



7 October 2024

Agenda Item: 6

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
AND THE CHIEF NURSE, NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
INTEGRATED CARE BOARD**

**PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCES AND
OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES - UPDATE**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update to Committee on the progress made by the Nottinghamshire local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.

Information

2. Progress reports were presented to Committee on 16 October 2023, 5 February 2024, 15 April 2024 and 15 July 2024, outlining the activity of the Nottinghamshire Local Area Partnership to deliver the joint SEND Improvement Plan, which was developed in response to the [findings](#) of the Ofsted/CQC local area SEND inspection that took place in January/February 2023.
3. 'Local area partnership' refers to those in education, health and care who are responsible for the strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements for children and young people with SEND who live in a local area. This therefore includes the local authority and integrated care board (ICB), as well as wider partners, such as local health and education providers.
4. Per the SEND Improvement Plan, there are six key outcomes that the Nottinghamshire Local Area Partnership is seeking to achieve, split across two 'Areas for Priority Action':
 - a. *Area for Priority Action 1 (APA1): Leaders, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board and education, health and care providers should cooperate to urgently identify, assess and provide for the needs of children and young people with SEND. This includes assessment of needs, timely issuing of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and holistic oversight of these plans through annual reviews.*
 - Outcome 1: Children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire have their needs identified and assessed in a timely way through statutory processes.

- Outcome 2: Ensure our children and young people with SEND receive robust and consistent support through their EHC Plans, which have the right input, at the right time and from the right place.
 - Outcome 3: Children and young people with additional needs, but without an EHC Plan, have their needs identified, met, and monitored effectively.
- b. *Area for Priority Action 2 (APA2): Leaders, including commissioners and providers, should act urgently to identify and address the delays and gaps in access to some health services, particularly speech and language therapy, neurodevelopmental pathways and equipment services. They should also ensure that they use available performance data to identify where gaps exist and whether actions taken to address these are effective.*
- Outcome 4: The needs of children and families with SEND are clearly understood so that immediate and long-term changes to health service provision can be made through effective joint commissioning.
 - Outcome 5: Children and young people receive timely assessment and treatment offer for assessment by the Neurodevelopmental Support Team Service (NST) (formerly known as the Neurodevelopmental Behaviour Service).
 - Outcome 6: Children, young people and families with SEND experience services that are easy to navigate, free from duplication and are adaptive to their needs.
5. These outcomes are underpinned by additional requirements for the Partnership to ensure there is a stronger focus on embedding data, quality assurance, co-production and shared leadership and governance across all SEND improvement activity.

Local Area SEND Inspections

6. As outlined in Part 3 of the [area SEND inspection framework](#), local areas judged to have widespread and/or systemic concerns following a full inspection will receive a monitoring inspection by Ofsted and the CQC around 18 months after the publication of the initial inspection outcome letter. For Nottinghamshire, this was anticipated to be during the second half of the Autumn Term. However, following an [announcement](#) by Ofsted on 3 September 2024, regulators are undertaking a review of the current area SEND inspection framework and will therefore be pausing all monitoring inspections until this review has been completed. Nottinghamshire can expect to meet with regulators in the autumn term, where further guidance on plans for monitoring inspections can be expected. A full reinspection will still be due within 3 years, anticipated to take place in early 2026.
7. The local area partnership remains committed to timely improvement and robust inspection readiness, in spite of Ofsted's recent announcement. A range of activity has been underway to prepare for inspection, including:
- The development of a self-evaluation framework, enabling the partnership to assess both the achievements and ongoing areas of improvement;
 - Routine scrutiny and review of progress against each Outcome across APA1 and APA2, ensuring there is a clear narrative across the Partnership of the improvement journey to date;
 - The ongoing collation of evidence, demonstrating the progress made against each domain of the Priority Action Plan;

- Evaluation processes have been undertaken for both the SEND Partnership Improvement Board and SEND Executive Leadership Group, to understand their effectiveness and opportunities to strengthen their governance arrangements. There is an ambition to extend this process further to the Partnership Assurance and Improvement Group (PAIG);
- A focussed 'inspection readiness' session was held by representatives of the local area partnership on 14 August 2024, facilitated by the Independent Chair of the SEND Partnership Improvement Board;
- The Department for Education and NHS England (NHSE) led on a local area 'Deep Dive' on 06 September 2024, enabling the partnership to prepare for scrutiny conversations regarding progress to date. The DfE and NHSE will provide written feedback, due in late September, to support inspection readiness and ongoing improvement.

SEND Stocktake

8. As part of routine assurance and oversight processes, the DfE and NHSE undertook a six-monthly Stocktake with the Partnership on 07 June 2024, which involved a strategic review of progress and assessment of the partnership's governance arrangements. Stocktake feedback was received on 2 July 2024:
 - a) Improvements in the governance structures and programme reporting has enabled greater monitoring, oversight and evidence of trajectory of progress across the local area SEND system;
 - b) Leaders have committed to additional investment to support improvements to education, health and care plan (EHCP) assessment process. More children and young people are now receiving EHCP within 20 weeks despite an increase in the number of requests;
 - c) The local area partnership are utilising data more efficiently to understand local context and performance, in order to identify where gaps exist and whether actions taken to address these are effective. Leaders can demonstrate improvements with waiting times for Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and some Neurodevelopmental and Community Paediatrician services;
 - d) Co-production continues to improve with collaborative working between leaders and the Parent Carer Forum, in addition to the new SEND parent carer reference group, Young Pioneer's links and engagement events attended by leaders and local families. This has enabled stronger co-production to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND;
 - e) There is further work for the Partnership to undertake in relation to: the partnership's SEND communication and engagement strategy; recovery plans for Speech and Language Therapy; timeliness and quality assurance process of annual reviews; consolidation of learning by the Partnership ahead of future inspections.

Partnership Progress To Date

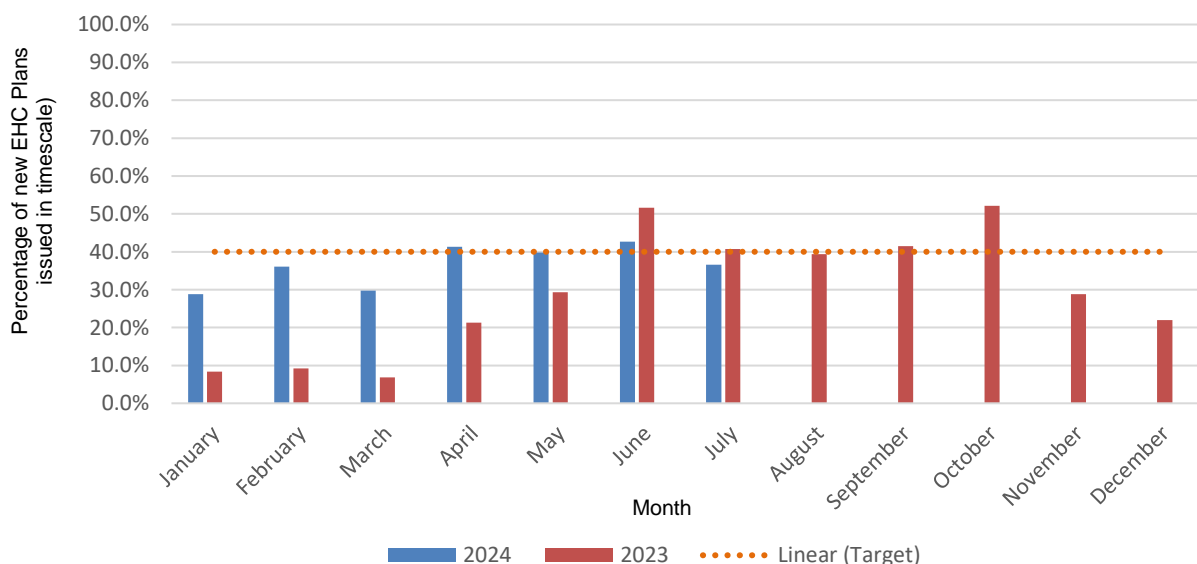
Outcome 1 (APA1): Children and Young People with SEND in Nottinghamshire have their needs identified and assessed in a timely way through statutory processes

9. The demand for statutory Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessments continues to increase, both locally and nationally.

- a. **Nottinghamshire:** Between January-July 2024, 1,081 requests for an EHC assessment were received, which is 21.2% higher than the 892 requests received between January-July 2023.
 - b. **National:** there was a 20.8% increase in the number of initial requests for an EHC plan during 2023, compared to 2022. This aligns with the 11.4% increase in the number of children and young people with an EHC Plan in January 2024 compared to 2023, with annual increases reported nationally since 2014.
10. The proportion of new Education, Health and Care Plans issued within statutory timescales (20 weeks) continues to increase in Nottinghamshire, in line with the national picture:
- a. **Nottinghamshire:**
 - i. New EHC plans issued in timescale during a calendar year has improved significantly in the first 7 months of 2024 compared to 2023, up from 21.23% from January-July 2023 to 35.97% from January-July 2024. This falls just short of Nottinghamshire’s aim to issue 40% of new EHCPs on time by July 2024.
 - ii. By comparison, Nottinghamshire issued just 4.5% of new EHCPs within 20 weeks during 2022.

Figure 1: Percentage of new EHC Plans issues in timescale in Nottinghamshire (excluding exceptions) – 2023 and 2024 (year-to-date)

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
2024	28.8%	36.1%	29.7%	41.3%	39.8%	42.7%	36.6%						36.0%
2023	8.4%	9.2%	6.8%	21.3%	29.3%	51.6%	40.7%	39.4%	41.5%	52.1%	28.8%	22.0%	24.8%



- b. **National:** in 2023, 50.3% of new EHC plans were issued within 20 weeks. This is an increase compared to 2022 when the figure was 49.2%.
11. In turn, our statutory SEND services have issued an additional 288 EHCPs (63.0% increase) between January-July 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. This has been supported by the additional, temporary capacity within services to enable more plans to be issued.

12. We are completing more assessments, more quickly and waiting times have reduced. Performance and output have increased significantly. However, there is further work to do to manage the rising demand and continue to strengthen service performance. Activity is underway to address this:
- a. Support from SEND sector-specialists, providing additional leadership around SEND improvement for a 6-month period. Nationally recognised SEND consultants commenced in August 2024 to review internal processes, undertake thematic analysis, review the quality of plans and assess the capacity of the service;
 - b. Undertaking a full-service review of statutory SEND services from Quarter 2 2024/25, seeking to embed a more strengths-based relational approach, with a greater focus on providing the right support at the right time for children. A full review of the service model is anticipated to enable better organisational resilience, thus improving our ability to meet changes in demand and improve families' experience (reduced complaints and tribunal activity and improved satisfaction ratings). This review includes working closely with health provider colleagues, who contribute to the EHCP process;
 - c. Progressing an Educational Psychology Service (EPS) contract extension with Skylakes until the end of this financial year (31 March 2025). A longer-term contract from April 2025 onwards is also being explored in conjunction with the forecasted demand for assessments and the optimum acceptable waiting time. This extension will support the timeliness of EHC needs assessments, providing additional capacity for the Educational Psychology Service to meet rising demand;
 - d. Improving understanding, public confidence and application of the 'graduated approach', primarily in education settings. The graduated approach seeks to ensure families, children and young people receive the right support at the right time prior to applying for an EHC assessment;
 - e. Ensuring that local authority decision-making as part of the EHCP process is more effective.

Outcome 2 (APA1): Ensure our children and young people with SEND receive robust and consistent support through their EHC Plans, which have the right input, at the right time and from the right place

13. Following EHC needs assessment - and where the establishment of an EHC plan has been deemed appropriate - Annual Reviews are completed to ensure the children and young people continue to have the correct provision in place.
14. 'Right Input, Right Place': Annual Reviews are centred around the child or young person and depend on multiple agencies interacting effectively. Improvement activity has been underway to strengthen relationships and understanding across partners who contribute to effective Annual Reviews.
- a. Plans for improvements to local quality assurance testing, including activity to review the quality of plan writing and training requirements, are underway. Changes to the NCC sample selection and actions to support embedding the framework more widely across health are also being considered.
15. 'Right Time': Annual Review performance:

- a) Over the last six years the number of EHCPs that the Local Authority maintains has increased significantly. As the number of EHCPs grow, so therefore does the number of Annual Reviews.

Figure 2: Active EHC Plans and Active EHC Plans rate per 10,000 (0-25 population)

Active EHC Plans

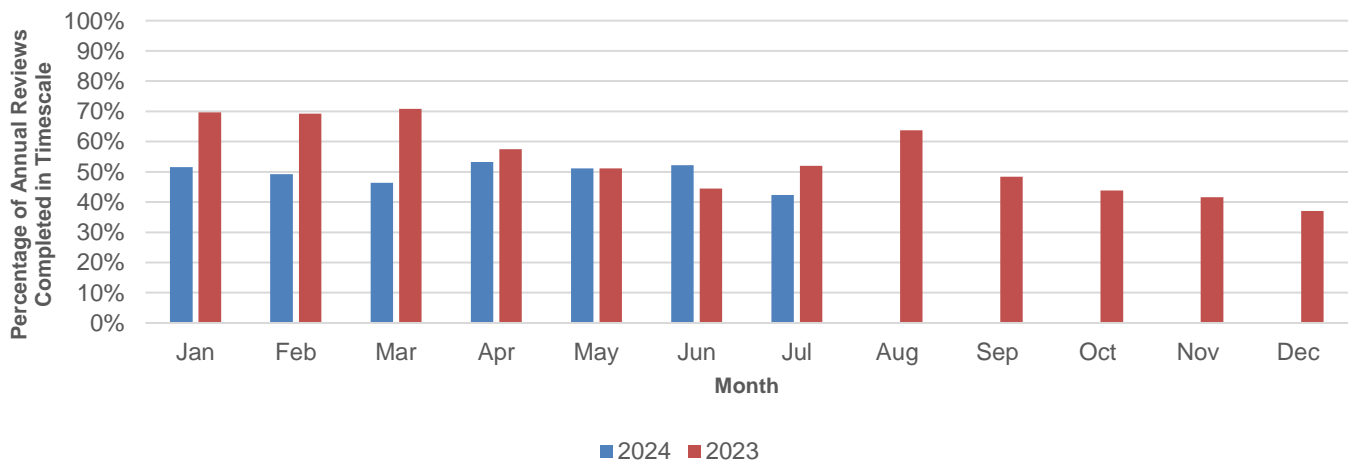
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 year-to-date
Nottinghamshire	2825	2991	3033	3360	3741	4859
Statistical Neighbours	52528	57159	63445	69326	74959	
England	353995	390109	430697	473255	517026	

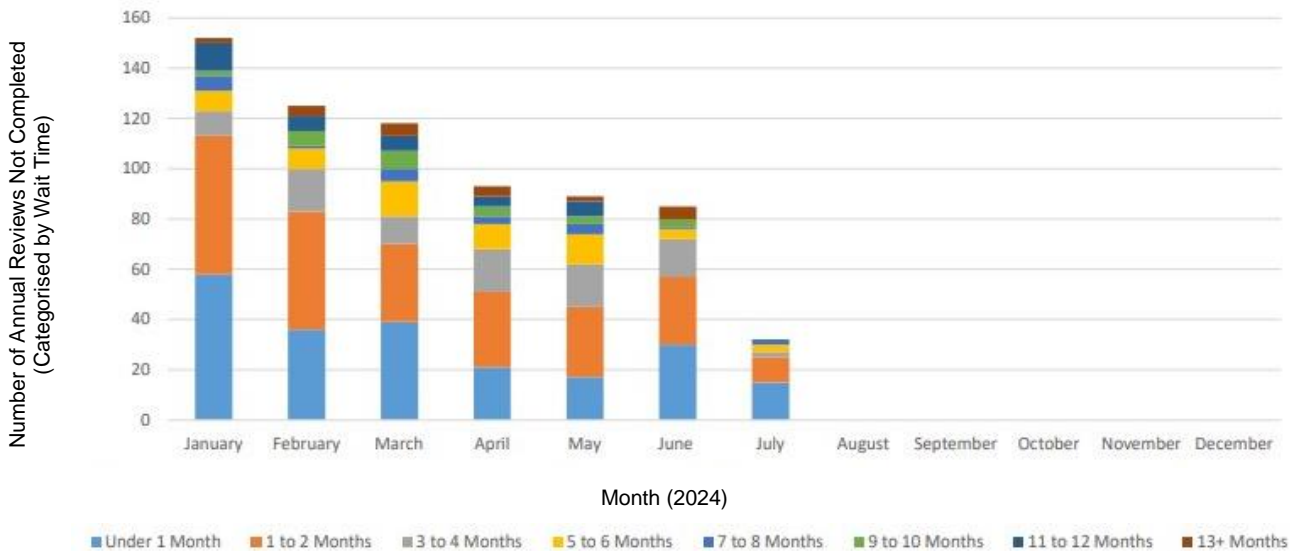
Active EHC Plans Rate per 10,000 0 to 25 Population

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 year-to-date
Nottinghamshire	123.0	130.2	132.0	146.3	162.8	211.5
Statistical Neighbours	215.1	234.1	259.8	283.9	307.0	
England	206.4	227.4	251.1	275.9	301.4	

- b) Between January-July 2024, 2680, Annual Reviews have been due for completion, compared to 2169 between January-July 2024 (an increase of 23.56%).
- c) The number of annual reviews completed in timescale are lower in 2024 compared with 2023, with an average of 46.1% completed in time between January- July 2024 compared to 52.7% during the same period in 2023.

Figure 3: Percentage of Annual Reviews completed in timescale





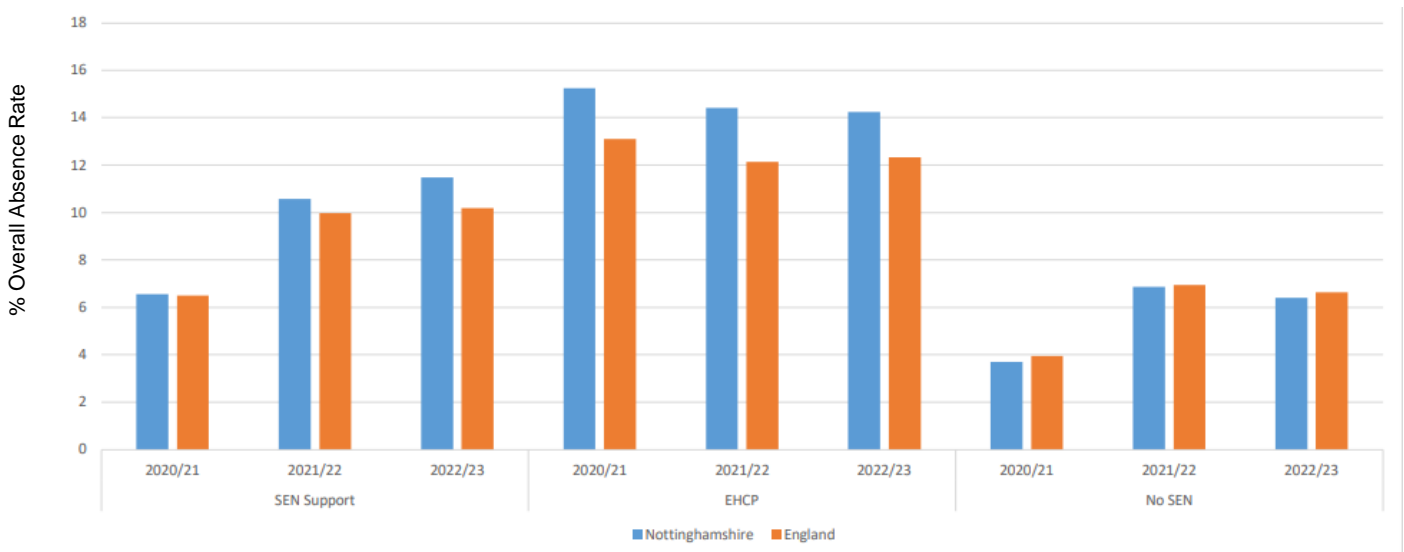
d) The 2024 year-to-date performance of 46.1% is almost half of the committed target of 80%. This is also down compared to 2023, where the average percentage of completion was 53.3%.

16. Activity to better engage partners in the Annual Review process is ongoing, with work underway to explore new quality assessment tools. There remains a focus on measuring the impact of improvement activity, particularly the impact on the experiences of children, young people, and families.

Outcome 3 (APA1): Children and young people with additional needs, but without an EHC Plan, have their needs identified, met, and monitored effectively.

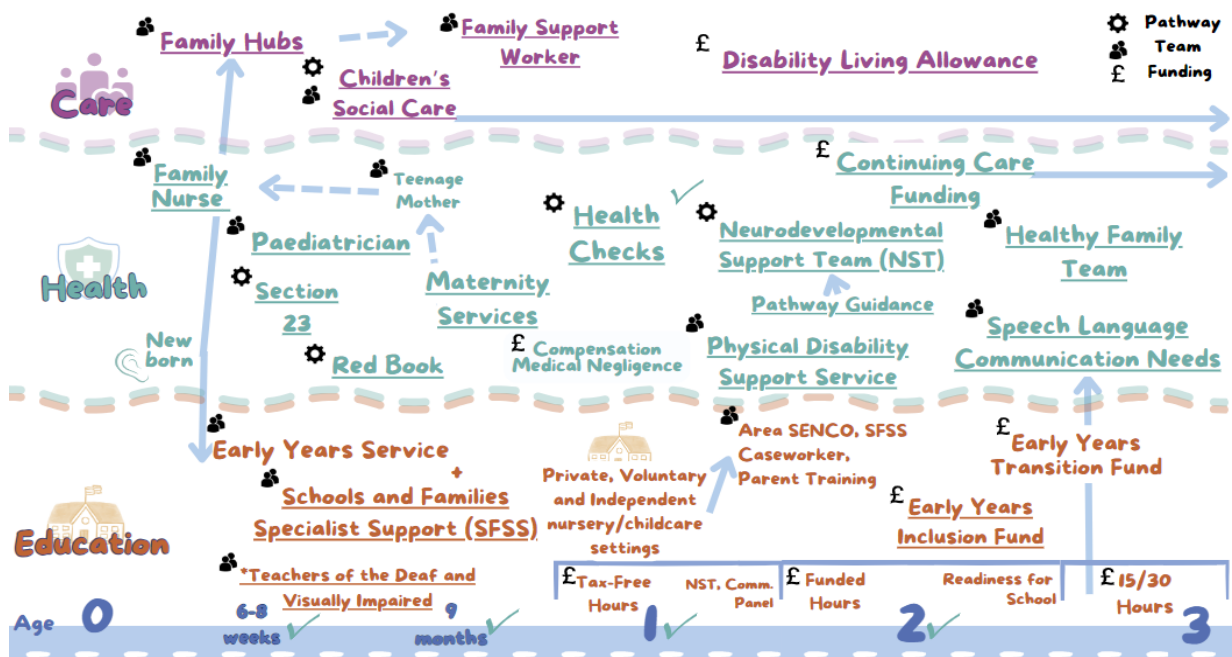
17. Children and young people receiving SEN support (but without an EHC Plan) account for around 80% of our overall SEN population. EHC Plans utilise statutory processes to formalise the assessment and provision of support to our children and young people with SEND. For many years, children and young people in Nottinghamshire have been able to access additional support in educational settings (e.g. additional funding, input from specialist services) without the need for an EHC Plan, resulting in us having a lower number of EHC Plans when compared nationally.
18. We now have better shared systems to jointly track and monitor the SEN Support cohort of children and young people across our Local Area Partnership. SEN Support cohort descriptors and outcome data is now shared regularly through our SEND Monthly report and included in our quarterly SEND Intelligence report.
19. An example of one of these new datasets is shown. It enables us to better understand the SEN Support cohort progress alongside our other cohort of children.

Figure 5 - Overall absence rate for pupils with SEN Support / EHCP / No SEN



20. Our multi-agency deep dives of the graduated response have led to the creation of our new SEND Journey Map - 'A guide to local support for children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire'. This interactive map of local SEND processes across education, health and care is to be live on NottsHelpYourself, our Local Offer. 43 parents, carers and young people have been directly involved in shaping our SEND Journey Map. As part of this outcome, school staff, parents/carers and young people have also shared their experiences and ideas for improvement on the graduated response to meeting SEND in Nottinghamshire.

Figure 6 - Excerpt from the new SEND Journey Map, to be available on NottsHelpYourself



21. Activity remains ongoing to ensure that the impact of improvement activity is being measured, including the impact on the experiences of children, young people and families.

22. School engagement events have taken place in all 7 districts to develop an action plan that promotes inclusive practice. School leaders feel 'hopeful' and 'heard' as part of the ongoing collaborative engagement work around supporting inclusive practice in our local education settings. Over 250 school leaders attended 7 in-person events hosted by NCC Education Learning and Inclusion in June-July 2024.

Outcome 4 (APA2): The needs of children and families with SEND are clearly understood so that immediate and long-term changes to health service provision can be made through effective joint commissioning

23. Collaboration between the Partnership and local providers and services continues to facilitate the development of a centralised SEND System dataset, allowing for regular reporting of key metrics to relevant boards and subgroups, detailing local understanding of services and experiences for children, young people and their families with SEND in Nottinghamshire. A SEND data dashboard has been also developed, bringing together data and intelligence from across the Partnership to enable a better understanding of the local SEND population, providing oversight and assurance of provision and of experiences. It also provides an evidence-base to inform future commissioning intentions. A governance structure to ensure this is utilised and is meaningful has been identified. The SEND dashboard will be accessible to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire system partners, enabling them to see regular updates in relation to performance and outcomes and ensure that any emerging issues are identified and escalated promptly.
24. A system-wide Nottingham and Nottinghamshire SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2024-27 has been developed and was approved by Cabinet in July 2024; this sets out the local area partnership's vision, outcomes and key actions to improve the lived experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families. Publication of the Strategy is expected in September 2024, pending approval from Nottingham City Council. A governance route for the annual delivery plan to be reviewed has been agreed. New opportunities for joint commissioning will be identified utilising an evidence-based approach through the SEND Data Dashboard and feedback from children, young people and families.
25. Changes have been made in relation to Partnership-held contracts to ensure that SEND quality and performance is reported against both numerically and in relation to the experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families. Reports for 2024/25 have so far been received during Quarter 2 for Community Specialist Therapy Services and are expected in Quarter 4 for all services. Reports are expected to be shared bi-annually thereafter.
26. Work continues to be undertaken in relation to the embedding of our quality assurance frameworks with health providers, in line with contractual requirements. A Partnership-developed Quality Assurance Outcomes Framework is being utilised by health providers. This is aligned with what is utilised by statutory services within the local authority.
27. 'Vital signs' are being co-developed between the partnership and those with lived experience to provide 'at a glance' reporting, which will be shared through identified governance routes to highlight areas of challenge and opportunity, and to inform more in-depth data deep dives where required.

28. Engagement with families continues to be undertaken to understand, from the perspective of those with lived experience, areas of concern and challenge so that improvement measures can be put in place that are reflective of their voice.

Outcome 5 (APA2): Children and Young People receive timely assessment and treatment offer for assessment by the Neurodevelopmental Support Team (NST)

29. Development and improvement activity in relation to the review of the neurodevelopmental pathway continues to focus on ensuring improved experiences for children, young people and their families. The work undertaken to date to support the neurodevelopmental pathway has cumulated in a reduction in average wait times from 68 weeks in December 2023 to 54 weeks in July 2024 for NST.
30. Activity includes:
- a. An extensive review of the neurodevelopmental pathway, which has led to the recruitment of additional staff to the NST. As a result, children and families are now experiencing shorter wait times for assessments - average waiting times have steadily decreased in the last year from 62 weeks in July 23 to 54 weeks in July 2024, surpassing the planned trajectory of 59 weeks for July 2024 by 5 weeks. Notably, the current wait time of 54 weeks is a significant reduction since the peak in referrals in December 2023, which resulted in average wait times of 68 weeks at that time. Based on the current progress, the assessment waiting time is therefore expected to be below the planned trajectory of 50 weeks by the end of December 2024.
 - b. Significant engagement with families, children and young people has informed a broader understanding of the lived experience of people accessing these services. Feedback has resulted in children and families now being supported through the introduction of resources to ensure they can 'wait well', along with the introduction of referral pathway infographics and monthly newsletters providing the latest wait times and resource support information.
 - c. Implementation of the e-referral process to facilitate direct onward referrals from NST to Community Paediatrics has commenced, reducing wait times for families and unnecessary GP appointments.
 - d. A joint case review with CAMHS/NST has been implemented to ensure the primary need of the child/young person is identified promptly, be it a neurodevelopmental or mental health need. This approach helps to prevent the child or young person from being passed between different services, thereby ensuring they receive the appropriate care more efficiently.
 - e. Young people (17+) transitions to adults services have been addressed; previously, this cohort could not access either Community Paediatrics or the adult service due to their age. This gap in provision has now been addressed and these young people are now transitioned to the adult service at 17+, maintaining their position on the wait list and preventing them from falling to the bottom of the adult service wait list at 18 years and a subsequent extended wait time.

- f. A Notts Care Record access pilot within NST has commenced, with phase one giving NST access to GP records; this is speeding up the assessment process and reducing waiting times by eliminating inappropriate or duplicated referrals.
- g. The implementation of the Vanderbilt Questionnaire as part of the pre-assessment process to reduce waits further (impact to be monitored).
- h. Some of the key priorities and implementation of the neurodevelopmental pathway review recommendations throughout 2024/25 are to include:
 - A review of demand & capacity within Community Paediatrics across Nottingham University Hospitals, Bassetlaw Hospitals and Sherwood Forest Hospital.
 - An in-depth review of the neurodevelopmental services within Doncaster & Bassetlaw HealthCare Trust.
 - A review of the Tics & Tourette's service for children and young people.
 - A review of pre-and post-diagnostic support across neurodevelopmental services.
 - Community and Primary Care education - implement awareness campaigns within the community across Nottingham & Nottinghamshire to inform families, educators, and healthcare providers about early signs of neurodevelopmental concerns and the pathway process.

- 31. Improvements continue to be made to communications with children, young people and families who are waiting. Information detailing support for families is sent at the point of referral receipt, again at point of triage and via monthly newsletters.
- 32. The NST improvement plan is available upon request, outlining ongoing and planned actions as part of the neurodevelopmental pathway review.

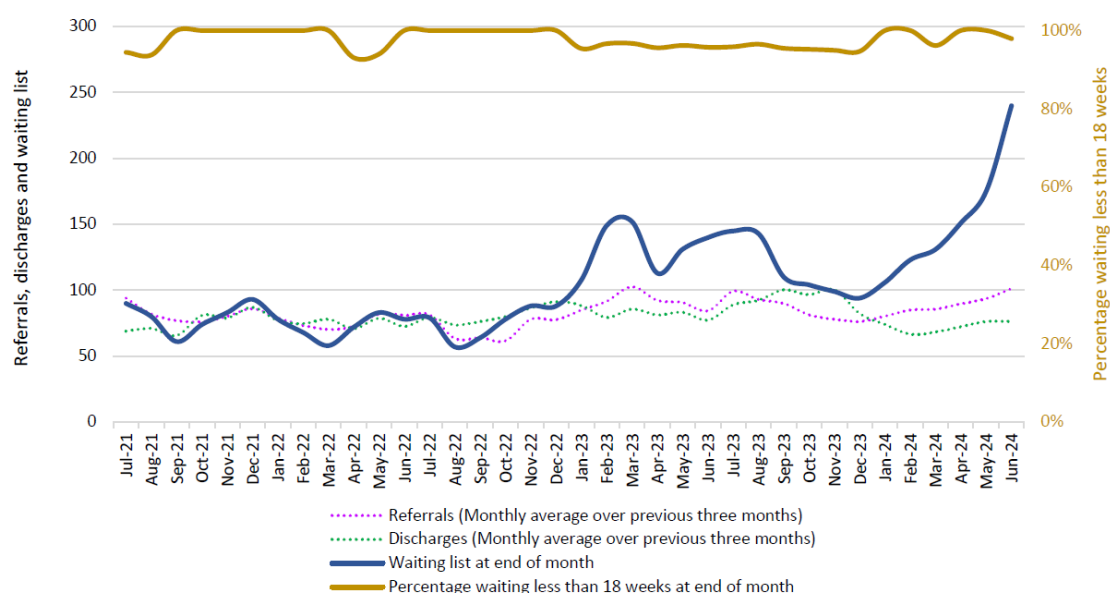
Outcome 6 (APA2): Children, young people and families with SEND experience services that are easy to navigate, free from duplication and are adaptive to their needs

- 33. A redesign of local Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Specialist Services has reduced wait times to below 18 weeks in the Complex Care Pathway and the Community Care Pathway and to below 40 weeks in the Autism Pathway. Additional capacity has been recruited to support families during their wait time, through the implementation of a dedicated advice line (live from 1 July 2024), and drop-in sessions held in Family Hubs (sessions held weekly from 1 July 2024). This is in line with recommendations made by families accessing or waiting to access service provision.
- 34. Demand continues to outstrip capacity within the Autism Pathway of the Specialist SCLN services; total referrals in April 2024 (534) are 21.9% higher than in April 2023 (438). Discharges are lower (4.1%), meaning caseloads are considerably higher. To support the service, additional therapists have been recruited utilising short-term funding to support in this area, and a review of the current pathway from a whole-system perspective is being undertaken by an external speech and language therapist (SLT) consultant, with recommendations for change expected in September 2024. These recommendations will

be triangulated with the recommendations made by those with lived experience to support the redesigned service from April 2025 (in line with contractual start dates).

35. Following formal approval by Cabinet in July 2024 of recurrent funding being available for a period of four years, the Partnership is working towards the development of a locality-based, needs-led SLCN service. This service will be designed utilising a robust data evidence base, the recommendations made by families and professionals, and the recommendations made by the SLT consultant-led review. All current local SLCN service contracts come to an end in March 2025. The new, jointly commissioned service will be implemented in line with the new contract development.
36. Following recommendations made by families during extensive engagement, a training offer has been developed to support education colleagues identify speech, language and communication needs at the earliest opportunity.
37. Wait times for Specialist Occupational Therapy (OT) remain under 18 weeks and the waiting list at the end of March 2024 (121) is 19.1% lower than at the end of March 2023 (150)¹.

Figure 7 – Combined view of average monthly referrals, average monthly discharges, month end waiting lists and percentages at month end waiting less than 18 weeks

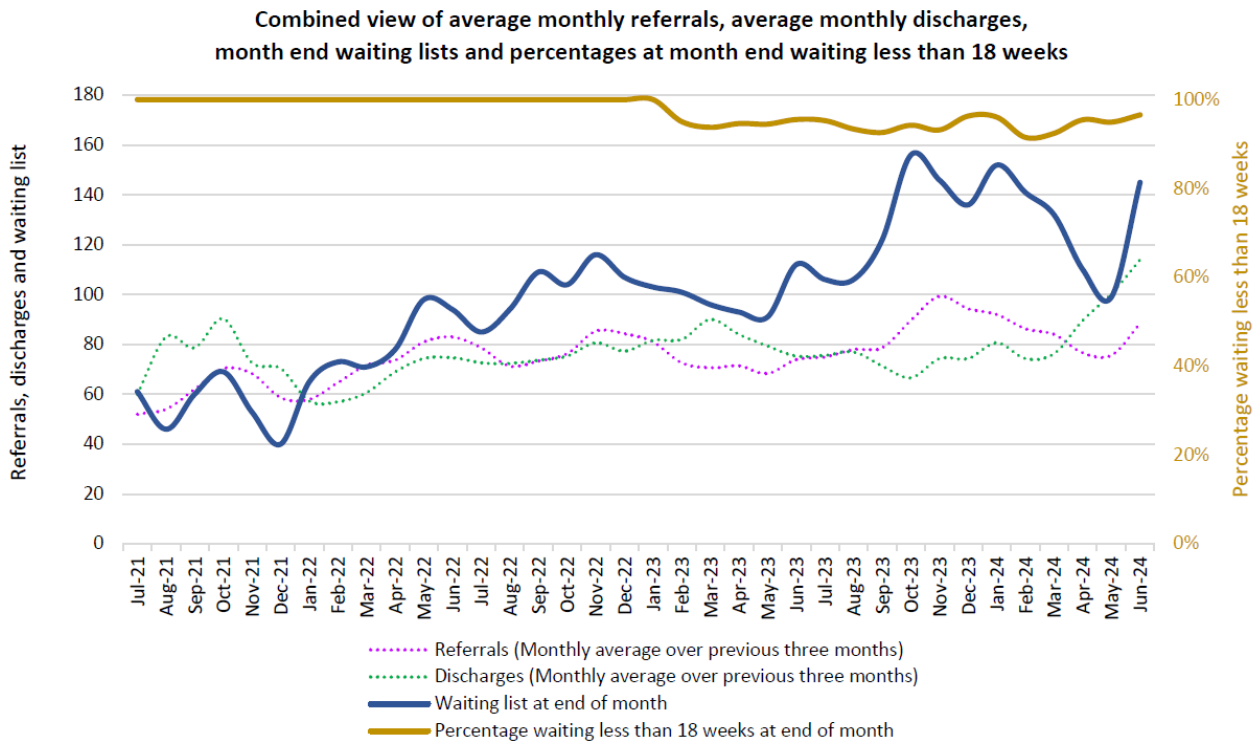


38. Wait times for local authority OT services (ICDS) remain long. A service review is being undertaken, with the view to recommendation being developed for a full-service redesign. This will take feedback from families, children and young people into consideration, specifically around the number of contacts with therapists to reduce duplication.
39. Following engagement with families and professionals, a mapping exercise was undertaken to support the broader understanding of the different services available to support children and young people with SEND OT needs in Nottinghamshire. An infographic has been developed that outlines the differences in roles and responsibilities

¹ This refers to health commissioned services. A data review for County Council commissioned services is underway and expected for completion by the end of June 2024

of OTs within the system, and signposts to the most appropriate services for an individual's needs. This will be shared widely with families and professionals in Nottinghamshire, alongside wider system mapping work.

40. Wait times for Specialist Physiotherapy services remains under 18 weeks. The number of children and young people waiting over 13 weeks at the end of March 2024 (5) is 50.0% lower than at the end of March 2023 (10).



41. Following feedback from young people having gone through transitions processes, a framework has been developed and is being embedded within Trusts to ensure there is a smooth transition from paediatric to adult services that is as positive an experience as possible.
42. Following feedback from young people - both at the time of inspection and during regular engagement since - there has been a focus with health providers on ensuring a smooth and positive experience when transitioning from paediatric health services to adult services. To support this, a health-focused Transitions Network is under development to maintain oversight of transitions from this perspective, with remit to expand this once developed to encompass all 'preparing for adulthood' activity. The first meeting will be held in September 2024 and will focus on the drafting of a system-wide Transitions Strategy. A quality outcomes framework for providers supporting young people to transition from paediatric health services to adult health services has been developed and is currently in use by community providers. Work is underway to embed this into acute providers as a contractual requirement.
43. Through engagement with families, a gap in current provision for SEN children and young people was identified; funding was therefore secured to support the development of an integrated sleep pathway across Nottinghamshire, free from duplication and gaps in offer. A service model has been agreed and will go live from October 2024. This model includes amendments to referral pathways to support timelier access to sleep support, additional

specialist sleep practitioner capacity within acute trusts, the implementation of a sleep support helpline and a system-wide training contract being implemented with nationally recognised experts. It is anticipated that this service will reduce the cost of training local professionals in sleep support by 15%, as well as supporting earlier identification of sleep disturbances and earlier, enhanced intervention. The service will be community focused, accessible and aim to de-medicalise sleep issues in children and young people by reducing the use of melatonin as the first line intervention.

Leadership & Strategic Development

44. The [Nottinghamshire SEND Strategy](#) has now been published, following approval at Cabinet on 25 July 2024. A communications plan has been developed to support the launch and roll out of the strategy for September 2024. The Strategy is underpinned by an annual delivery plan, running initially for the period August 2024 – March 2025. The draft delivery plan will be considered by the Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Assurance and Improvement Group on 30 September 2024.
45. The Nottinghamshire SEND Local Area Partnership continues to work collaboratively to undertake a self-evaluation and analysis of the partnership's progress, as well as understanding the impact of work being driven forward to meet the needs of our SEND population. A self-evaluation framework (SEF) enables the partnership to identify current strengths and areas for development as part of a continuous cycle of monitoring improvements and seeking assurances, when meeting the need of our children and young people with SEND. Timescales to deliver and co-produce the SEF are being agreed to support a first draft by the end of September 2024.

Other Options Considered

46. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

47. The local area partnership is committed to improving the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND and will continue to focus on implementing the improvement plan and wider improvement arrangements moving forwards.

Statutory and Policy Implications

48. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

49. Local authority costs associated with the improvement programme and associated partnership governance arrangements have been subject to the relevant approvals in line with financial regulations.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Children and Families Select Committee:

- 1) consider and comment on the content of the report in relation to progress with the required improvements.
- 2) agrees to receive a further update on progress on SEND improvement activity in December 2024.

Colin Pettigrew
Executive Director, Children and Families

Rosa Waddingham
Chief Nurse, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Natasha Mathers
SEND Improvement Programme Manager
E: natasha.mathers@nhs.net

Constitutional Comments (LPW 25/09/24)

50. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Families Select Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SS 24/09/24)

51. Local authority costs associated with the improvement programme and associated partnership governance arrangements have been subject to the relevant approvals in line with financial regulations.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) - report to Cabinet on 25 May 2023

[Progress in Improving the Experiences and Outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) – report to Cabinet on 22 June 2023

[Partnership Progress In Improving The Experiences And Outcomes For Children And Young People With Special Educational Needs And Disabilities](#) – Report to Children and Families Select Committee on 16 October 2023

[Partnership Progress in Improving the Experiences and Outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) – Report to Children and Families Select Committee on 5 February 2024

[Partnership Progress in Improving the Experiences and Outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) – Report to Children and Families Select Committee on 15 April 2024

[Partnership Progress in Improving the Experiences and Outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) – Report to Children and Families Select Committee on 15 July 2024

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CFS0028