

# SEND Strategy 2019 - 2021

Draft document for consultation

## Blackpool Council

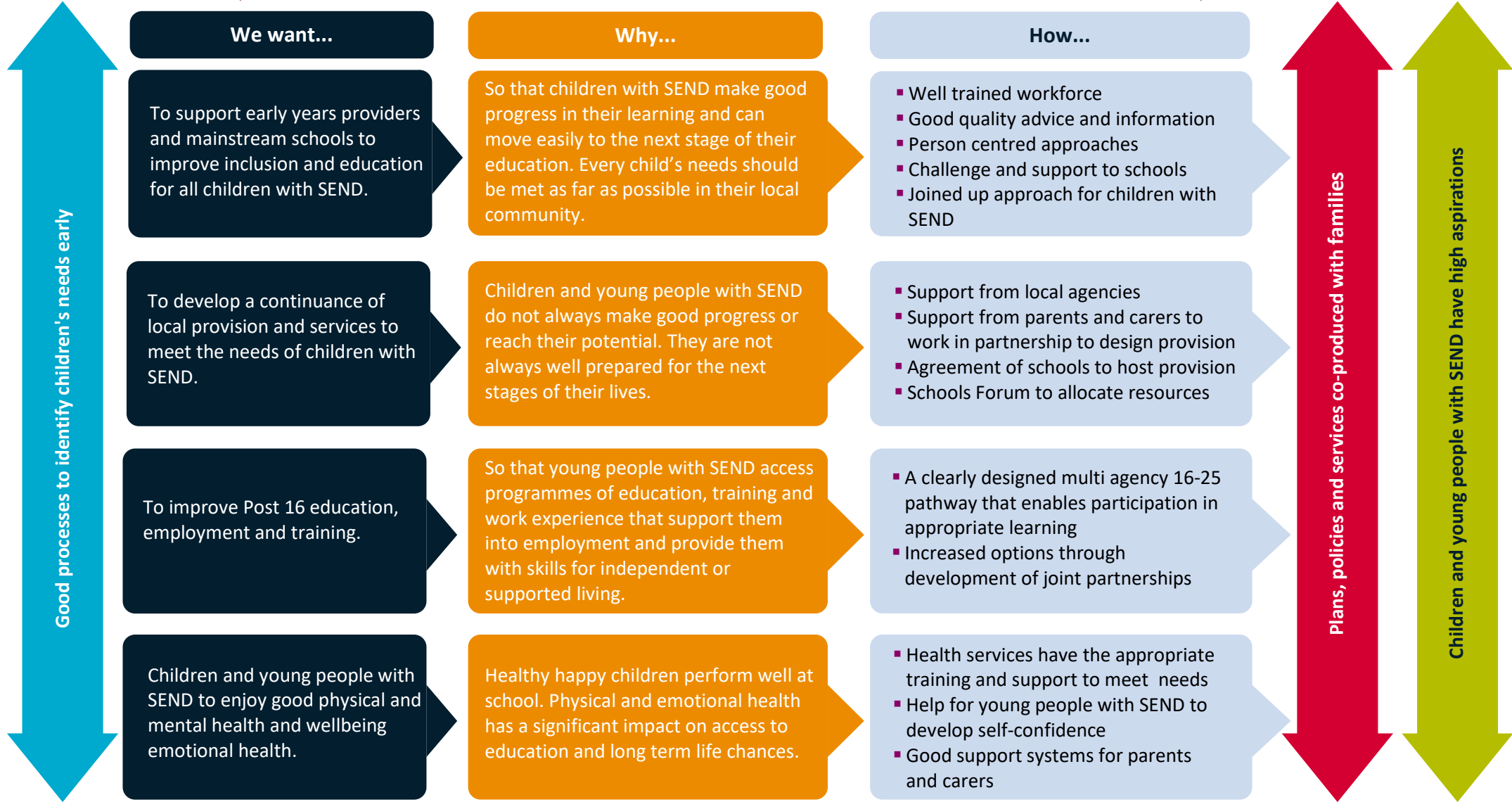


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# Summary of SEND Strategy for 2019 - 2021

**Our vision...**  
 Is for all children and young people in Blackpool, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities or are looked after, to have the right support and opportunities at the right time.  
 So that they become resilient, happy and successful in their adulthood.



Good processes to identify children's needs early

Plans, policies and services co-produced with families

Children and young people with SEND have high aspirations

## Introduction

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced the biggest changes to SEN in a generation; a new statutory duty on the local authority to ensure that the views, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their parents/carers are at the centre of decision making and they are given the right support and information to ensure they are able to participate in decisions which help them to achieve good outcomes.

Now in 2018, we have completed a review of our progress in delivering the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014; this document is our shared vision and our next steps for improving the outcomes for every Blackpool child and young person with SEND.

This strategy aims to meet the requirements of the Children and Families Act in a way that is ambitious, inclusive and realistic in a challenging financial context. It forms the Council's policy for SEND.

Developments so far include the formation of a SEND Strategy Board and Operational groups focusing on the effectiveness of the local area to meet the needs of young people with SEND. The board oversees the strategic vision and implementation of the SEND reforms. Person centred planning, young people and parental engagement have been key focuses since 2014. A Young People's Engagement Strategy has been written and a Young People's Voice Coordinator appointed across health and education. The Local Area have made positive efforts to complete the conversion of Statement to Education, Health and Care

plans (EHCP) in a timely manner and all conversions were completed within the DfE timescales set.

Positive engagement is now in place with parents/carers and members of local third sector organisations are members of the SEND Board and Operations Group. Local Authority Officers attend parent forum meetings and parental engagement days occur with a multi-agency approach to gaining parental feedback.

The SEND Board oversee the completion of the Local Area Self Evaluation and monitors the action plan behind it. The development of the Local Offer continues to improve and there is an expectation the Local Offer will become a daily platform for people to use for identifying support and accessing resources.

Going forward we recognise that there is still much to do, to keep pace with demand, to improve the quality of provision further and to ensure that more children and young people can have the specialist support they need in local schools and early years settings.



## Our vision for SEND support in Blackpool

**Our vision is for all children and young people, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities or are looked after to have the right support and opportunities at the right time, so that they become resilient, happy and successful in their adulthood**

We want to be aspirational and ambitious for all our children and young people with SEND, especially where that child may be looked after. To achieve our ambitions for children and young people with SEND, we will continue to focus on taking actions to reduce inequalities and closing the gap between those who already do well and those who may need extra support to thrive.

Where possible we believe that every Blackpool child and young person should be supported in the community where they live.

We will achieve this through access to good high quality local early years provision, schools and further education settings. In addition to the right learning opportunities, children with SEND should be offered access to appropriate health and care support in response to their assessed needs.

Underpinning this vision is

- A focus on individual strengths and assets
- An understanding of children, young people and families' skills and knowledge
- A focus on building resilience
- The effective use of finances and resources
- Enhancing social networks
- Developing a deeper understanding of the barriers children, young people and their families/carers may face
- Strengthening the involvement in community activities.

Blackpool is committed to early intervention and prevention, providing early help in a timely way so that the needs of local children and young people do not increase. Making sure that we identify needs early and provide the right support, is key to improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND. We will continue to focus on a 'Quality First' approach in our universal settings (in early years, schools and colleges) so that more children learn and make good progress without the need for additional support.

We are committed to safeguarding and protecting all our children and young people with SEND.





## Our vision for SEND support in Blackpool

### Everyone who comes into contact with children and young people with SEND and their families has a role to play in:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing the impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

We want to provide a well-planned continuum of provision from birth to age 25. This means high quality and well-integrated services across education, health and social care, which work closely with young people, their parents and carers and where individual needs are met without unnecessary bureaucracy or delay. We aim to meet the needs of children and young people in universal and mainstream settings wherever possible and where more specialist help is needed, we will aim to provide it in Blackpool wherever possible.

We want the journey from childhood to adolescence and through to adulthood to be a good and positive experience for every child and young person. We want them to be getting the right information, advice and guidance in the right places at the right time depending on their needs. We want young people's experience of adolescence to be one where taking informed risks, making choices, being

challenged and challenging boundaries is about the preparation for adulthood journey.

The term "special education needs" does not mean the child/young person's needs will only be educational. Whilst educational progress is fundamental to the SEND Code of Practice, ensuring that children and young people with SEND have access to good opportunities to make educational progress requires a broader approach which includes family and health needs.



## Strategic principles

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### In essence, our vision is underpinned in our strategic principles

- Our plans, services and policies are coproduced with families
- Children and young people with SEND feel safe and protected from harm. They are seen, heard and helped, effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together
- A person-centred approach to service delivery
- A focus on inclusive practices, removing barriers to learning and high-quality teaching
- Systematic, proactive and appropriate early identification and early help and provision made available locally within supportive communities
- Children, young people and their parents/carers are enabled to plan and make choices about their support and involved as much as possible in decision making
- Greater independence, choice and control for young people and their families over support
- Successful preparation for adulthood, including supporting independence, independent living and training and employment
- Partnership – Education, Health and Social Care services working well together, supported by voluntary and independent organisations and sharing accurate information in the best interests of the child and family
- Integrated, evidence based, high quality services, interventions and approaches – locally provided as far as possible
- Funding and support are allocated fairly and openly.



## Key enablers

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### The key enablers to take this strategy forward and to realise our vision

#### Processes

- A well-planned continuum of provision from birth to 25 years that meets the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families. This means integrated services across education, health and social care which work closely with parents and carers and ensures that individual needs are met without unnecessary bureaucracy and delay.
- Ensuring local SEND services are inclusive of and integrated with high quality Social Care, NHS and voluntary and community services so that the experience of families accessing services is positive and children and young people's learning, development, safety, wellbeing and health outcomes are well promoted alongside their educational progress and achievements.
- Our strategy requires a robust system of early identification of children and young people's needs. Early identification is being developed on the principle of evidence based, targeted interventions delivered by trained staff to ensure families have their needs met early and they do not experience the level of challenge and difficulty in their lives that require statutory interventions.
- A coherent SEND system designed with the child's need at the centre.
- The success of our strategy is reliant on a multi-agency and whole school/team approach rather than a stand-alone and therefore fragmented "silo" approach to children and young people with SEND.

#### Infrastructure and resources

- Strong strategic leadership by the Council, the education sector and Health, across the SEND system in Blackpool.
- Local education, training and support: a place in a good or outstanding school or provision, mainstream where appropriate, as close to home as possible with health and social care support for children and their families.
- Improving provision and increasing parental choice: working in partnership with providers in the voluntary, community and independent sectors who share our values and vision.
- As we continue to see our High Needs expenditure increase, indications are that the National Funding Formula will cap this. Partnership working with schools will be fundamental to develop more effective and innovative ways to use high needs funding in mainstream schools.





# Key enablers

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## People

- Parents/carers and young people to have confidence in SEND services in improving the quality of life for them and the opportunity to coproduce these services.
- Early years settings, schools, colleges and care support services to have the capacity, skills and confidence to deliver high quality provision for children and young people with SEND to improve their educational and health outcomes and their access to wider social development and opportunities and to participate in their local community.
- The importance of providing good training for all staff, whichever setting they are working in. To achieve this aim, we need to use the best expertise and knowledge in educational establishments and other services, to increase capacity throughout the area by sharing best practice and by promoting a model of collaborative working and shared responsibility.
- A commitment to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people, which supports inclusion and understands the barriers to learning, independence and successful preparation for adulthood.

## Joint strategic leadership and management

- Strong governance, accountability and challenge through the Blackpool SEND Strategic Partnership Board.
- The vision for SEND is a golden thread weaving through all provider services, including schools, through a clear commitment from senior leaders including school governing boards.
- Robust pace and delivery of our plans through joint working with the range of support, provision and services across a child or young person's life from birth through to young adulthood.
- All teams and services working towards our strategy through team plans, individual performance and development targets.
- Budgets aligned to our strategic priorities.



## Strategic objective - One

We want to support early years providers and main stream schools to improve inclusion and education outcomes for all children particularly those with SEND, including those children who are looked after

Research tells us conclusively that high quality care and learning experiences in the early years have a significant impact on outcomes for children and lay the foundations for better life chances. There is no group for whom this is more important than children with SEN and Disabilities.

We are committed to ensuring the inclusive education of children and young people and the removal of barriers to learning.

There is an expectation that all educational settings will work to enable all children and young people to develop, learn, participate and achieve their best possible educational potential and achieve their aspirations.

We want every child's needs to be met, as far as possible, in their local community, by local early years providers and mainstream schools.

We expect every early years provider and mainstream school to make effective provision for children with SEND, so that they make good progress in their learning and can move on easily to the next stage of their education and later into employment and independent adult life.



## Strategic objective - One

Why is this important	What outcomes do we want to see?	What do we need in place to achieve our outcomes?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taken from the January 2018 statistics in Blackpool there are 18,996 school age children. There are 3,037 currently identified as having a special educational need, this is 16% of the total school population. There are 555 pupils have an Education Health and Care Plan not including early years and post 16</li> <li>▪ The national average split of pupils with EHC plans is 47% in mainstream and 53% in special. In Blackpool the split is 21% in mainstream and 79% in special</li> <li>▪ The total percentage of pupils with SEND support is 18.9% compared to an England average of 14.6%</li> <li>▪ Blackpool meets the England average for the number of pupils with EHC plans</li> <li>▪ The total number of pupils with EHC plans in mainstream schools is significantly less than the national average even though the numbers identified are higher than average. The total</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The percentage of children with SEND assessed in Early Years Foundation Stage as achieving a Good Level of Development to increase year on year. These children are better able to engage with the national curriculum and more likely to reach their full potential at school</li> <li>▪ Children and young people with SEND achieve well at every stage of their learning, including in Literacy, Phonics, and Maths at all key stages, including post 16. This will be demonstrated through good exam results</li> <li>▪ All children and young people with SEND make good progress relative to their starting points and needs</li> <li>▪ The overall gap between attainment of children with SEND including those who are looked after compared with all children to reduce</li> <li>▪ The number of children with SEND being excluded from schools to reduce</li> <li>▪ Above expected levels of attendance for children with SEND</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Integrated reviews for all two and three year olds in early years provision, to support the early identification of SEND</li> <li>▪ Professionals who work with very young children, including health visitors, identifying children with SEND early and making appropriate onward referrals</li> <li>▪ Funding arrangements in early years settings and mainstream schools to identify, assess and support children with SEND, following the graduated approach set out in the SEND Code of Practice (“assess, plan, do, review”)</li> <li>▪ A knowledgeable and well trained workforce with sufficient skills to support children with SEND effectively in early years settings and schools</li> <li>▪ Access for families and schools to a range of support services to assist with identification and assessment</li> <li>▪ Good quality information, advice and guidance to assist early years settings and schools to meet the needs of children with SEND</li> <li>▪ Commitment to person centred approaches across all education settings and services so that children and families are equal partners in decisions which are made about how their needs are met</li> </ul>

## Strategic objective - One

number of pupils on SEND support is also above national average in mainstream schools

- In real terms this means approximately 131 pupils (71 at primary and 60 at secondary) are in special school provision more than mainstream

- Children with SEND to make clear evidence based progress against their EHC plan outcomes

- The percentage of children with EHC plans who are being educated in mainstream as opposed to special schools, to increase to be consistent with national averages

- NHS providers work in a formal partnership arrangement with the council to provide a joined up approach for children with SEND
- The School Improvement Board to challenge and support schools in raising attainment, attendance and improve outcomes for young people
- Rigorous scrutiny of pupil documentation in place to ensure maximum benefit and use of all funding given to schools for SEND/LAC to ensure wise spending than has maximum impact on outcomes for learners

## Strategic objective - Two

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We want to develop a continuum of local provision to meet the needs of children with SEND, including Moderate Learning Difficulties, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Social Emotional and Mental Health

Blackpool Council maintains a range of provision for children with special educational needs. Most children with SEND will have their needs met in their local mainstream schools. All schools have delegated SEN budgets to help them to support children who have SEND but who do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan, that is, children who are at “SEN Support”. In the case of children with Education, Health and Care Plans, the school’s resources will be supplemented by additional funding provided by Blackpool Council. There is now a high level of pressure for places in our local special schools which needs to be addressed, as well as increasing numbers of children transferring to non- Blackpool special schools. Blackpool will never be entirely self- sufficient in being able to meet the needs of all children with SEND locally. However, there is scope to develop more local provision so that more children are able to have their needs met in local schools and within their own communities.

The cost of specialist placements outside of Blackpool is rising to a significant extent; the rate at which these costs are rising is not sustainable in the long term and could lead to a reduction in local SEND support services in order to move resources in to specialist placements.

It is fully acknowledged that there will always be some young people who require very specialist provision which cannot be provided within Blackpool. However, if we can create additional local provision to meet the needs of some of these young people, this will have benefits for those young people and their families and will also enable us to contain costs of specialist placements and protect local SEND support services.



## Strategic objective - Two

Why is this important	What outcomes do we want to see?	What do we need in place to achieve our outcomes?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In Blackpool there are three Special Schools, in addition a new school for students with social, emotional and mental health needs is due to open during 2019. Currently pupils have to travel long distances outside Blackpool to attend independent special schools</li> <li>▪ The special school provision is at capacity and the number of children with EHC plans educated in specialist provision exceeds the average for England. The High Needs budget has increasing pressure to fund places outside Blackpool and this is unsustainable</li> <li>▪ The vision is for a well-planned continuum of provision from birth to age 25 in Blackpool that meets the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families. This means integrated services across education, health and social care which work closely where individual needs are met without unnecessary bureaucracy or delay</li> <li>▪ Where schools and other education settings offer good or outstanding provision, children and young people with SEND can be supported to achieve their ambitions and make good progress</li> <li>▪ Data shows us that a significant number of children and young people with SEND do not always make good progress or reach their potential, and are not always will prepared for the next stages of their lives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Most children with EHCPs attend and achieve well in high quality local provision and are able to remain with their families and in their local communities</li> <li>▪ Children remain in contact with local services and as a result of remaining within local education services, and so have continuity of support</li> <li>▪ There is an enhanced range of local specialist provision and reduced reliance on external specialist placements</li> <li>▪ The number of children with Education, Health and Care plans remains within national averages</li> <li>▪ Where children do need to become Looked After, their needs arising from the EHCP are fully considered when deciding upon suitable education and home placements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agreement of local schools to host new provision, where the provision is going to be linked to an existing mainstream or special school</li> <li>▪ Support from other local agencies including health to develop new facilities in partnership</li> <li>▪ Support from local parents/carers to co-design the new provision and ensure it meets parents/carers requirements</li> <li>▪ Agreement from the Schools Forum to allocate resources to meet the set up and running costs of new specialist provision</li> <li>▪ The use of the Local Authority Inclusion, Virtual School, Education Psychology, Children with Complex Needs, and SEN officer teams to support schools with inclusive whole school practice approaches</li> </ul>

## Strategic objective - Three

We want to improve Post 16 - education, learning, employment and training

We want all young people with SEND in Blackpool to fulfil their potential and, as far as possible, meet their aspirations; so that they lead happy, healthy lives and are able to make positive contributions as members of their communities.

We want to support this vision through high quality provision in education, training, work experience, apprenticeships and study programmes that support young people into engagement or employment and provide them with skills for independent or supported living.



## Strategic objective - Three

Why is this important	What outcomes do we want to see?	What do we need in place to achieve our outcomes?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We want all young people with SEND in Blackpool to fulfil their potential and as far as possible meet their aspirations so that they lead happy, healthy lives and are able to make positive contributions as members of their communities</li> <li>▪ We want to support this vision through high quality provision in education, training, work experience, apprenticeships, and study programmes that support young people into engagement or employment and provide them with skills for independent or supported living</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provision available to all young people with SEND aged 16-25 to enable them to access purposeful activities (including education, work experience, supported employment, supported internships, apprenticeships, training including voluntary and community projects as appropriate)</li> <li>▪ All young people with SEND have a clear destination pathway and they are able to make appropriate progress whatever their starting point</li> <li>▪ All young people with SEND Post 16 and their parents and carers have access to high quality impartial carers have access to high quality impartial careers advice guidance which prepares them for their next steps in life</li> <li>▪ All young people have access to work related learning activities, as appropriate to their level of ability to enable them to work towards paid employment wherever possible</li> <li>▪ Through partnership working and joint commissioning arrangements for Post 16 SEND services are delivered in a coordinated way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A clearly defined multi agency 16-25 pathway for all young people with SEND that enables participation in appropriate learning opportunities which enable young people to reach their potential and achieve as much independence in life as they can, including paid employment wherever possible. There is no automatic entitlement for young people with an EHCP to remain in education until the age of 25, and for some young people there will be more appropriate pathways to adult life</li> <li>▪ Our vision of SEND Post 16 recognises that some young people with SEND will require longer to achieve their education or training outcomes to enable them to prepare for adulthood in a meaningful way, therefore we need in place:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High quality provision for education, work experience, supported internships and employment</li> <li>▪ Jointly commissioned arrangements and agreed protocols between the Blackpool SEND Strategic Partnership Board, its</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Strategic objective - Three

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All young people have access to a range of SEND Post 16 services and support to provide increased choice and control</li><li>▪ Reduction in NEET figures for SEND and Looked After Children</li></ul>	<p>partners and its providers for agreed standards of provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Increased options and appropriate pathways for Post 16 with Blackpool and its neighbouring local authorities through development of joint provision where appropriate</li><li>▪ Strengthened collaborative partnership working between Education, Children's and Adult Social Care services and Health to enhance local provision for young people with significant needs</li></ul>
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## Strategic objective - Four

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We want children and young people with SEND to enjoy good physical and mental health and wellbeing emotional health

A happy and healthy child will have the best opportunities for learning. The Education, Health and Care Plan will ensure that all children with SEND receive integrated support from education, health and social care services. Support for children with SEND will be the golden thread running through all these services and staff will have the capacity, skills and confidence to provide family centred support to all children.

There will be a focus on prevention and early intervention to ensure that health and care services are provided in a timely manner. Children and families will be provided with information about their health and social care to enable them to make informed choices about the services that they receive. These can and will evolve as the child grows, focussing on early years and adapting as required.

Emotional health and wellbeing underpin child development. This strategy will ensure that all children with SEND to receive appropriate service to support their health and wellbeing needs.



## Strategic objective - Four

Why is this important	What outcomes do we want to see?	What do we need in place to achieve our outcomes?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We know that healthy, happy children perform well at school and we know how a child's physical and emotional health has a significant impact on their access to education and their long-term life chances</li> <li>▪ We will work together in partnership with children and young people and their families/carers to improve access to the support they need in order to have good health, from both universal and specialised services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information about health provision is clearly explained to children and young people</li> <li>▪ Children and young people learn how to manage their own health and wellbeing</li> <li>▪ Universal services are understood and accommodate the needs of children and young people</li> <li>▪ Children and young people are satisfied with the quality of services offered to meet their needs and have confidence in the professionals working with them</li> <li>▪ Children and young people feel involved in planning and decision making about their health</li> <li>▪ The families of children and young people have the support they need to help them to support their children</li> <li>▪ There are effective networks for children and young people, including friends and family</li> <li>▪ Children and young people's care is coordinated and connected so people understand their needs and jointly meet them so that they don't have to keep telling their story</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universal health services which have the appropriate training and support to meet the needs of children with SEND</li> <li>▪ Specialist health services which have the appropriate training and support to meet the needs of children with SEND</li> <li>▪ Specialist health services which can be assessed in as timely manner a way as possible, and support made available for families if they do need to wait to access services</li> <li>▪ All providers offering person centred services which put the child at the centre</li> <li>▪ Good co-ordination between services</li> <li>▪ Support systems for parents and carers of children with SEND</li> <li>▪ Help for young people with SEND to develop self-confidence and resilience</li> </ul>

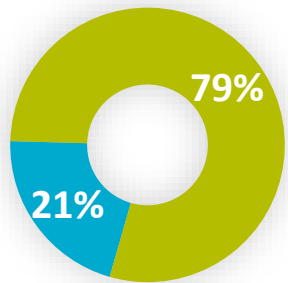
## The strategy will be successful if...

- There are clear processes to identify children's needs early and partners communicate and coordinate services well working together to meet these needs
- Early preventative services help parents/carers to provide appropriate physical and emotional care to their children
- We rely less on statutory assessment of children's special educational needs (SEN) and more on getting the right level of support when it is needed
- Reviews are thorough and lead to improvements in outcomes for the child or young person
- Children and young people with SEND can take part fully in all aspects of education, community and fun activities
- We meet children's needs in mainstream settings wherever possible, and when more specialist help is needed we are able to provide this in Blackpool wherever possible
- We use appropriate evidence-based interventions so all children and young people at all key points through to adulthood. All children, young people and families are positive about their experiences
- There is well co-ordinated transition for children and young people at all key points through to adulthood. Children, young people and families are positive about their experiences
- Children and young people with SEND have high aspirations and we support them to be independent and well prepared for adult life
- We know that provision is improving outcomes: that aspirational yet realistic targets are agreed and progress towards them monitored, and that children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers have been involved in setting and reviewing goals
- We give young people with SEND and their parents/carers the right information and advice about the services they can use at the right time
- Practitioners in education settings feel confident about providing for children with a broad range of SEN and working closely with their parents/carers to provide effective evidence based approaches across the setting
- Children and young people with SEND tell us that they are satisfied with services and that their needs have been met appropriately
- Our workforce has the right skills, competencies and confidence to meet needs of children and young people with SEND
- Children and young people with complex and additional needs have more choice in services based in the community

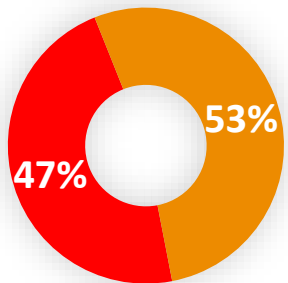


# Key data

Comparison of pupils with EHC plans 2018



Blackpool



England

## The Challenge

3.5%

Higher than the England average number for pupils with SEND Support

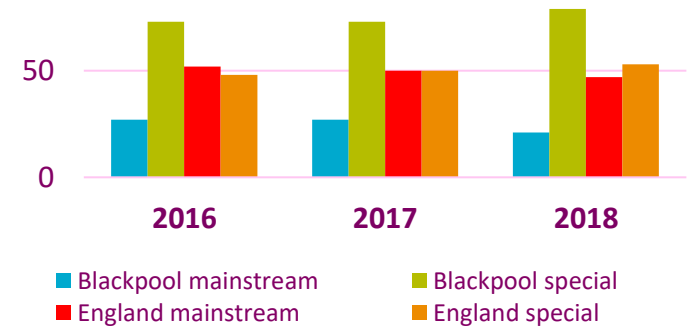
4.3%

Higher than the England average number for pupils with SEND

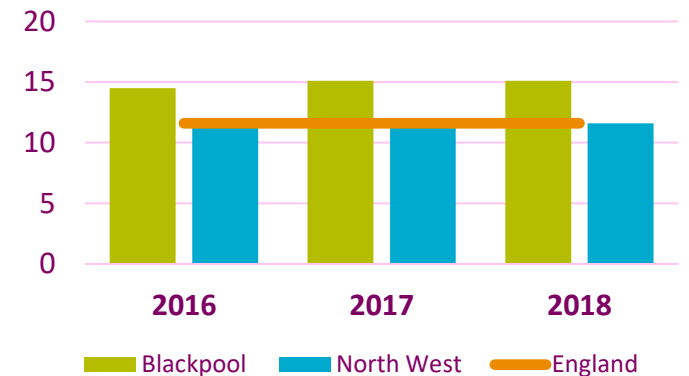
32%

More pupils on EHC Plans in special schools, compared to mainstream than England average

Percentage of pupils with EHC Plans by type of school



Percentage of pupils with SEND support



## Going forward...



### Successful delivery of the strategy

Requires a partnership approach owned by all stakeholders working with children, young people and families, including:

- Health
- Education
- Social Care
- Schools
- Voluntary and community organisations

### Blackpool SEND Strategic Partnership Board

- Will ensure that the work is undertaken to achieve the vision
- Monitor and challenge progress
- Will bring together local plans, partnerships and initiatives to enable public, private, community and voluntary organisations to work together

### Blackpool SEND Operational Group

- Provides the strategic drive, co-ordination and oversight
- Receives regular performance and outcome indicator reports

#### Partners

Grouped under thematic priorities:

- Will be the delivery mechanism for implementation of the strategy

## Delivery plan

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This section will be updated with a detailed delivery plan once feedback from the consultation has been completed.



## Delivery plan

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To ensure our services are accessible to all, documents are available in alternative formats.  
Please ask for details.

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