**DRAFT ALDCS SENDAP Programme 2024/25**

**Purpose**

This report sets out the ALDCS SEND Programme for 2024-25 in the context of rising demand, the SENDAP Improvement Plan, new OfSTED Framework, ongoing financial challenges and programmes to improve sustainability of high needs funding. Demand pressures are substantial and long term – the number of children on EHCPs in London (or statements previously) has risen by over 100% over the last ten years and by 9% in the last year alone. Initial requests over the last 12 months have increased by 23%, indicating further growth pressure as these are processed.

The SENDAP Improvement Plan sets out the Government's priorities and the ALDCS 24/25 SENDAP Programme outlines is London’s response, working alongside the London Region Change Programme Partnership, led by London Borough of Barnet.

This plan builds on the ALDCS SEND Plan priorities and progress in 2022-24 and draws on early outcomes from the new SEND Area OfSTED inspections and issues highlighted at the London SEND Summit 2024.

**ALDCS SEND Programme Progress 2022-24**

The ALDCS SEND Steering Group, chaired by Elaine Allegretti, has overseen an extensive programme of work in 2022-24 and headlines, as reported to DfE, as outlined below.

**Governance and Leadership**

* SEND Plan 2022-23 and 2023-24 agreed by ALDCS and SEND Steering Group, chaired by Elaine Allegretti, followed by progress monitoring and review by Steering Group.
* Peter Nathan (Director of Education, London Borough of Enfield) as SEND Regional Co-ordinator with Frank Offer (LIIA SEND and Commissioning Lead) as Programme Lead.
* SEND Steering Group meets six times a year and oversees the programme, bringing together five local authority SEND Leads, five Integrated Care System (ICS) Leads, NHSE, Parent/Carer reps, DfE, London Councils and LIIA.
* SEND Strategic Managers and Parent/Carers Network meets five times a year and brings together SEND Leads, Parent/Carer reps, Health and DfE to support delivery of the programme, sharing good practice and highlighting issues for future work.
* SEND Finance Network meets twice a year bringing together SEND Leads, SEND Finance Leads and DfE to share learning and address pan-London issues.

**Partnership Working**

* The ALDCS SEND Programme has actively involved professionals from various sectors within the SEND sector, including Health, Local Authority Settings, Parent Carers, and Young People.
* Ongoing support of collaborative networks, such as the SEND Finance Network, which brings together colleagues from National and Local government working in SEND and Finance.
* SEND Strategic Managers and Parent Carer Network, has facilitated thematic meetings and discussions between SEND managers and parent carers. Including spotlighting experiences of children and young people across a range of services, including AP and Supported Internships.

**SENDAP Improvement Plan**

* First London SEND Summit with London SEND Leads and key partners including parents/carers held in June 2022, with input from DfE and OfSTED, to share learning and develop pan-London response to the SENDAP Green Paper Consultation.
* Second London SEND Summit held on 24th March 2023, with focus on SENDAP Improvement Plan, how to respond pan-London including seeking areas where London can influence national practice through pathfinders etc.
* Third London Summit held on 18th March 2024 with focus on SENDAP implementation and London Region Change Programme Partnership’s work on Education, Health and Care Plans, Local Area Inclusion Plans and Advisory Tailored Lists.

**Improving Use of Data**

* Developed SEND Data Dashboard to support benchmarking and local authority innovation and improvement by LAs and partners.

**Joint Working with ICPs to improve outcomes for children**

* Improved joint working through workshops for each ICS sub-region.

**Workforce**

* Integrated programme plan with RIIA Workforce Programme.
* Mapped key issues faced by London SEND Workforce through survey to inform future targeted interventions.

**Preparation for Adulthood**

* Focus on Preparation for Adulthood informed by analysis of issues arising in London OfSTED inspections.
* Held two Preparation for Adulthood Peer Review events in person, engaging 14 LAs across London to develop action plans to improve their PfA work and pan-London action, with positive feedback.
* Promoted Supported Internships programme across London and engagement of employers.

**ASD/SEMH**

* Published and promoted [***report by NCB***](about:blank) identifying action to shape commissioning solutions for children with ASD/SEMH, as a cohort where there is under-provision in London. ([https://www.liia.london/liia-programme/resources\_commissioning](about:blank))
* Subsequent phase of focused work commissioned from NCB to map providers and support market engagement to develop more local provision in London.
* Developed Pan-London business case for change as a basis for sub-regional pilots.

**Young People’s Voice**

* Survey of LA participation groups for young people with SEND across London.
* Good practice in Tower Hamlets in supporting a young person’s participation group shared with local authorities across London.
* Involvement of Tower Hamlets group in sub-regional and regional events.

**SEND Funding**

* SEND and Finance workshops held, most recently on 7th March 2024, bringing together SEND and Finance leads to share best practice and support sharing of experiences of Safety Valve and Delivering Better Value programmes.
* Promoted development event to strengthen Voice at the Heart of Commissioning.
* Reviewed SEND Commissioning in London to inform future targeted work.

**Preparing for and responding to Area OfSTED inspections**

* London SEND OfSTED Workshop held on 3rd March 2023 and, with focus on developing the Self-Evaluation Framework, with presentation from Portsmouth sharing learning from their pilot inspection and Enfield outlining approach to self-evaluation. Also included input from LGA on the SEND Peer Review offer to local authorities and LIIA on the SEND Thematic Peer Review and Development Offer.

**Sharing of Effective Practice**

* Strategic Managers’ and Parent Carers’ Forum promotes ALDCS SEND priorities, new developments in Health and government and shares effective practice. Examples of key themes covered are ASD and Strengthening the voice of young people.
* Examples of good practice in inclusion such as Enfield Inclusion Charter promoted through networks, web-site and SEND Bulletin.
* Joint workshop held between London SEND Strategic Managers and Parent Carers Network and London Alternative Provision Network.
* Learning event with Adults’ Services to support transition.
* Termly SEND Bulletin circulated to all SEND leads in London sharing news, events, and good practice.

**Proposed priorities and workplan overview for 2024-25**

The proposed focus of work and an overview of the workplan for 2024-25 are set out below, which build on the 2023-24 priorities, SEND OfSTED inspections to date and the SENDAP Plan. The programme sits across four cross cutting priorities; Enhancing Provision and Support for Children and Young People with SEND, Supporting pan-London Collaboration and Joint Working, Building Capacity and Capability within the SEND Workforce, and Supporting Developments and Sharing Learning across SEND.

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| **SENDAP Priorities and workplan overview 2024-25** | |
| **Focused areas of work** | **Workplan overview** |
| **Enhancing Provision and Support for Children and Young People with SEND** | |
| Develop sub-regional (ICS footprint) pilots to improve commissioning and provision for children with ASD/SEMH, building on the NCB London-wide business case. | * SEND Steering Group to review NCB Pan-London Business Case and recommendations for sub-regional pilots. * Develop at least two Sub-regional pilots, working with ICBs and Local Authorities to develop and test options in line with Pan-London business case. |
| Improve transition and preparation for adulthood, with a focus on increasing the proportion of young people with SEND taking up employment. | * Improve pathways to employment for young people with SEND. * Increase employment opportunities for young people with SEND in sub-regional and regional employers. * Improve support for young people in preparing for and starting employment. * Improve transition and join up work with adults services to strengthen experiences of children and young People across London. |
| Improve Safeguarding approaches, with a focus on implementing further measures for children and young people with SEND. | * Build upon the principles outlined in the Stable Homes Built on Love and Working Together Statutory Framework. * Actively engage safeguarding colleagues to collaborate on measures that provide robust support for children and young people with SEND needs. |
| Improve Alternative Provision – governance, commissioning, quality assurance and links with SEND | * Develop joint work across London SEND Steering Group/Network and London Alternative Provision Network. |
| Improving SEND commissioning to achieve greater sufficiency, enhanced value for money and better outcomes for children | * Review SEND commissioning in London to inform improvement and development actions. * Improve SEND commissioning from FE Colleges, building on examples of good practice. * Share learning and future developments on SEND transport to support greater collaboration. |
| **Supporting pan-London Collaboration and Joint Working** | |
| Joint work across Local Authorities, Health, Parent/Carers and other partners to support preparations for Area SEND OfSTED inspections and follow-up actions | * Sharing of learning from initial OfSTED SEND inspections. * Shaping of future developments in response to emerging themes from national and London Area SEND inspections. |
| Parent Carer/Youth Voice | * Shaping of future developments and engagement in London SEND Leadership Programme in design, presentation and participation. * Highlighting case studies demonstrating lived experience and good practice in London. |
| **Building Capacity and Capability within the SEND Workforce** | |
| Strengthen capability and capacity for SEND Leadership in London | * Design and run first cohort of the London SEND Leadership Programme with evaluation to inform further development of programme for second cohort. * Run second cohort with evaluation to inform further development of programme for third cohort. |
| Address workforce challenge, building on 2023-24 London SEND Workforce survey | * Develop programmes to deliver improved recruitment and retention, linked with ALDCS Workforce Programme. |
| **Supporting Developments and Sharing Learning across SEND** | |
| Improving value for money and financial sustainability | * Share learning from Sustainable High Needs Funding Programmes, including Safety Valve and Delivering Better Value as well as local good practice. |
| Building on opportunities in the SENDAP Improvement Plan, working with London Change Programme Partnership, to deliver the right support in the right place at the right time for children with SEND in London | * Pan-London Summit to share progress and identify actions in relation to EHCPs, Local Area Inclusion Plans and Advisory Tailored Lists. * Disseminate learning across London from Change Programme Partnership and support pan-London developments. |