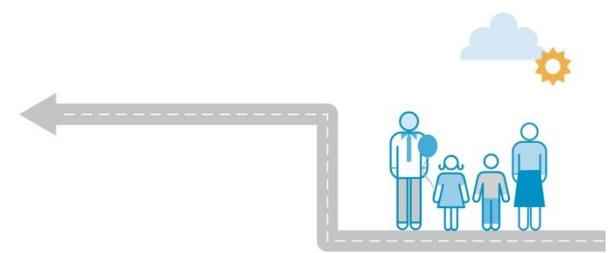




APPENDIX



The City of London Local Area SEF Summary: The SEND Reform in the City of London

Our Journey 2014 – 2017

Our Local Area vision for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) is that the City of London is a place where children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities, mental health conditions, or other long-term medical conditions, can thrive and experience a smooth progression into adulthood. We want our children and young people to be confident that they are highly valued, equal to all of their peers, and have high expectations for their futures.

Our SEND strategy includes six priorities that represent a cycle of support. These priorities are:

1. identifying needs early
2. effectively assessing and meeting needs
3. protecting children from harm and supporting independence
4. removing barriers to participation
5. creating smooth transitions between stages and services
6. improving long-term outcomes and creating area-wide impact.

These priorities are covered in our SEND Strategic Action Plan (StrAP) and SEND Service Action Plan (SAP).

Areas where we are making the most progress

We have a clear strategic direction that is well understood

There are clear policies in place and leaders are ambitious for City children and young people. There is good understanding of strengths and plans are underway to develop service impact and reach. Key managers in education and social care co-produce strategies and work in partnership on strategic decision-making groups. The City is a small authority with relatively few children and young people; however, we have commissioned a wide range of services so that pathways and support systems are in place for most eventualities. The role and purpose of key

strategic groups has been reviewed and a more streamlined and focused system is now in place.

A priority is to raise the profile of the SEND Reforms agenda with key internal and external target audiences (including City of London Corporation staff and elected members) and highlight what we are doing to support this. (StrAP 3.2)

Sound governance structures have been developed and successfully implemented

The overall governance is clear with the Grand Committee, chaired by a Lead Member, having the overarching strategic overview. The accountability structure under the Grand Committee ensures senior leadership oversight via the Children's Executive Board which has achievement, Early Help and SEND as standing agenda items. Members will also be kept up to date regularly through the Safeguarding Sub Committee and annually via the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. Governance has been strengthened further with the creation of a SEND Programme Board, chaired by the assistant director with responsibility for children and adult services, co-chaired by a representative from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and with a parent carer as vice-chair. This structure means that there is a high level of accountability throughout the borough, and outcomes for children and young people with SEND are a priority.

A priority is to increase the participation of children, young people and families in co-production at a strategic level so that their voices are integral and impact on the specification, quality and delivery of services. (StrAP 1.3)

Identification and assessment for children and young people is good because of effective multi-agency working.

The City of London proactively collects information from early years providers and Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School on the number of children who receive SEN support. Information on pupils with SEND is also sought from independent schools and colleges in other boroughs where City-resident children and young people are educated. City of London Early Help services regularly bring together professionals from all agencies to develop effective strategies to support families, children and young people (SEND Strategy Priority 1, p11).

A priority is to improve communication between health professionals and the local authority as soon as emerging needs are identified, including improved sharing of information from early health screening programmes. (StrAP 2)

Progress and attainment for children and young people with SEND in the City is better than national average

All but one of the City of London's schools is in the independent sector and there are no special schools in the City. Educational test results for children with SEND in the City – that is, those attending Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and those with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, are better than national and gaps between those with SEND and those without are narrow. Results for 2017 show that, in Key Stage 2, achievement at the expected standard in all subjects is 27% above the national average. At Key Stage 1 the results are above national average.

Those children and young people who are in public care are well understood and the Virtual School Headteacher is able to access support

services (such as educational psychology) as soon as necessary. The difference between SEND and English as an additional language/English as a second language (EAL/ESL) is well understood and 'under attainment' triggers additional tuition support.

A priority is to develop closer relationships, including data-sharing protocols, with the early years settings, schools and colleges outside the borough and in the independent sector where children and young people with SEND who are resident in the City are educated so that we can evaluate outcomes for these pupils and more closely match services to their needs and aspirations. (StrAP 1.2 and SAP 1.6)

Statutory timescales are met and all statements have been transferred to EHC plans

Timescales are being met in regard to transfer of statements to EHC plans and in the production of new EHC plans. All transfers are complete. Due to the small numbers involved, children and families receive a highly personalised approach and senior officers know the children and young people well. Care is taken to ensure that appropriate regard is paid to the wishes and aspirations of children, young people and their parent carers. There has been strong engagement with parent carers to transfer statements to EHC plans and to develop each plan. This personalised approach extends into transition arrangements and young people eligible for adult social care are well known and well planned for.

A priority is to increase the participation of children and young people with EHC plans in strategic planning and service development. (StrAP 1.3)

Joint commissioning arrangements have set firm foundations for achieving good outcomes.

The Commissioning Team is embedded in the work of Children's Services with a high focus on outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Pathways and access to services are well understood so that children and young people do not have to wait long for support to be put in place. The City has excellent relationships and partnerships with City and Hackney CCG to underpin joint working and commissioning. A core specification has been developed, ensuring that all services commissioned/recommissioned are able to demonstrate inclusive practice. There are well-developed plans for achieving integrated commissioning and aligned budgets.

A priority is to ensure that the integrated commissioning arrangements reflect and meet the needs of City of London children and young people with SEND and, in particular, to strengthen the relationship with Tower Hamlets CCG to ensure clear pathways for City of London children and young people with SEND who are registered with Tower Hamlets GPs. (StrAP 2)

Social care provides high-quality support and encourages families to be self-sustaining and access resources within the community.

Teams across education and social care know their children and young people and their families well. Joint working takes place when children and young people with SEND are also known to social care teams. If anyone with an EHC plan has a short break, this is linked to the

appropriate outcome in the plan. An Early Help Toolkit has been developed that includes a 'distance travelled' tool to capture the impact of interventions.

A priority is to increase social care and Early Help joint working through the multi-agency referral process in order to create more effective pathways for children and young people with SEND. (SAP 1.8 and 1.9)

The City of London SEND Local Offer is becoming established as the one place for up-to-date information about provision and how to access it.

The SEND Local Offer is a key tool for supporting and communicating information so that parents can find the information they need to access services and understand processes. The consulting agency, Communitas, was commissioned to engage parents to develop the Local Offer further. Based on this consultation, a more accessible and user-friendly Local Offer was launched at the end of October 2017.

A priority is to promote the redesigned Local Offer to key target audiences through a range of communication channels. (StrAP 3.1)

The Local Area system for Early Years and childcare is working effectively for families.

The local authority Education and Early Years team has built strong relationships with early years settings and provides effective support and challenge to improve provision and outcomes for children with SEND. Practitioners and settings are clear about the identification process and the graduated approach of 'assess, plan, do and review'. Public health services are performing well – for example, for vulnerable families, health visitors make two visits in addition to the mandatory five and 100% of mothers are still breastfeeding at six weeks because of this good support. The Family and Young People's Information (FYI) Service and Local Offer set out clearly what support is available for families from different targeted and specialist services for early years and how support can be accessed. Advice, guidance and training for early years providers is established, ensuring that children with SEND are supported by inclusive practice in early years and childcare settings. Children's centre activity is delivered across a number of sites but is not yet effectively coordinated so as to meet strategic priorities and will be subject to a full review in 2018.

A priority is to develop a systematic, comprehensive Children's Centre offer.

Areas where we are making less progress

The engagement of parents and carers of children on SEN Support and the engagement and participation of young people.

Feedback from parents and carers of children and young people with EHC plans shows a high level of satisfaction and engagement. Engagement with parents and carers has recently been strengthened with a more formalised mechanism of parental representation on the SEND Programme Board. Work is underway to also establish a parent forum at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School that will better represent the views of parents and carers and the range of children and young people with SEND, especially those receiving SEN Support. The engagement and participation of young people is at an early stage of development but is seen as a vital and urgent initiative if strategic and service developments are to be effective.

A priority is to broaden the parents' forum to include parents and carers of children on SEN Support in City of London schools and to develop effective systems to improve engagement and participation of young people with SEND. (SAP 1.3)

The consistent use of data to evaluate and drive outcomes.

A SEND dataset has been developed and is regularly updated, however, some of the health data is collected across a number of boroughs and City data is difficult to disaggregate. As a result, outcomes are not routinely measured within the wider system, making effectiveness and value for money difficult to determine. Consideration has been given to developing a cross-agency tool to evaluate the impact on progress towards outcomes of all interventions. Data is being used to enable strategic oversight and teams are far more aware of the need to evaluate their interventions.

A priority is to provide performance analysis and reporting and a quality assurance framework that better enables our strategic planning, oversight and scrutiny. (StrAP 1.2)

Preparing children and young people for adulthood.

Planning pathways and opportunities to prepare children and young people for adulthood have yet to be fully embedded. Young people's views are sought on their experiences and their involvement in identifying needs, but these are not currently collated and analysed. We are considering how to help young people with complex needs to access social activities in their community with growing independence. This will include support during holiday periods for children and young people to practice independence skills in the community to support long-term inclusion and embed the skills being taught in schools and colleges. The short breaks offer is not yet fully embedded in the City area. The views of children, young people and parents will influence future provision so that more local activities are available.

A priority is to put broad scope plans into place for post-16 and post-19 progressions and exit pathways so that, when children and young people are transitioning into adulthood, their access to training and employment is facilitated. (SAP 5.6)

Pathways to employment for adults with learning difficulties.

Work is underway to facilitate smooth transitions to adulthood, with cases being discussed at the transition forum. There is also effective planning for post-16 and post-19 progression for individual children and young people through the EHC plan process. However, few adults with learning difficulties resident in the City of London are currently in employment and we are liaising with local businesses to identify possible routes to employment, including supported internships. To date, outcomes-focused assessments and the use of desired outcomes has not been part of planning or service development. Therefore, low aspirations may be limiting the degree of independence and employment opportunities for young people coming through the system. The Local Offer is being developed to include more information about preparing for adulthood and employment and to signpost pathways to employment and independence.

A priority is to develop links with available resources for employment and training support and to ensure that action pathways are in place to work towards increased employability and raised employment levels. (SAP 6.1)