

STOCKPORT SEND STRATEGY 2024-27

Report of: Geraldine Gerrard Interim Strategic Lead for SEND, Inclusion and Access on behalf of the SEND Board (Local Area Partnership for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Stockport SEND Strategy 2024-2027 outlines the approach and priorities for supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Stockport. It emphasises collaboration, inclusion, and community to improve outcomes for children, young people, and their families. The strategy highlights the need to maximise resources and align to areas of greatest need.

The strategy aims to support children and young people with SEND to achieve their potential and for families to thrive, focusing on collaboration across education, health, and care services. It supports the delivery of our vision.

“Our vision is for all children and young people with SEND to have the best start in life. We want all children and young people to be happy, prepared for adulthood and able to achieve their goals. We want families to feel supported, confident, resilient and connected to their community”

Following the SEND Inspection of 2018, we developed the SEND Strategy 2020-2023 to underpin the delivery of the Written Statement of Action. After the 2023 SEND revisit, the written statement of action was signed off with an accelerated progress plan. Formal monitoring of the accelerated progress plan by the CQC and Ofsted ended at the end of October but regular meetings with the DfE continues as we share our improvements of services to support children and young people with SEND.

The SEND Strategy 2024-2027 is a refresh of the previous strategy, co-produced between Stockport Council, NHS GM Stockport and SEND Partners, including but not limited to SEND Parent Carer Forum. The strategy contributes to the delivery of the Children and Young People Plan 2024-2027 which identifies seven Big Ambitions. The SEND Strategy delivers Ambition 4 but also works towards the other 6 Ambitions.

Ambition 4: *Children and families with SEND receive the best possible support at the right time to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved*

Data from the SEND JSNA and the Investment Position Statement alongside a review of the previous plan and engagement with parents, carers, young people and representatives of the workforce supported the identification of the key areas for prioritisation for the next 3 years. The five named priorities for SEND Board focus are our three areas of highest need. These are:

1. **Social Emotional Mental Health**
2. **Autism and Neurodiversity**
3. **Speech Language and Communication Needs**

In addition, there are two cross cutting themes applicable to all education, health and care services:

4. **Timelines of Assessment and Diagnosis** and ensure those that are waiting are 'waiting well', underpinned by clear planned communication.
5. Developing and promoting our early help ambition of **Success at SEN Support** and the early years **Early Help Assessment** to enable the effective management of need at the earliest point and impact on the **Sustainability of Education, Health and Care Services**.

The Strategy identifies four partnership sub-groups reporting directly to the Board. These are

- Co-Production, Communication and Engagement;
- Quality Performance and Measuring Impact;
- Joint Commissioning and Integrated Working; and
- Workforce Development & Support for Carers.

In addition, there are other existing Partnerships groups delivering on SEND priorities including School Place Planning Board, and the sub-groups to the One Health and Care Board including All Age Autism Board; CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership; and the Neighbourhood and Prevention Programme. Links are also being made to the Youth Justice Board to ensure Children and young people with SEND in youth custody receive appropriate education and support.

Key Performance Indicators have been identified to measure impact of the delivery of the plan which can be publicly accessed through the SEND Scorecard.

2. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to: endorse the strategy and the 5 priority areas which will be overseen by the SEND Board at their bi-monthly meeting.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none