**Nottinghamshire Local Area Partnership’s**

**SEND Strategic Action Plan (SSAP), 2023 to 2024[[1]](#footnote-2)**

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|  | **‘’Our vision in Nottinghamshire is that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will be safe, healthy, and happy, and have a good quality of life and opportunities to fulfil their aspirations, develop their independence and make a positive contribution to society.’’** |
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| 1. **Introduction**
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The local area partnership is committed to continuous improvement to deliver the best outcomes for children and young people with SEND. This SEND Strategic Action Plan (SSAP) reflects our key partnership priorities in addition to the two Priority Actions identified by Ofsted / CQC during their joint inspection of the Nottinghamshire local area between 16 January and 3 February 2023. Nottinghamshire’s SEND Partnership spans a broad range of partners, services, and stakeholders. This includes the Integrated Care Board (ICB), Healthcare Providers, education settings (from early years through to FE including mainstream maintained, academies, special schools and independent and Alternative Provision (AP) providers), Local Authority Services, parents and carers and our key stakeholders, children, and young people. To deliver positive change, it is essential that areas for improvement, improvement activity and accountability is shared across this complex partnership. The views of children and young people with SEND and their families will be a key feature of our work. Nottinghamshire is ambitious for all children and young people to achieve their potential and have the best start in life. We recognise that children and young people have different strengths and needs, and that services and provision need to be differentiated so that all children and young people have their needs met and experience success. We recognise that for children and young people to achieve their potential then all services need to work together with parents, carers, children, and young people and that their voices are heard at all levels. Services and organisations should support people and families to live independently in the community, with prevention and self-management at the heart of our service delivery. Our local area partnership vision is that:***‘’Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will be safe, healthy, and happy, and have a good quality of life and opportunities to fulfil their aspirations, develop their independence and make a positive contribution to society.’’***

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| 1. **Governance**
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**SEND Executive Leadership Group** The aim of the SEND Executive Leadership Group is to enable partnership leadership, shared decision-making, and joint strategic oversight of SEND improvement activity in Nottinghamshire, with a focus on the Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Programme and Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Strategy.  The SEND Governance structure is set out in Diagram 1 below.**The SEND Partnership Assurance & Improvement Group** **(PAIG)**The purpose of the PAIG is to be assured that the lived experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND and their families are maximised, to monitor and ensure improved performance of SEND services across Nottinghamshire and that these improvements are linked to the lived experiences and outcomes for children and young people.The PAIG will achieve its purpose through: 1. Leading and co-ordinating the continuous improvement of Nottinghamshire’s implementation of the [Children and Families Act](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted) (2014), [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance NG213](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng213) (2022), the [Department for Education SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1139561/SEND_and_alternative_provision_improvement_plan.pdf) (2023), and the [SEND Code of Practice](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf) (2020).
2. Monitoring and oversight of SEND related strategies, policies and plans through a local area performance and outcomes framework.
3. Assuring that the Nottinghamshire local area is inclusive through a child/young person focus and strength-based approach.
4. Identifying and managing risks in a solution focused multi-agency approach and escalate where required to the SEND Senior Leadership Group.
5. Ensuring that the local area partnership is effectively prepared for and responds to the outcomes of regulatory inspections.
6. Assuring those improvements are effective and have a positive impact on the lived experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.
7. Ensuring the lived experience of children and young people with SEND is improved, and that their holistic needs are met through appropriate provision and services.
8. Assuring that the local area partnership delivers its statutory responsibilities.
9. Assuring that appropriate engagement and co-production has taken place with children and young people and their families.
10. Assuring that appropriate engagement and co-production has taken place with partners.
11. Approving and taking ownership of the SEND Local Area Self Evaluation, to ensure that an accurate picture of performance and progress is maintained, and improvement activities take place.

**Diagram 1 Governance Arrangements**

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| **SEND Partnership Governance Structure as January 2024****Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)****Health and Wellbeing Board** **SEND Partnership Assurance and Improvement Group****SEND Executive Leadership Group** |

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| 1. **Summary of the SEND Strategic Action Plan (SSAP) Priorities**
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| 1. **Revised governance arrangements are established for the SEND local area partnership.**
2. **Sufficient SEND provision is available in Nottinghamshire to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.**
3. **Effective processes are in place to improve the quality of new and existing Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs).**
4. **The voices of children, young people and their families are used to inform the planning and reviewing of SEND provision and services.**
5. **Performance data and other information is used effectively by the local area partnership to inform the evaluation and joint commissioning of services.**
6. **The workforce working with children and young people with SEND and their families receives appropriate support and development opportunities.**

| **Priority 1: Revised governance arrangements are established for the SEND local area partnership.**  |
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| **Outcomes we will strive for: (1) Improved governance arrangements across the SEND system in Nottinghamshire which is characterised by high support and high challenge with effective monitoring of the SEND Outcomes-based Strategy and Action Plan of its impact on the lived experiences of children, young people, and their families; (2) The development of district-based locality boards to strengthen the local area’s effectiveness in delivering sustainable change and improved outcomes.** |
| **Action Ref** | **Action** | **Lead** | **Completion Date** | **Implementation Activity (key milestones)** | **Impact measures**  |
| **1.1** | Establish revised governance arrangements for the local area. | Nicola Ryan (ICB)Peter McConnochie (NCC) | Dec 2023 | * Establish SEND Partnership Assurance and Improvement Group (PAIG)
 | * Terms of Reference agreed.
* Membership agreed and appointed.
* First meeting held on 12 December 2024.
* SEND Partnership leaders have better understanding and oversight of the challenges children and young people and their families experience.
* The Partnership will be strengthened to provide effective oversight and joint working.
 |
| **1.2** | Deliver the RISE (Research & Improvement for SEND Excellence partnership) programme funded by the DfE. | Michelle Sherlock (ICB)Chris Jones (NCC) | Sep 2024 | * **Phase 1** – desk top review of existing documents & data indicators – August 2023.
* **Phase 2** – developing & embedding the strategic outcomes framework – September 2023.
* **Phase 3** - exploration of data indicators to evidence strategic outcomes November 2023.
* **Phase 4** - developing an outcomes-led SEND Strategy – December 2024.
* ***Phase 5 -*** Mapping SEND Systems improvement – February 2024.
 | * Revised SEND Strategy by June 2024.
* Outcomes framework with supporting data indicators by June 2024.
* Revised SEND Strategic Action Plan by September 2024.
* The Partnership will be able to appropriately plan to support the needs of children and young people’s and their families improving their lived experiences.
 |
| **1.3** | Establish partnership locality boards. | Chris Jones (NCC) | Dec 2024 | * Review current Locality Boards.
* Undertake a consultation survey with school leaders and other partners including ICB and social care.
* Develop terms of reference for the locality boards.
* First district boards to meet Autumn 2024.
 | * District partnership boards established in preparation for the development of ‘Inclusion Partnerships’ as outlined in the [DfE SEND and AP Improvement Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-and-alternative-provision-improvement-plan) (March 2023).
 |
| **1.4** | Develop an interim SEND Strategic Action Plan | Michelle Sherlock (ICB)Chris Jones (NCC) | Mar 2024 | * Interim SEND Strategic Action Plan in place until the revised outcomes-based SEND strategy is developed.
 | * Interim SEND Strategic Action Plan to address key issues and areas for development apart from the 2 Priority Actions identified by Ofsted / CQC.
* The Partnership will have a shared understanding of the activities required to be achieve the local area priorities.
 |
| **1.5** | Develop a revised outcomes-based SEND Strategy | Michelle Sherlock (ICB)Chris Jones (NCC) | Jun 2024 | * SEND outcomes agreed following a consultation via online survey (January 2024).
* SEND Engagement Events focused on developing the Strategy for the local area (March 2024).
* Draft Strategy approved by the PAIG (13 May 2024) and published by June 2024.
 | * Revised outcomes-based SEND Strategy for the local area published by 30 June 2024.
* Children and Young people with SEND and their families will have a better understanding of how the SEND partnership leaders aim to ensure they receive the right support, in the right place at the right time.
 |
| **1.6** | SEND local area self-assessment | Chris Jones (NCC) | Sep 2024 | * Task and finish sub-group of the PAIG formed to draft SEND local area self-assessment.
* The self-assessment should address the following three questions:
	+ The impact of your arrangements for children & young people with SEND?
	+ The impact of arrangements for children & young people with SEND are having on them?
	+ What are your plans for the next 12 months to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.
* Final self-assessment approved by the PAIG and published.
 | * The Nottinghamshire Local Area Partnership understands its strengths and areas for development.
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| **SSAP Priority 2: Sufficient SEND provision is available in Nottinghamshire to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND** |
| **Outcomes we will strive for: (1) There is sufficient and good quality specialist provision which is broad enough to meet needs across the local area; (2) Provision is regularly reviewed considering changing demand and requirements.**  |
| **Action Ref** | **Action** | **Lead** | **Completion Date** | **Implementation Activity (key milestones)** | **Impact measures**  |
| **2.1** | Review of the County Council’s short breaks offer. | Amanda Collinson (NCC)Louise Beavan (NCC) | Dec 2024 | * Short Break Review Steering Group (including parents / carers) established to monitor and deliver the review.
* Focus Groups with parent/carers established to undertake with various co-production, engagement, and consultation activities.
* Survey developed and distributed to obtain views from a wide group of children / young people /parents/ carers.
* Data scoping work with Commissioning, Short Breaks and Childrens Disability Service.
* To identify and meet with other regional Local Authorities to get feedback on their current offer and what practices are working well.
* Workstreams established to co-produce the specific areas of the review.
 | * Improved cost effectiveness of the service ensuring that those with the greatest need can access the support they require and to prevent family breakdown and high-cost social care or education placements.
* Improved range of short break provision including an internal short break option.
* A short break service where all short breaks, other than overnight provision, would be allocated, reviewed, and commissioned by the Short Breaks Team.
* Improved transition pathways and the graduated response across ICDS.
 |
| **2.2** | Educational part-time timetables review. | Georgina Palmer (NPCF)Chris Jones (NCC) | Mar 2024 | * Scoping document presented and shared with Education, Learning and Inclusion Leadership Team.
* Meetings with colleagues from the Local Authority who monitor in children and young people on part-time timetables.
* Meetings with schools to discuss arrangement and decision-making regarding part time timetables.
* Meetings families and children and young people who are on a part-time timetable.
 | * Co-produced recommendations between families and practitioners to develop the processes, arrangements and information regarding children and young people on part-time timetables.
* Improved parents’ and carers’ knowledge of the arrangements regarding part-time timetables.
 |
| **2.3** | County Council’s SEND Place Planning Strategy. | Karen Hughman (NCC)Chris Jones (NCC) | Jun 2024 (Sep 2025) | * Briefing provided on the SEND Place Planning Strategy for the Cabinet Member for Education and SEND (January 2024).
* Report presented to the Children and Families Select Committee on SEND Provision and Sufficiency (June 2024).
* SEND Place Planning Strategy to be revised for September 2025.
 | * Accurate trajectory for the demand for specialist education placements is established using the Department for Education’s School Capacity Survey.
* Implementation plan is developed to ensure sufficient specialist educational places are available for children and young people in Nottinghamshire.
 |
| **2.4** | Health interventions in schools | Michelle Sherlock (ICB) | Dec 2024 | * Report outlining the issues relating to supporting children and young people with Medical Conditions and Complex Health Needs in Education Settings and accessing Transport Services presented to the PAIG (January 2024).
* Implement recommendations agreed by the PAIG including the commissioning of a third party to support the facilitation of a task and finish group to lead on the work identified.
 | * Steering Group with external facilitator established.
* 6 monthly update reports presented to the PAIG and Special Schools Trust Board.
* Children and young peoples will be able to access their education settings and use transport safely and assured their medical needs will be manged.
 |
| **2.5** | Preparation for adulthood protocol and pathway | Naomi Russell (NCC)Louise Benson (NCC)  | Jul 2024 | * Consultation with NCC colleagues, health and school partners and parent/carers – December 2023 – February 2024.
* Consultation with young people and parent/carers at Preparing for Adulthood event being held on 24 February 2024.
* Presentation of final draft to Preparing for Adulthood Steering group on 11 March 2024
* Project Sponsor/Children and Adult SLT to sign off by July 2024.
 | * Improved accessibility/visibility of Information, Advice and Guidance on preparing for adulthood/ transition from Children to Adult services.
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| **SSAP Priority 3: Effective processes are in place to improve the quality of new and existing Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs)** |
| **Outcomes we will strive for: By developing effective quality assurance arrangements which are valued by practitioners, and which support learning and improvement, children, and young people with SEND and their families will have improved experiences and outcomes, through good quality and impactful Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs).** |
| **Action Ref** | **Action** | **Lead** | **Completion Date** | **Implementation Activity (key milestones)** | **Impact measures**  |
| **3.1** | Stocktake of current approach to QA | Lucy Peel (NCC)Penny Cole (ICB) | Apr 2023 | * Engagement with QA Steering Group, including parent/carer representatives to determine future priority, focus and scope (September 2023)
* Review of steering group terms of reference, including consideration of sub-groups to drive focussed improvement, including around quality of advice (October 2023)
* Exploration of good practice in other local areas and consideration of external support required (Jan 2024)
* Evaluation of blockers to the co-produced and published QA guidance having the desired impact on the quality of plans and children’s experiences and outcomes (Mar 2024)
 | * Practitioners across the partnership understand their role in quality assurance, value the process, and feel that it supports them to effectively contribute towards the education, health, and care planning pathway.
* Practitioners and managers routinely engage in QA activity.
 |
| **3.2** | Implement test and learn from a multi-agency audit programme for EHCPs. | Vicky Smart (NCC)Michelle Wilson (ICB) | Aug 2024 | * Pilot audit afternoon (July 2023)
* Review of findings and revised proposed programme (September 2023)
* Rollout revised programme (October 2023 – August 2024)
 | * More EHCPs are assessed to be of good quality.
* Learning from QA activity is acted upon, and impact measured.
* Children and young people, parents and carers report that their EHCP supports improved experiences and outcomes.
 |
| **3.3** | Strengthen approach to audit of EHCPs at drafting stage, including learning loop to achieve improvements | Vicky Smart (NCC) | Jul 2024 | * Workforce review focused on the EHC plan writers which assesses whether they have enough resource (training, focus time, peer support, networking) to meet the recommendations of the QA guidance. Review to take place in alongside APA1 activity. (Timescale TBC)
 | * Learning loop implemented across statutory agencies including local authority, health commissioners and providers and social care.
* Workforce development plan in place for staff contributing to EHC Needs Assessments and Plan Writers.
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| **SSAP Priority 4: The voices of children, young people and their families are used to inform the planning and reviewing of SEND provision and services** |
| **Outcomes we will strive for: (1) the representation of children, young people with SEND and their families in the local area SEND governance arrangements; and (2) the effective engagement and co-production takes place across a range of improvement activities to ensure they are informed by lived experiences.** |
| **Action Ref** | **Action** | **Lead** | **Completion Date** | **Implementation Activity (key milestones)** | **Impact measures**  |
| **4.1** | Ensure children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers are included in the revised governance arrangements for the SEND local area partnerships.  | Nicola Ryan (ICB)Peter McConnochie (NCC)Jenny Hallam (NCC) | Mar 2024 | * NPCF to identify three representatives to be members of the PAIG (October 2024).
* Pioneers Youth Forum to agree to be the voice of children and young people linking with the PAIG (November 2024).
* PAIG to identify the areas of improvement activities for the Pioneers Youth Forum to be engaged with (May 2024).
 | * Children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers are included the governance arrangements for the SEND local area partnership.
* Children, young people with SEND, their parents, and carers will understand the impact of their engagement on service developments and when change is not possible, will understand why.
 |
| **4.2** | Continue to develop the role of focus groups of children and young people in educational settings. | Jenny Hallam (NCC) | Oct 2024 | * Termly engagement with focus groups on specific themes.
* 6 monthly reports to the PAIG on the activities undertaken and views of the children and young people.
* Deliver a local area ‘’Voices of children and young people with SEND’’ event involving Nottinghamshire children and young people (Autumn 2024)
 | * Strengthened engagement and coproduction with children and young people with SEND.
 |
| **4.3** | To support the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum to increase their resources and capacity. | Chris Jones (NCC) | April 2024  | * Bid for a funding grant through the Local Authorities Contain Outbreak Management Fund for 2023-2024.
* Seek extension to the funding for 2024-2025.
* Additional funding to support engagement with parent and carer groups across the County.
 | * Strengthened engagement and coproduction from parent and carers, including through the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum
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| **SSAP Priority 5: Performance data and other information is used effectively by the local area partnership to inform the evaluation and joint commissioning of services** |
| **Outcomes we will strive for: (1) an agreed dataset for the PAIG to be able to monitor and review the effectiveness of is outcomes-based SEND Strategy and support Action Plan; (2) the local area partnership uses data to inform its service planning and the joint commissioning of services to ensure as far as possible a sufficiency of provision; (3) the local partnership provides high support and challenges to partners using data.** |
| **Action Ref** | **Action** | **Lead** | **Completion Date** | **Implementation Activity (key milestones)** | **Impact measures**  |
| **5.1** | Establish agree outcomes for the local area partnership. | Michelle Sherlock (ICB)Chris Jones (NCC) | Mar 2024 | * Outcomes identified as part of the RISE support programme.
* Proposed outcomes consulted on via online survey (January 2024)
* Final outcomes are agreed by the PAIG (18 March 2024)
 | * Nottinghamshire local area’s outcomes agreed.
 |
| **5.2** | Develop the PAIG dataset based upon the agreed outcomes. | Chris Jones (NCC)James Norris (ICB)Dave Gilbert (NCC)SEND Improvement Programme Team | May 2024 | * Draft dataset shared with the PAIG for initial feedback (January 2023).
* Final draft dataset approved by the PAIG (May 2024)
 | * Dataset approved including outcome, output, and impact metrics to enable the local area partnership to monitor performance alongside an understanding of the impact on children and young people with SEND and their families.
 |
| **5.3** | The PAIG provides effective oversight of the dataset. | Nicola Ryan (ICB)Peter McConnochie (NCC) | Reviewed quarterly at meetings of the PAIG | * Monitoring of the PAIG dataset becomes business as usual for the PAIG. Decisions by the PAIG fully utilises data available to the local area.
 | * Decisions by the local area are evidence based and utilised to inform appropriate planning to predict trends and support meeting the needs of CYP.
* The partnership has improved oversight and monitoring on data on prevalence and outcomes
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| **SSAP Priority 6: The workforce working with children and young people with SEND and their families receives appropriate support and development opportunities**  |
| **Outcomes we will strive for**: **a sufficiently skilled, trained and supported workforce for the delivery of SEND services across the local authority, education, and health.**  |

| **Action Ref** | **Action** | **Lead** | **Completion Date** | **Implementation Activity (key milestones)** | **Impact measures**  |
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| **6.1** | Identification of training needs across the SEND workforce in Nottinghamshire. | Michelle Sherlock (ICB)Chris Jones (NCC)Peter Higgins (NCC)Workforce Development Leads (NCC & ICB) | Oct 2024 | * Workforce survey undertaken to identify training needs across the local area Partnership.
* Local area to identify local and national training currently available which could be made available to all the SEND workforce.
 | * The local area understands the SEND workforce’s development needs.
 |
| **6.2** | Develop a standard induction package for all new staff working in SEND. | Liz Hallam (NCC Workforce Development Officer)Michelle Sherlock (ICB)Chris Jones (NCC)Peter Higgins (NCC) Workforce Development Leads (NCC & ICB) | Dec 2024 | * Standard online training package developed and piloted with groups of staff.
 | * All new staff working with CYP with SEND and their families can access an induction package covering the key aspects of the current SEND landscape.
 |
| **6.3** | Develop a local area training and development programme for the SEND workforce. | Michelle Sherlock (ICB)Chris Jones (NCC)Peter Higgins (NCC) Workforce Development Leads (NCC & ICB) | Dec 2024 | * Standard programme primarily online developed to support on going SEND specific development opportunities for the workforce.
 | * Staff can access a workforce development programme and the local area has a well-trained and supported workforce.
* Children and young people and their families’ experiences will improved with a competent workforce striving to meet their needs.
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1. Updated following Ofsted / CQC local areas SEND inspection in January / February 2023. The local area Partnership will develop and publish a new SEND Strategic Action Plan by end of July 2024. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)