

# Transforming Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Hampshire Conference

## Briefing for Local Authority delegates

### Background

In September 2023, Hampshire maintained just under 16,000 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), over 200% more than in 2014. This significant growth is expected to continue. Forecasts indicate the Local Authority (LA) could be maintaining nearly 25,000 EHCPs by 2029, alongside similar numbers supported at SEN Support this, it's expected that around 25,000 children and young people in our schools will be supported at the level of SEN Support by 2029.

### SEN Support and EHCPs

- If assessments indicate that a child or young person needs provision beyond universal high-quality teaching, then a child or young person should be considered for **SEN Support**.
- The **Graduated Approach** should be followed (Assess, Plan, Do, Review).
- **EHCPs** are for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through **SEN Support**. They identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs.

To find out more, see the [SEN Support Guidance for Schools](#). This document is primarily focused on SEN Support, which is broadly the adaptations, adjustments and additionality that should be ordinarily available within every school to support children and young people with SEND

### The Transforming SEND programme

The *Transforming SEND* programme is an ambitious LA led programme, established in response to this growth. It aims to provide resources and support to better meet the SEND needs of the children and young people in our education settings.

### The Vision

*Transforming SEND Hampshire* was launched internally in January 2022 and has an overarching vision for 'All children and young people with SEND in Hampshire to be empowered to achieve outstanding outcomes' by:

- *Building a shared culture of inclusion*
- *Adopting a consistent approach*
- *Being responsive to changing needs*
- *Working within budgetary constraints*

## Delivering Better Value

The *Transforming SEND* programme has recently expanded following a successful bid to the Department for Education's (DfE's) '*Delivering Better Value*' initiative. £1m grant funding has been awarded for 2023/4 to focus on the following areas:

- Improving parental confidence.
- Promotion of inclusive practice in schools.
- Increasing awareness and understanding of the support available from the LA and others.
- LA participation in annual reviews.

## Transforming SEND workstreams

New workstreams have been added to the programme to deliver this and there are now over 20 workstreams sitting under three areas:

1. **Right Support, Right Time** - to provide the right support at the right time, which meets need effectively at the earlier stages of the SEND pathway.
2. **Improve Outcomes, Control Costs** - to maximise strengths based, person-centred approaches, which achieve improved outcomes for children and young people with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).
3. **Continuous Improvements** - to continuously improve LA performance against SEND statutory obligations.

|                    | Right Support, Right Time  | Improve Outcomes, Control Costs   | Continuous Improvement   |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| Existing programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building capacity in schools</li><li>• Improved Outreach offer</li><li>• In-house SALT therapies</li><li>• Signposting to services</li><li>• Early Years strategy</li></ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparing for Adulthood</li><li>• Sufficiency Place Planning</li><li>• Commissioning</li><li>• INMSS</li><li>• Special Schools Funding Review</li><li>• SEN Panels Review</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEN Performance</li><li>• HIEP Performance</li></ul> |
| DBV funded         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Person Centred Planning pilot</li><li>• Transition to School pilot</li><li>• Access to Therapy Pilot</li><li>• SENCO helpline</li><li>• SEN Support Toolkit</li><li>• Person Centred Planning training</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dynamic EHCP Support Pilot</li><li>• Supporting complex SEND in mainstream training</li><li>• Conference launch</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEN Capacity</li><li>• Annual reviews</li></ul>      |

## What's happened so far?

The programme has already had some strong successes:

### Right Support, Right Time

- 13 sector led improvement projects are now up and running across Hampshire to build capacity in schools at the level of SEN Support. These evidence-based projects are being led within groups of schools and other educational settings, supported by the Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS), ensuring that they fully respond to local need. Alongside this, work continues to embed the [SEN Support guidance](#).

- A review of outreach services has been completed to refine the local authority outreach strategy. New Service Level Agreements are being signed with outreach providers ensure that mainstream schools have access to a high quality and consistent offer.
- [The Local Offer / Family Information and Services Hub](#) has been reviewed and relaunched and the look and feel is now significantly improved.
- There has been an expansion of therapy provision within the Communication and Interaction team. Both occupational therapy and speech and language therapy capacity has been increased, with a maintained commitment on developing therapists' expertise in the field of education, in addition to specialist training for specific caseloads including social, emotional and mental health (SEMH). This ensures therapists can work with schools to build capacity through indirect therapy, in addition to providing direct therapy, where needed.
- In the Summer term of 2023, Hampshire's Educational Psychology Service (HIEP) piloted person-centred planning meetings where a decision has been made that a child's needs can be met at the level of SEN support, and an EHCP is not needed. Feedback has been positive, and a decision will shortly be made on how to extend the implementation of this pilot to impact a wider range of pupils, parents / carers and schools.

### **Improve Outcomes, Control Costs**

- A new SEND Banding Framework was introduced to Hampshire & IOW mainstream schools in September 2021, providing a more consistent and robust approach to allocating top-up funding for children with SEND. A review of Special Schools funding has been undertaken and a new framework is planned for 2024.
- Eight Employability Hubs and three Independence Hubs are now open across Hampshire, providing ambitious pathways into employment and independence for young people with SEND.
- Hampshire's SEN Sufficiency Strategy is being refreshed to ensure the right type and number of places are available in the right locations. Two new special schools are on track to open in Whiteley and Eastleigh in September 2026, providing 260 additional places phased over 3 years. Alongside this, the SEND capital investment programme delivered 160 additional SEN places in September 2022, and over 80 places following in September 2023. Over 150 more places are under consideration for delivery by September 2025.

### **Continuous Improvement**

- In 2023 the SEN Service finished clearing overdue requests for an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP). Hampshire bucks the national trend of decreasing EHCP timeliness and improved by 30 percentage points in 2022, achieving 46% timeliness while clearing overdue cases. So far in 2023, over 70% of EHCPs have been issued on time.
- A review of SEN Panels has taken place and changes will be made from the autumn term, including trialing new ways to allocate placements in maintained specialist provision.

- A team is being put in place to address the backlog of unprocessed annual reviews.

### **Plans for the autumn term and beyond**

- The programme will be launched to headteachers in November at the *Transforming SEND* conferences.
- All governors have been invited to an online briefing in November to find out more about the programme and the resources that are being launched in the autumn term.
- The **SEN Support Line** was introduced in September. The support line provides fully funded access for SENCOs to gather advice, guidance and signposting from LA SEN Advisers.
- A new online toolkit '[the SEN Support Toolkit](#)' went live in September, providing advice, guidance and signposting to a range of appropriate services.
- A fully funded training package on '**Supporting children and young people with complex needs**' will be launched to all Hampshire schools during the autumn term.
- The refreshed sufficiency strategy will be published, covering 2023 – 2029 and informing the capital build programme for specialist provision across Hampshire.
- Person centred planning training will be available free of charge to schools to enable them to build their own capacity in this area. Bookings are open now and courses commence in the Autumn term.
- The Early Years SEN Support Guidance has been developed and will be launched to settings in the autumn term.
- A pilot project will start in September covering Eastleigh and Winchester, providing access to Communication and Interaction therapies to those without an EHCP.
- Over the next 12 months, the LA will improve their engagement in the Annual Review process, starting with clearing the overdue processing of annual reviews and moving towards active engagement in annual reviews, providing expertise to help children with SEND increase their independence and improve outcomes.
- A pilot will be launched in Havant during the Spring term 2024 extending portage support into the reception year at school.

If you have any questions about the Transforming SEND programme, please contact [TSEND@hants.gov.uk](mailto:TSEND@hants.gov.uk)