware of the range of services and how to access advice and support
- Regularly review whether we are making a difference and be open to change

## **Governance - To be agreed and added**

### **What have stakeholders told us?**

Throughout the process of developing our future strategic priorities, the views of young people, parents/carers and professionals have been of central importance. In the summer 2020 we engaged with parents/carers, children and young people and our partner organisations through various forums to hear views about what was important for children with SEND, what has been working well and what needed further improvement in order to secure the best outcomes for children and young people. Some of the key aspects are outlined below:

#### **What is important for children and young people with SEND:**

- Being cared for and valued, having meaningful friendships and being valued by supporting adults
- Being healthy, resilient, having confidence and a sense of purpose
- Sharing a range of experiences, enjoying learning and achievements being celebrated
- Developing independence, being involved in decisions and having meaningful prospects of employment in adult life
- Being safe
- Services are proactive in meeting need with a focus on early intervention
- Smooth transitions into adulthood

#### **What is working well?**

- Joint working is improving and should remain a key focus of all
- Digital platforms have supported improved attendance and input at reviews and multi-agency meetings

- Post 16 pathways are improving
- Increasing recognition and understanding that 'all' have a contribution to make to the successful planning and outcomes for children with SEND
- Positive support via Locality SEND Hubs and SENCo networks
- Key staff and services provide high quality support

### **What needs further improvement?**

- Communication at strategic and operational levels
- Improved Local Offer
- More seamless exchange of information between services and families
- Greater range and availability of local provision
- Increased range of social opportunities for CYP with SEND
- Knowledge, training and understanding of staff to continue to support children within mainstream settings
- Timeliness and quality of assessment processes in particular agreed outcomes and annual reviews
- Early and proactive support needs to be a focus for all services
- Availability of respite support and appropriate care staff

## **What are the key priorities for North Yorkshire?**

We have listened to the views of young people, parents/carers and professionals who talked with us during various engagement sessions, analysed previous feedback to other developments specific to SEND and considered our performance data to identify a number of key priorities for further development over the next 3 years.

### **1) Early identification of need of Children and Young People with SEND**

#### **Why is this important?**

We know that early identification of need is crucial in making sure that children and young people receive the support they require to achieve their potential. We know that identification of SEN has increased significantly within our mainstream schools and settings in recent years, however we also recognise that there is more work to do. North Yorkshire remain below the national average and locally there is some inconsistencies across our localities. We also know that health notification processes need to be refreshed in light of changes to personnel and the organisation of the health service.

There remains concern after multiple periods of restrictions due to COVID 19 that mental health and wellbeing of some children and young people has been impacted. We need to ensure that all children, and in particular those with SEND, have systems in place to identify concerns early and provide support to meet needs.

### **What will success look like?**

- Schools and settings will be experienced and well trained in the identification of children and young people with SEND
- Identification in schools and settings is appropriate and accurate and quality of SEN Support plans is high
- Local confidence in the accuracy of Identification at SEN Support and EHCPs and the rationale for difference
- Increased health notifications will be received by the local authority enabling more families to receive help and advice early
- Children and Young People with SEND achieve well at every stage of their learning and progress into adulthood
- Services are of high quality and are influenced by the lived experience of children and young people
- All agencies working together in partnership with parents/carers and children and young people to ensure that early identification and assessments clearly identify needs and context of disability
- The graduated response in schools and settings is well applied and consistent across NY
- Parents and carers can access readily available information and guidance if they have concerns their child may have SEND
- SEN Support and EHC Plans are of high quality and accurately demonstrate how needs will be met and progress monitored across agencies

### **What do we plan to do?**

- Review and adapt the information and advice available for parents/carers and children and young people on what they can do if they think their child might have special educational needs and services to meet need at universal, targeted and specialist level.
- Further strengthen the training programme for education settings on the identification of SEND, screening tools and approaches to intervention
- Work with schools and settings to ensure identification of needs is accurate and consistent and that the graduated approach is responsive to meet need, is effective and makes a difference for children and young people
- To ensure schools and settings are fully aware of the support available from the SEND Hubs and other local authority services for children and young people
- Health partners will review the notification process to ensure the local authority is informed of children who may have SEND at the earliest stage. This will ensure advice and support can be provided and that data can be used to inform commissioning intentions into the future

- Review the statutory assessment process to ensure high quality advice and informed decision making in terms of Education, Health and Care Plans including refusal to assess and issue.
- Ensure that professionals across health, education and care have the necessary training and access to specialist advice to identify the needs of children and young people with SEND and how needs can be met
- Review the threshold of social care eligibility across children's social care to identify if criteria remain appropriate
- Pilot innovative approaches to autism assessments and reduction of waiting lists
- Continue to work with locality boards and key stakeholders to ensure that there is collective oversight of children and young people so that, in particular, those adversely affected by the COVID 19 pandemic have their needs identified and met

## **2) Working together to provide high quality services and provision at the right time to meet needs**

### **Why is this important?**

We want as many children and young people with SEND to receive the right support from health, education and care to meet their needs. High quality services are informed by lived experiences of those who have used them and kept under regular review to ensure continuous improvement and value for money.

We know that when children and young people, and their families, receive support to meet their needs at the right time for them it helps to improve individual outcomes for children as well as supporting cohesive families that are resilient and strong.

### **What does success look like?**

- Services at universal, targeted and specialist level are informed by lived experience, subject to thorough performance oversight and provide value for money
- Education provision across mainstream, targeted and specialist is of the right capacity and type to educate the majority of children and young people locally in North Yorkshire
- Services are delivered by well trained professionals who share high aspirations for children with SEND and their families
- There is a joint strategic needs assessment for SEND which is used proactively to identify areas for transformation and development
- Education, health and care are working together to transform services to address gaps and capacity issues
- Parents/carers and children and young people value services and this is reflected in their feedback
- There is clear and accessible information for parents and stakeholders on the services across their locality and wider region, criteria for access and referral information
- Differences of opinion between professionals and/or parents/carers are resolved swiftly and fairly

- Parents and young people feel they are appropriately engaged in the review and implementation of support at individual case level and that their views are well represented and acknowledged at a strategic level through young people and parent carer forums

### **What we plan to do?**

- Refresh the mapping of services at universal, targeted and specialist provision at locality, county and regional level and ensure this information is readily available on the local offer.
- Utilise the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to identify pinch points in services and develop innovative approaches to address demands
- Finalise the social care review of support for disabled children and their families and take forward the recommendations
- Audit professional development needs of the workforce supporting children and young people with SEND including schools and settings, social workers and practitioners and define a rolling programme of continuous professional development
- Review the pre and post diagnostic support for children and young people with autism and their families across the local authority, health and the voluntary sector
- Review the short breaks offer for families with disabled children and young people
- Review speech and language provision and capacity across North Yorkshire
- Finalise the capital plan for SEND education provision to increase capacity and improve the condition of the specialist estate
- Work with DfE to ensure Selby Free School is established
- To pilot, review and embed a multi agency quality assurance frameworks for SEND Services to ensure they evolve to reflect lived experiences of service users, value the contribution of parents and young people and perform highly
- Deliver all aspects of the Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 2018-23 to make sure there is sufficient capacity and range of local provision

### **3) *Improve Outcomes for children and young people with SEND***

#### **Why is this important?**

Our ambition is that children and young people with SEND have the best opportunity to live healthy and happy lives and are supported to achieve their aspirations into adulthood. Helping children and young people to achieve outcomes in education, health, employment, relationships and participation in society is central to this vision.



### **What will success look like?**

- Children and young people with SEND make good progress in terms of educational attainment at all stages of education and holistically achieve their goals
- Children with SEND, experience low levels of exclusion, part time tables and have high attendance
- Children and young people make positive choices in terms of health, relationships and participation in their community
- Children and young people have received the right support post COVID to catch up and maintain good mental health
- Children and young people with SEND make positive transitions into further education, higher education, employment and training
- Children and young people become increasingly independent, relevant to their needs, as they move towards adulthood

### **What we plan to do?**

- Continue to be ambitious for children and young people's educational attainment
- Monitor performance data through strategic forums such as Locality Boards and develop approaches where underperformance is identified
- Support schools and educational settings with high quality advice, guidance and training
- Better integrate support, advice and guidance for parents with education based training so that interventions and approaches are fully understood and mutually supported
- Establish locality based multi agency COVID recovery groups to oversee progress and action to help children catch up and maintain positive mental health
- Review early years provision across the county
- Ensure that promoting independence in preparation for adulthood remains a focus and is embedded throughout all young people's educational journeys
- Work with schools and settings to ensure children with SEND are school ready and achieve their potential at all key stages
- Review the quality of careers advice for children and young people with SEND to ensure it is of high quality and aspirational
- Work with employers across the local area to ensure that children and young people have a range of appropriate experiences of work including internships, apprenticeships and work placements
- Work with schools and settings to review the curriculum offer and approaches to PfA across the county to develop greater consistency

#### **4) Strengthen Communication, Engagement and co-production with Parents/Carers and children and young people**

##### **Why is this important?**

Good communication is important so that children and young people, parents and carers feel listened to, that decisions reached are understood and that transparency develops trust across all partners. Parents have told us that clear communication is of high importance so that they can contribute to, and understand, decision making, are able to plan effectively, understand the support that is available to them and can prepare children and young people for any changes that may occur over time.

At a countywide and individual level it is important that young people and parents and carers can find information easily, understand how they can positively contribute to strategic decisions and influence the future for their children with SEND in North Yorkshire. This clarity brings more opportunity for disagreements to be resolved sooner and for families to be better supported.

##### **What does success look like?**

- Children and young people are supported to positively contribute to decisions that affect their future
- Decisions are transparent at all levels and partnerships continue to strengthen
- Parent Carer forums are representative of the general population of parents and carers of children with SEND
- Development of services is done in partnership considering all stakeholders views from design through to implementation
- Governance arrangements for the delivery of this strategy and subsequent action plans have oversight from all stakeholders and progress is reported on regularly
- Appropriate services commissioned as dictated by the needs of the CYP across NY as identified by SEND data
- Information sharing agreements are in place as appropriate for timely communication between all parties
- It is evident that input from parents and young people is central to the support in place for children and young people through SEN Support Plans and EHCPs
- Parental satisfaction and confidence is high
- The Local Offer is up to date with information that is easy to find and easily understood
- Children, young people, parents and carers feel well informed

##### **What we plan to do?**

- Review the effectiveness and content of the Local Offer in partnership with young people and parent forums

- Review current communication mechanisms and networks so that a comprehensive communications plan can be developed that maintains the aspects that are currently working well and improves information sharing where gaps are identified
- Parent Carer Voice are supported to continue to develop its membership with a focus on being wide ranging and representative of the wider population
- Continue to develop performance management systems that clearly evidence young person and parent voice has been heard, valued and responded to
- Review current young people's engagement and participation at all levels and develop a comprehensive plan to further improve this area
- Development of ways to provide feedback for children and young people with nonverbal communication to ensure the views of the child are recognised and acted upon as part of the 'You said, We did' action plan
- Parent Carer Voice to raise feedback from parents with the LA and/or NHS utilising a 'You said, We did' approach
- Develop a pledge with all stakeholders, and in particular parents and children and young people, that sets out publicly the intention of all partners to work together and further embed co-production
- Ensure governance arrangements include proportionate representation from all key stakeholders

## 5) **Preparing young people for adulthood**

### **Why is this important**

Developing independence and preparing for adulthood is important to young people and their families. Done well and at the earliest stages it allows children and young people to develop skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. Through engagement it was clear from feedback that it is important for children and young people to feel they make a valuable contribution in their communities, that their talents and skills are recognised and supported and that this in turn develops self-esteem and supports them in maintaining high aspirations.

In order that children and young people can truly fulfil their potential it is important that they have a range of opportunities and experiences that build towards being as independent as they are able, provides routes to employment, positive relationships and good health.

### **What does success look like?**

- Children and young people, those that care for them and those that provide support, will place importance on, and have high aspirations for developing independence throughout their lives
- More children with SEND will access a wider range of experiences including in the workplace, community and leisure activities
- Numbers of young people in employment, education and training will continue to improve

- Young people, and their families, will be confident in key transitions and the opportunities that exists to live with a greater degree of independence
- Developing independent skills and preparing for adulthood will be recognised by all professionals and parents at all educational phases with clear outcomes within SEN Support Plans and EHCPs evidenced, tracked and achieved
- Children and young people have access to more social and community based activities alongside all other children and young people
- Transition points are planned and well managed by all that support young people

#### **What we plan to do?**

- Further develop the range of opportunities and choice in relation to supported employment, work experience and volunteering to build the necessary skills to gain meaningful and rewarding jobs in adulthood
- Work with the Parent Carer Forum to review the range of accessible leisure opportunities available for young people with SEND in all localities
- Review the educational curriculum delivery across the county to ensure PfA is fully supported and independent skill development is promoted for all children with SEND
- Further develop strategic partnerships with employers and enterprise forums to ensure the skills and talents of young people with SEND are promoted and opportunities are developed
- Feedback from CYP, parents and carers utilised to improve access to health provision and continual service improvement

### **6) Achieving best value**

#### **Why is this important?**

The Local Authority and the National Health Service have a duty to meet the assessed needs of all children with SEND in North Yorkshire. Alongside this duty is an expectation that statutory bodies utilise public finances efficiently and effectively. High Needs Block funding is a finite resource allocated to the Local Authority by the Department for Education to ensure the LA can discharge its duty to provide support to young people with SEND. It is important that all stakeholders understand the financial parameters at the disposal of the LA to meet need and that collectively it is a priority to direct it to where it will have best effect for all children. Therefore it is important that all stakeholders work together to manage these budgets by ensuring that services are efficient, appropriate and cost effective and that decision making ensures that assessed need is met.

#### **What does success look like?**

- All stakeholders understand the available resources that are at the disposal of statutory bodies to implement quality services and support for children and young people
- There is a collective understanding and responsibility amongst stakeholders to ensure resources are directed to where they are needed most so that all families and children can be provided with the support they need
- Joint commissioning arrangements are in place, are informed by thorough review of strategic needs and are effective in meeting the personalised needs of children
- Services are efficient, coordinated and effective in meeting the needs of children and young people
- Young people and parents have choice and control of how their needs are met
- Joint strategic needs assessment will be reviewed regularly and result in tangible difference in the way in which service for children are developed
- Universal, targeted and specialist services are mapped and parents are aware of provision across the county and neighbouring areas

#### **What we plan to do?**

- Establish systems to regularly review service performance that is influenced by the lived experience of children and young people
- Communicate effectively so that our local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is widely contributed to, understood and influences coproduced developments to address areas for improvement
- Allocate all available capital funding to develop cost effective, high quality and local provision where it is needed most
- Develop further opportunities to jointly commission support and services where pooling or aligning budgets provides better cost effectiveness
- Waiting lists for health services to be monitored and responded to through utilising innovation with consideration for the best outcomes for CYP and families

**Decision:** Management Board to consider the content of the strategic priorities developed from informal engagement

Management Board to approve progressing to seek approval for formal consultation and finalising the SEND Strategy

## Equality impact assessment (EIA) form: evidencing paying due regard to protected characteristics

(Form updated May 2015)

### Local Area SEND Strategy 2022-2025

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please contact the Communications Unit on 01609 53 2013 or email [communications@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northyorks.gov.uk).



যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھیے۔

**Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are public documents. EIAs accompanying reports going to County Councillors for decisions are published with the committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting. To help people to find completed EIAs we also publish them in the Equality and Diversity section of our website. This will help people to see for themselves how we have paid due regard in order to meet statutory requirements.**

Name of Directorate and Service Area	Children and Young People's Service – NYCC Inclusion Service
Lead Officer and contact details	Jane Le Sage - Assistant Director – Inclusion
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Chris Reynolds Head of SEND Strategic Planning and Resources
How will you pay due regard? e.g. working group, individual officer	This project has been governed through a strategic Project Board and monitored through Children and Young People's Leadership Team.  All changes are going through the formal public consultation process and the EIA will be reviewed and finalised depending on the outcome of the consultation. Following this any changes to be made to SEND provision or services will be signed off by the Council's Executive in February 2022.

When did the due regard process start?	Project started March 2021 with ongoing informal engagement to July 2021. Public consultation commences 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
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**Section 1. Please describe briefly what this EIA is about.** (e.g. are you starting a new service, changing how you do something, stopping doing something?)

The local authority has a statutory responsibility, under the Children and Families Act 2014, to keep its special educational provision under review, to ensure sufficiency in provision and services to meet the needs of children and young people with Special Education Needs/Disabilities (SEND), working with parents/carers, young people and providers.

This review identified the need for a county wide multi stakeholder strategy for North Yorkshire. In this document we refer to this as the Local Area SEND Strategy.

This EIA considers the impact of the implementation of actions arising from the proposals which are being put forward in the Local Area Strategy

The overarching changes which NYCC is intending to go out to public consultation on is in relation to:

- **6 key Strategic priorities developed for public feedback and service information and knowledge**
- **How these priorities will support partnership working and;**
- **Our shared vision and values**

**Section 2. Why is this being proposed? What are the aims? What does the authority hope to achieve by it?** (e.g. to save money, meet increased demand, do things in a better way.)

The proposals put forward are to ensure that the local authority, and partners, can achieve its statutory responsibilities in relation to provision for children and young people with SEND.

The changes aim to

- Ensure that children and young people with SEND have the best education possible and that as many as possible are educated within North Yorkshire;
- Ensure that North Yorkshire has a shared vision and strategic direction for the development and implementation of services and support;
- Ensure that available funding is used in the most efficient and effective way to meet children's needs.

The authority hopes to achieve;

- Improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND;
- The ability to meet increased demand for SEND provision;
- Increased numbers of young people being educated in North Yorkshire.

**Section 3. What will change? What will be different for customers and/or staff?**

With regard to customers it is anticipated that any impact arising from the development of a new strategy will be mitigated by achieving better outcomes for individual young people with SEND.

Proposals will also enable the local area to identify training needs and provide peer support and challenge to better meet the needs of young people. Local approaches to governance would also enable parent/carer representation to ensure customer perspectives to be considered in relation to SEND.

The proposed section on achieving best value will ensure funding is allocated and used as effectively as possible. Proposed changes will ensure SEND services and provision is delivered within the available resources.

The proposal outlines 6 key priorities, what success would look like and measures to achieve these:

- Early identification of need of Children and Young People with SEND
- Working together to provide high quality services and provision at the right time
- Improve Outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- Strengthen Communication, Engagement and co-production with parents/carers, children and young people
- Preparing young people for adulthood
- Achieving best value

Key focus will be on working coherently with partners to enable better access to support. Improved communication so that parents and young people know where to go for help and developing the skills of young people so they can lead independent and healthy lives into adulthood.

**Section 4. Involvement and consultation** (What involvement and consultation has been done regarding the proposal and what are the results? What consultation will be needed and how will it be done?)

Involvement and consultation has been undertaken through a phase of informal engagement, followed by a proposed formal consultation process.

**Development of proposals June-July 2021:**

Workshops dedicated to understanding the perspective of young people and parent/carers were undertaken by NY Voice and the Council for Disabled Children. This was with the intention of enabling parents/carers and professionals to comment on what was working well to enable children with SEND to achieve better outcomes and what required further improvement.

**Key themes from this engagement were:**

**What is important for children and young people with SEND:**

Being cared for and valued, having meaningful friendships and being valued by supporting adults

Being healthy, resilient, having confidence and a sense of purpose

Sharing a range of experiences, enjoying learning and achievements being celebrated

Developing independence, being involved in decisions and having meaningful prospects of employment in adult life

Being safe

Services are proactive in meeting need with a focus on early intervention

Smooth transitions into adulthood

**What is working well?**

Joint working is improving and should remain a key focus of all

Digital platforms have supported improved attendance and input at reviews and multi-agency meetings

Post 16 pathways are improving



Increasing recognition and understanding that 'all' have a contribution to make to the successful planning and outcomes for children with SEND  
 Positive support via Locality SEND Hubs and SENCo networks  
 Key staff and services provide high quality support

**What needs further improvement?**

Communication at strategic and operational levels  
 Improved Local Offer  
 More seamless exchange of information between services and families  
 Greater range and availability of local provision  
 Increased range of social opportunities for CYP with SEND  
 Knowledge, training and understanding of staff to continue to support children within mainstream settings  
 Timeliness and quality of assessment processes in particular agreed outcomes and annual reviews  
 Early and proactive support needs to be a focus for all services  
 Availability of respite support and appropriate care staff

**Informal engagement – June 2021-July 2021**

Informal engagement was undertaken with support from an Independent body. The Council for Disabled Children

**Proposed Formal consultation – 13<sup>th</sup> October for 7 weeks**

- If Executive Members approve the proposals for consultation a public consultation is scheduled to take place from 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for 7 weeks. An online survey will be available on the NYCC website with paper copies made available for those who require this. Easy Read versions can also be made available. Public engagement events will be via online platforms.
- During this time we will also be using existing communication methods such as promoting the consultation and events through the council's e-red bag to schools, our Local Offer, PCV, our NYCC website, and corporate Facebook and Twitter accounts.

**Section 5. What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?**

Please explain briefly why this will be the result.

One key priority is to achieve best value. This will be done through assessing, in partnership, where there are efficiencies or better ways of working that will improve outcomes whilst working within the parameters of set budget allocations.

<b>Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Make things better</b>	<b>Make things worse</b>	<b>Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</b>
Age		✓		<b>Customer:</b>

	✓			<p>Implementation of this strategy will ensure that communication is more effective, access to support is better understood and easier and that parents and young people are more involved in the strategic and operational decision made.</p> <p><b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.</p>
Disability		✓		<p><b>Customer:</b> For young people with a disability and special educational needs. A strengthened offer of provision which will aim to increase the number of children and young people educated in North Yorkshire and improved outcomes.</p> <p>Further work to identify specific impacts will be undertaken as the project progresses.</p> <p><b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.</p>
Sex (Gender)	✓			<p><b>Customer:</b> The current services are not targeted at or restricted to those of specific genders. This will remain the case for any new service arising from this project</p> <p><b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.</p>
Race	✓			<p><b>Customer:</b></p>

	✓			It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on specific ethnic groups as a result of the project. <b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.
Gender reassignment	✓			<b>Customer:</b> It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact in relation to gender reassignment as a result of the project. <b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.
Sexual orientation	✓			<b>Customer:</b> It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact in relation to sexual orientation as a result of the project. <b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.
Religion or belief	✓			<b>Customer:</b> It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on specific religious groups or beliefs as a result of the project. <b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.
Pregnancy or maternity	✓			<b>Customer:</b> It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact as a result of the project. <b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.
Marriage or civil partnership	✓			<b>Customer:</b> It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact as a result of the project. <b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.

Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
..live in a rural area?	✓			<b>Customer:</b> At this early stage it is not possible to identify specific impacts on people who use the services, carers or staff, as proposals are still being formulated. <b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.

	✓			
...have a low income?	✓			<b>Customer:</b> No identified impact.
	✓			<b>Staff:</b> No identified impact.

**Section 8. Will the proposal affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g. older women or young gay men) State what you think the effect may be and why, providing evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.**

It is anticipated any changes to the current services will impact more on the following: Young people with special educational needs and disabilities

These groups are more likely to find change challenging if changes are made to current services they will need support to make the transition.

Further work will be undertaken, once proposals have been through the decision making process.

<b>Section 9. Next steps to address the anticipated impact. Select one of the following options and explain why this has been chosen. (Remember: we have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us)</b>	<b>Tick option chosen</b>
<b>1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal.</b> There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.	✓
<b>2. Adverse impact - adjust the proposal</b> - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We will change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, or we will achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people.	
<b>3. Adverse impact - continue the proposal</b> - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We cannot change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, nor can we achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people. (There must be compelling reasons for continuing with proposals which will have the most adverse impacts. Get advice from Legal Services)	
<b>4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal</b> – The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.	
<b>Explanation of why option has been chosen.</b> (Include any advice given by Legal Services.)	
Actual impact will not be known until consultation and decision on proposals is made. During the consultation and decision making process there will be ongoing consideration to any equality impacts that arise, and how these can be mitigated.	

**Section 10. If the proposal is to be implemented how will you find out how it is really affecting people? (How will you monitor and review the changes?)**

A decision on monitoring and review requirements will be taken once a decision on proposals is made as clear and measurable outcomes to be monitored will be agreed through consultation.

If proposals are approved we will monitor and review via:

- A monthly SEND Programme Board to discuss issues, resources and provide direction and resolution.
- Reviews through a the established county wide multi-disciplinary 0-25 SEND strategic partnership
- An annual review of the SEND Strategy and subsequent action plans to understand the impact on provision, finances, the service and lessons learned. This review will also monitor progress toward achieving the agreed outcomes, and include feedback from professionals and service users on the success of the new working arrangements. The plan will be amended accordingly.

**Section 11. Action plan.** List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA, including post implementation review to find out how the outcomes have been achieved in practice and what impacts there have actually been on people with protected characteristics.

Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements
Formal consultation	Jane Le Sage	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2021		Through the SEND Programme Board.
Publication of Local Area Strategy	Jane Le Sage	February 2022		Through the SEND Programme Board.
Review of Startegy	Jane Le Sage	Feb 2023		Through the SEND Programme Board.

**Section 12. Summary** Summarise the findings of your EIA, including impacts, recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

This section will be updated during and following consultation to ensure any unidentified impacts can be considered.

### Section 13. Sign off section

This full EIA was completed by:

**Name: Chris Reynolds**

**Job title: Head of SEND Startegic Planning and Resources**

**Directorate: Children and Young People's Service**

**Signature: C Reynolds**

**Completion date: 23/09/21**

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):**

J Le Sage

**Date: To be added**