

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 05/06/2023

Subject: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy

Report of: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Children and Education

Report author: Peter Haylock, Operational Director of Education and SEND

Responsible Director Jacqui McShannon – Strategic Director of Children’s Services

SUMMARY

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy sets out the Hammersmith and Fulham’s local area commitment to improve the educational, health and emotional wellbeing and life outcomes for all young people in the borough aged 0-25 years who have SEND while promoting inclusion.

The strategy provides a shared local area vision, principles, and priorities to ensure that partners across the local area are working together effectively to identify, assess and meet the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from birth to the age of 25 in H&F.

The strategy was developed in partnership and extensively coproduced across the local area in consultation with families, reflecting the H&F value of doing things with residents not to them. The coproduction and engagement process is detailed in the [Consultation](#) section of this paper. Following public consultation, the strategy has been further reviewed, and amendments made and approved through the Children’s Leadership Team, Strategic Leadership Team and the Cabinet Member for Children and Education. The strategy will also be presented for information at the Hammersmith Health and Care Partnership Board as the draft strategy had previously been agreed by the Executive group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet approves the publication of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy attached at Appendix 1.
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Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	Ensuring a person-centred approach that delivers the right level of support to meet presenting needs of children,

	young people and their families – and in so doing provide them with the best opportunities to thrive.
Creating a compassionate council	Listening and responding to feedback from professionals, young people, parents, carers, education settings and wider partners regarding what was working well, what needed improvement and where the gaps were with regards to current support available.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	The documents were developed following engagement with families. They have been further updated in response to feedback received through consultation with wider stakeholders.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	This strategy will support local partners to meet the needs of children and young people in H&F and increase the confidence of parents and carers.
Taking pride in H&F	Support H&F to be the best place to grow up, live and work. These documents will ensure our support to children and young people with SEND enables them to lead happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives and achieve their life goals.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	There are no anticipated climate and ecological implications as a result of the publication of these documents.

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial implications associated with the publication of the H&F SEND strategy.

It is expected that the implementation of the strategy and action plan will be managed within existing Children's Services approved budgets reported as part of the annual budget report to Cabinet and Council and as necessary through the regular financial monitoring reports.

Financial implications completed by Tony Burton, Head of Finance Children's Services and Education, 4 April 2023

Reviewed by Sukvinder Kalsi, Director of Finance, 27 April 2023

Legal Implications

The Council also has duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 to make special educational provision for children and young people whose needs cannot reasonably be met from the resources normally available to schools and post-16 institutions.

The Council has additional statutory duties under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to provide education for pupils needing alternative education and under the Children and Families Act 2014 to meet the needs of pupils and young people up to the age of 25 with special educational needs.

Approval of the SEND Strategy contributes to the fulfilment by the Council of these obligations.

Jade Monroe, Chief Solicitor Social Care, 30 March 2023

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. The SEND Strategy establishes our strategic approach to the delivery of SEND services for children and young people in Hammersmith & Fulham, ensuring the offer is coordinated and responsive to the needs of our community.
2. The strategy sets out our shared local area vision, principles, and priorities to ensure that partners across the H&F local area are working together effectively to identify, assess and meet the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from birth to the age of 25 in H&F.
3. The SEND Strategy has been coproduced with partners across the borough, led by Hammersmith & Fulham Integrated Care Board and the Local Authority.
4. The strategy is fundamental to implementing H&F partners responsibilities under the Children and Families Act 2014 and will be seen as a key document by OFSTED under their local area inspection regime as this underpins the local area strategic approach.

Option 1 – Publish the H&F SEND Strategy which takes account of development with key partners and recent consultation undertaken with stakeholders. (Recommended)

5. The Strategy document was developed in partnership and extensively coproduced with families, partners and providers across the local area, and a consultation exercise has been completed. The SEND Strategy has been updated considering feedback received throughout the consultation period.

6. The SEND Strategy clearly explains how we will move forward together as a local area to ensure children and young people receive the right support at the right time.
7. This option is recommended.

Option 2 – Do not publish the H&F SEND Strategy (Not recommended)

8. This option will not result in the implementation of the collectively agreed local area approach to working together to support children and young people with SEND, and their families.
9. This option is not recommended.

Reasons for Decision

10. The strategy is produced in the context of the statutory requirements set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 together with the guidance in the SEN Code of Practice that was issued alongside the 2014 Act. These provisions include the duty to keep under review the educational provision, training provision and social care provision made in its area for children and young people who have special educational needs or a disability and made outside its area for children and young people for whom it is responsible who have special educational needs or who have a disability (section 27 of the 2014 Act).
11. The Act also requires the authority to consider the extent to which this provision is sufficient to meet the educational needs, training needs, and social care needs of the children and young people concerned.
12. In addition, the council also has a duty under section 30 to set out a “Local Offer” which indicates the range of education, health, and care provision available in the borough for children and young people with special educational needs or a disability or outside the borough for those children and young people with special educational needs that it is responsible for or who have a disability where this may be needed.
13. Approval of the SEND Strategy contributes to the fulfilment by the Council of these obligations.

Equality Implications

14. There are no direct negative equality implications for groups with protected characteristics, under the Equality Act 2010, by the approval of this strategy. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and will be kept under review during the implementation of this strategy.

Risk Management Implications

15. The report recommends approval of a strategy which has been subject to extensive consultation with stakeholders, including partners, providers, and young people. The strategy sets out a vision and principles which will guide the

local area partnership in delivering the strategy; ensuring needs are met as early as possible. This is in line with being a compassionate council and in being ruthlessly financially efficient.

David Hughes, Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance, 3 April 2023

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

16. There are no anticipated climate and ecological implications as a result of publication of the strategy. Projects referenced in the strategy such as sufficiency of school places will form separate programmes of work within which the project team will liaise closely with the Climate Unit.

Hinesh Mehta, Head of Climate Change, 3 April 2023

Consultation

17. Since the start of the sovereign H&F service in 2018, officers have been working with parents, schools, and partners to ensure services and provision are in place to meet identified needs and this activity has now been captured into a single strategy.
18. The SEND Strategy has been coproduced with partners across the borough, led by Hammersmith & Fulham Integrated Care Board and the Local Authority. Feedback has been obtained from stakeholders across the local area in health, education, social care, and parent/carers as part of our self-evaluation to inform the key priorities of this document.
19. Our parent/carer forum requested that we use the feedback and ‘thousands of everyday conversations’ to influence and shape the new SEND Strategy for 2023-2028. A draft of the strategy was shared with the H&F SEND Delivery Group which includes representation from schools, children centres, health providers, our Parent/Carer forum, and representatives from across the Local Authority and Integrated Care Board. The draft strategy and consultation plan were also shared separately with our Parent/Carer forum and Health and Care Partnership Executive Group for input prior to release.
20. Public consultation ran from the 20 February 2023 to 24 March 2023. Information was shared on the consultation via Parentsactive, SchoolZone, the Integrated Care Board, Health providers and the Children’s Services staff newsletter. During the consultation, a series of roadshows were held with key stakeholders to promote engagement. This included jointly facilitated sessions with Parentsactive where Senior Officers presented to parents and carers the proposals and were available to respond directly to any questions. Further sessions were also held with school partners, early years providers and Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENCO’s).
21. The consultation was seen by 157 people. Nine responses were received from professionals, parents and carers which were largely positive in nature. A

summary of the responses received and how these have been addressed can be found at Appendix 2. It is likely that the series of roadshows and prior engagement supported a shared understanding and resulted in a lower number of returns. Throughout the consultation and at the roadshows no significant concerns were raised.

22. We have committed to create an easy read version of the strategy document. This work is currently underway, supported by ParentsActive, and will be finalised ready for publication alongside the strategy.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND Strategy)

Appendix 2: We asked, You Said, We Did – Consultation Responses

Appendix 3: Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)