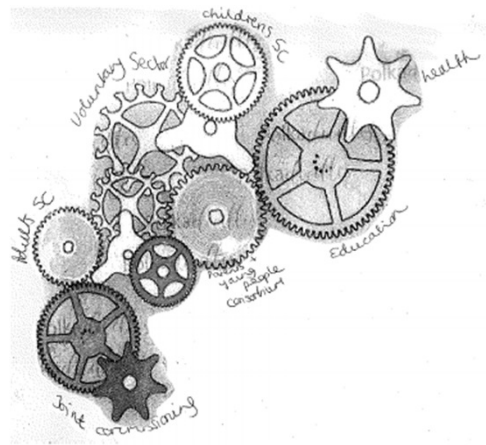
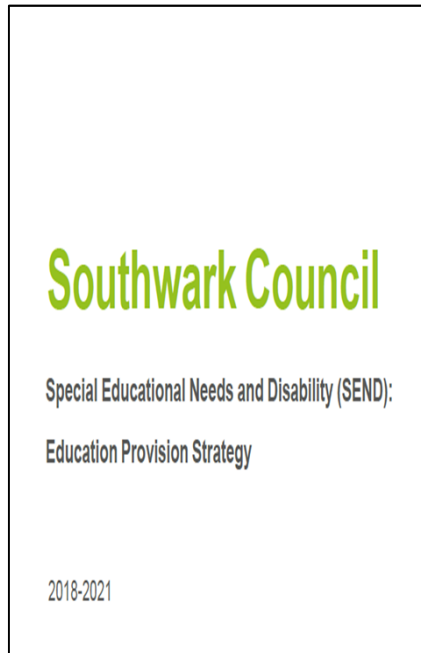


SEN update...the big picture



Our Strategic Vision for SEND in Southwark



Joint local area SEND inspection in Southwark

Between 25 June 2018 and 29 June 2018, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Southwark to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The inspection was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted, with a team of inspectors including an Ofsted Inspector and a children's services inspector from the CQC.

Inspectors spoke with children and young people who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, parents and carers, and local authority and National Health Service (NHS) officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the special educational needs reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

This letter outlines our findings from the inspection, including some areas of strengths and areas for further improvement.

SEN update....a vision

01 | Case for Change

The significant changes in education, health and social care over the past five years have led to Southwark Council and NHS Southwark CCG to change practices and consider how we improve services that support children and young people with SEND.

We spend an estimated £65 million on SEND in any one year and have a wide range of services which deliver universal and targeted services accessed by children and young people across the borough – but we need to understand if we are delivering the right services in the right way to provide good quality services and value for money.

We have a higher than national average of children and young people with SEND – 20% of our children and young people (0-25) have SEND. All of whom require low, medium or high levels of support or intervention from our organisations within the financial envelope.

In an environment which is continually changing, we need to be able to respond to major national policy change whilst demonstrating the council's strong commitment to supporting those with SEND and providing equality of opportunity.

We constantly seek opportunities for more joined up working to improve integration of services across our area – evidence suggests that integrated services can provide better outcomes for our population.

05 | key priorities



0-25 All age Pathway

Developing an all age disability service realises our common vision for supporting children and young people to meet their potential and safely lead independent lives. We want individuals to experience a seamless, more consistent and efficient transition through childhood to adulthood. This work includes a full review of our short breaks offer throughout 2018. Promoting awareness of personal budgets and developing the Local Offer to ensure that the right services are available locally for children, young people and parents.



Preparing for Adulthood

Preparing for Adulthood is a program of work which coordinates and communicates the development of the four key pathways for young people with SEND including: Employment, Friends, Relationship and Community, Independent Living, and Good Health.

This is a person and family centred approach, enabling us to provide universal services that are inclusive, with equal opportunities and genuine choice for everybody – all means all.



Specialist Provision

Building on the outstanding specialist provision in Southwark which enables more young people with SEND to learn and achieve within Southwark, lessening the need for excessive travel to out of borough placements. This project includes a collaborative successful bid with Spa School to open a new special free school opening in 2019. Further projects include Southwark SEND College for learners with severe and complex learning needs 19-25.



Care Leavers

We know that many of our care leavers have SEND with 26% having an EHCP. The Council is working with Catch 22 to form a partnership to significantly improve outcomes and life chances for care leavers. The high prevalence of SEND in careleavers suggests reasonable adjustments for newly designed services is crucial to their success, and this puts the careleavers local offer firmly on the SEND agenda for the council.

SEN update....a strategy

There are five improvement priorities that will guide our SEND work between 2018 -2021.



SEN update....priorities

1. Put children and young people with SEND and their families at the centre of all that we do (the golden thread).
2. Offer more opportunities for children and young people with Complex Learning Needs including Autism.
3. Provide timely high quality help and provision for babies and young children with complex needs in all early years settings - nurseries and childminders.
4. Develop greater confidence skills and competencies in mainstream schools to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.
5. Build a model of further educational which enables more young people with SEND to learn and grow to adulthood in Southwark.

SEN update....



- The local area is inclusive. There is a range of initiatives that aim to include more families, children and young people in society, for example schemes to help identify and provide support for any child or young person arriving in the local area who may have any SEN and/or disabilities. Leaders make effective use of the fair access panel which reintegrates young people into education and/or helps to prevent them being excluded from school. Other projects such as parenting programmes support families in staying together, helping parents to manage their children's needs.
- Pupils of different ages say that they know how to stay safe in the local area, including in their travel to and from school and when online. They also say that they feel welcome in the local area, when accessing leisure activities or visiting health professionals, for example.
- The support, information and advice service (SIAS) is provided in-house by Southwark local authority. It is highly effective. It is particularly valued by families and young people. Collectively, parents and young people are full of praise for the service's accessibility, the continuity of care that they receive, and the quality of advice, guidance and representation that they are given.

SEN update....



- The educational outcomes achieved at the end of all key stages for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities compare favourably with those of other pupils nationally. Leaders know where the inconsistencies are and challenge schools effectively to improve outcomes. Evidence of the challenge and support given to schools can be seen, for example in improved reading and mathematics outcomes in targeted primary schools.
- Rates of fixed-term exclusions for pupils who have EHC plans have declined sharply over the last two years. Rates of exclusions in secondary schools are low when compared with other local areas. Attendance for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities is close to the national average for other pupils.

Even better if....



- One issue that has already been identified by the local area is the need to remove inconsistencies in identification of SEN and/or disabilities in the early years, particularly within private nurseries. This can lead to some children not receiving the early help that they might need. Leaders have put in place an inclusion fund that schools or nurseries can apply to in order to receive funding to support the identification and meeting of children's needs.
- Parents do not consistently feel listened to. Some cannot see how their views are informing decision making in the local area, for example in commissioning services to improve the local offer and meet their children's needs. Although leaders gather the views of parents and young people in different ways, they acknowledge the need to combine the feedback that they receive in order to gain a more in-depth overview. They also recognise the need to have more conversations with parents.
- Leaders recognise that the local area's main development need is for more options for education provision for young people aged 16 to 25. The number of young people in paid employment and assisted living placements within the local area is not as high as it could be.