



DRAFT Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-2025





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Introduction

As local leaders, we are delighted to introduce the Blackpool Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Strategy for 2022-2025 on behalf of the Blackpool SEND Partnership.

Our refreshed plan has grown from the collective voices of our SEND partnership and SEND community. It provides direction and challenge to enable positive outcomes for children and young people so that they can live happy healthy lives in a community that is inclusive and supports them to achieve their ambitions. The SEND Strategy will be delivered through a number of key priorities and actions that will be reviewed annually alongside feedback we receive on the impact of changes and improvements and on our performance. As a result, we may change and adapt those actions.

Learning from neighbouring local authorities, as well as inspections of other services in Blackpool, we have delivered significant improvements despite the difficulties that our area faces, and we have improved our use of data and feedback to understand our SEND population and their lived experience. This enables us to improve existing services and to jointly commission the right services. We continue to improve the way that we work, the services we deliver, and the support we provide across our SEND community. Despite the changes we have made over the last few years, we recognise that there is more work to do so that we achieve our vision for children and young people with SEND.

Although working through the pandemic has seen unprecedented times, the SEND Partnership has been able to maintain services, and learned new things, whilst also strengthening the ways we work together.

The Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-25 supports our continuing growth as a partnership, with children and young people and their families at the centre of all that we do. It sets out our vision, priorities, and ways of working, ensuring that the voices of children and young people and their families are heard as we reshape services to meet local needs.



Our partnership across education, health and care, and with Children and Young People and Blackpool Parent Carer Forum, is improving, and we continue to develop the ways we work together, recognising that we cannot achieve our vision in isolation.

Our Partnership Vision

In Blackpool, we want all children and young people with SEND to live happy healthy lives in a community that is inclusive and that supports them to achieve their ambitions. In delivering our vision, we recognise that SEND is everyone's business, and as such it is featured across a range of boards and services from across our partnership.

Our Partnership Priorities

Working in partnership we have identified four key priorities that help us achieve our vision, which are:

- An inclusive education in all our schools that encourages and enables them to achieve their very best.
- Early access to education, health and care services, and the best opportunities, that help children and young people live healthy lives.
- A range of leisure and social activities that develop their interests and broaden opportunities to socialise and develop friendships, incorporating respite placements
- Clear routes into further/higher education and training that will provide young people with the skills to secure employment, live independent, healthy lives and reach their potential.

The following pages describe the anticipated deliverables from these priorities.



An inclusive education in all our schools that encourages and enables them to achieve their very best

- Ensure schools are well supported to provide the correct provision at the right time, with appropriate funding attached.
- Increase parental confidence in mainstream schools
- Increase the % of children with an EHCP who are educated in a mainstream school.
- Improve quality of assessment / identification of need across our schools.
- Improve outcomes for children receiving SEN Support
- Provide high quality advice and guidance on SEND so that it is available to schools in a co-ordinated way at the time of need.
- Work with health colleagues to provide support to children and young people
- Deliver high quality workforce development for all staff across the partnership

Early access to education, health and care services, and the best opportunities, that help children and young people live healthy lives.

- Establish co-located services, providing integrated 'wrap around' services in places close to where people live
- Identify need early and provide support in the right place at the right time
- Jointly commissioned and outcomes-focused services
- Ensure that easily accessible support, which focuses on meeting need, is available, through the start and utilisation of the graduated response

A range of leisure and social activities that develop their interests and broaden opportunities to socialise and develop friendships, incorporating respite placements

- Ensure services are available before and after school when appropriate.



- Provide activities covering the majority of the school holiday periods, providing holiday activities that are aligned with the holiday activity programme
- Commission and monitor services to ensure they are cost-effective
- Create activities in accessible locations to avoid unnecessary travel
- Ensure there is a wide variety of options for respite, short breaks and leisure opportunities to meet a wide range of needs
- Empower communities to provide accessible opportunities and support

Clear routes into further/higher education and training that will provide young people with the skills to secure employment, live independent lives and reach their potential.

- Ensure there is effective, timely and good quality advice and guidance, tailored to meet the individual needs of children and young people with SEND
- Teach independent life skills (managing bills, transportation, interviews, making phone calls etc) throughout life to support preparation for adulthood
- Ensure our commissioning arrangements for FE places reflect the growing number and needs of young people with SEND, resulting in a range of options for further and higher education
- Use our data to inform and influence curriculum content
- Expand on enhanced opportunities to complete supported internships, through a wider range of providers
- Reduce the number of children/young people with EHCPs who are NEET
- Ensure a local, high-quality offer for post 16 learning and training to encourage young people with SEND to stay in Blackpool
- Strengthen links with social care and housing to predict future supported living and independent accommodation.



We will achieve our priorities through:

Continually developing our collaborative partnership approach.

Sustained strategic prioritisation of children and young people with SEND across the partnership of local agencies.

Improving the quality of new and existing EHCPs, through rigorous planning & review.

Effective engagement and co-production of services and improvements with local parents, children and young people, and our partnership.

Comprehensive, cross-agency reviews of local provision to ensure that children are helped as early and inclusively as possible, informed by children's needs rather than where they are educated.

Appropriate and equitable funding that follows the child, based on need, through their childhood and early adulthood.

Enhanced workforce training and development, targeted at key groups of professionals.

We currently have a particular focus on:

1. Improving the support provided to young people with SEND aged 14 to 25 years in their preparation for adulthood (PfA) through PfA and/or transitions conversations as part of the EHCP and annual review processes as early as possible and before year 9, and at health appointments from a young person's 14th birthday
2. Developing our workforce knowledge and expertise related to SEND, across our partnership
3. Ensuring mainstream services (eg youth hubs, information, advice and guidance) are accessible to young people with SEND
4. Improving the quality of co-ordinated cross-agency support for children with complex needs
5. Auditing EHCP plans to continually improve the quality of plans



6. Working collaboratively to implement service review recommendations and improvement plans for commissioned health provision, including speech & language services and school nursing
7. Implement the ICS Thrive (CAMHS) Redesign at Place

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