

**SEND Programme 2020/22**

**What we are seeking to achieve**

***Reset the tone of the SEND agenda:*** Whilst we recognise that SEND sits within a very challenging financial context, our core aim is to work together to improve outcomes, whilst using resources responsibly and advocating for appropriate funding to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families within our communities and region.

***Hear and act on the voices and experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families:*** We will place the experiences of our children, young people and families at the heart of our work so it shapes and challenges our priorities, what good looks like and what we can do better.

***Best practice and collaboration to improve outcomes and efficiency:*** Seeking out best practice to improve outcomes for children and young people, strengthen the offer and equity of access, raise aspirations and enhance efficiency. Working together to support families to thrive in their communities and achieve best independence, and recognising that children, young people and families live within communities that cut across local authority boundaries and opportunities for better collaboration across commissioning, delivery, inclusiveness and quality.

***Responding regionally to the changing landscape***: Making sure we are coordinated and attune to changing needs of the SEND landscape – including post Covid assurance, regulatory and statutory changes and transformation of health commissioning and delivery arrangements with STP and Integrated Care developments.

**Key principles**

* We are committed to the ambitions of the SEND reforms, working with children, young people and families so that children and young people experience improved outcomes and achieve their best independence.
* We want all children and young people with SEND to thrive in their families, local schools and communities.
* We will work in partnership to improve outcomes and enable independence for successful transition to and in adulthood.
* We will do all we can to ensure early years settings, schools and further and higher education providers are inclusive and that parents and carers are able to exercise parental choice in the best interests of their children.
* We will work together to shape local health, care, education, support, and free time provider markets to empower children, young people and families to flourish in their communities.
* Recognising autonomy of local authorities and diversity of their community needs and looking to work regionally only where it makes sense to do it together

**How we will engage others and oversee the programme**

**Engaging others:**

* We are engaging key pan-London groups in the development of the programme including the SEND Strategic Managers and Parent Carers Network, London Region DfE SEND Steering Group, London Innovation and Improvement Alliance including key workstreams on Placement Commissioning and Adolescent Safeguarding and the Pan-London Placement Commissioning Steering Group and Panel. Additionally, children, young people and families as well as key partners such as Health are being engaged in the workstreams.

**Programme oversight:**

* The programme oversight is designed to provide clearer oversight and greater integration of pan-London programmes of work to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. It is proposed that the LIIA pan-London SEND meetings would no longer be required as the new arrangements would deliver the networking, planning and development through the smaller LIIA SEND Steering Group and a wider role for the SEND Strategic Managers and Parent/Carers Network. This Network would also benefit from clearer links to the ALDCS network through the SEND Steering Group and LIIA Board. The proposed governance, including relationship to key other groups is set out below.

**Proposed membership of Pan-London SEND Workstream Steering Group**

**SEND Strategic Managers and Parent Carers Steering Group**

**DfE London SEND Steering Group**

**SEND pan-London working groups and time-limited task groups**

**LIIA workstreams e.g.**

**Placement Commissioning**

**Adolescent Safeguarding**

**SEND Strategic Managers and Parent Carers Network**

**SEND Workstream Steering Group**

**DfE**

**Association of London Directors of Children’s Services (ALDCS)**

**London Innovation and Improvement Alliance Board**

* Lead DCS for SEND
* Assistant Directors SEND (one from each of 4 sub-regions)
* Chair DCO/DMO London Network
* London Region SEND Co-ordinator
* London Lead for National Network of Parent Carer Forums
* SEND lead for NHS SE
* SEND Strategic Managers and Network Facilitator
* London Councils Principal Education Officer
* London Innovation and Improvement (group support)

**What we would like to do over the coming 12 to 18 months**

**Support pan-London collaboration:**

* Develop more integrated governance arrangements with a pan-London SEND programme of innovation and improvement to strengthen collaboration to improve outcomes for children with SEND. This includes aligning regional DfE support to pan-London SEND programme of innovation and improvement.
* Finalise a coherent set of priorities and be clear about who is doing what, where and how, leading to a pan-London programme of collaboration and improvement, demonstrating evidence of impact, whilst remaining responsive to in-year demands such as Covid-19.

**Work in progress**

* Joint work on commissioning, for children and young people with a high level of need, co-ordinated with Pan-London Placement Commissioning Panel and Finance Working Group and for those with ASD/SEMH, drawing on good practice in London and nationally, working with the Placement Commissioning workstream.
* Jointly working with ALDCS health agenda to get a pan-London framework for joint working with Health for children with SEND

**Work in development**

* Collaboration around travel and SEND transport arrangements. Sharing examples of good practice in developing independence, with a focus on travel training.
* Sharing models and practice of co-production with children, young people and parents/carers in strategic and individual areas such as EHCPs/annual reviews and quality assurance.
* Strengthen the Preparation for Adulthood offer, with initial focus on availability of and access to supported internships.

**Support sub-regional collaboration:**

* Improve collaboration and performance through managing a peer challenge or peer review event, across key stakeholders including local authority, Health and representative groups for parents/carers and children and young people - focus to be finalised with participating local authorities.
* Utilising the range of engagement forums and opportunities across our region and local authorities to support meaningful engagement about regional priorities and improvements
* EHCP moderation workshop across local authorities to improve quality, with a focus to be finalised with participating local authorities, potentially on year 9/10 and preparation for adulthood.
* Identify good practice in local cross-border quality assurance arrangements and support development in new areas.

**Support learning and improvement:**

* Manage a programme of ALDCS SEND Learning events co-ordinated with DfE SEND Regional Co-ordinator programme, SEND Strategic Managers and Parent Carers Network and DfE commissioned strategic partners. Areas identified as initial priorities for attention are: strengthening partnerships with Health and joint commissioning; co-production, quality and consistency of EHCPs and Annual Reviews; inclusion in mainstream settings; understanding BAME disproportionality and disparities of outcomes; and preparation for adulthood/post-18 offer.
* Develop a repository of effective/innovative practice in SEND to support collaboration, enhanced use of resources, strengthened equity of offer and improvement in outcomes for children and young people.