

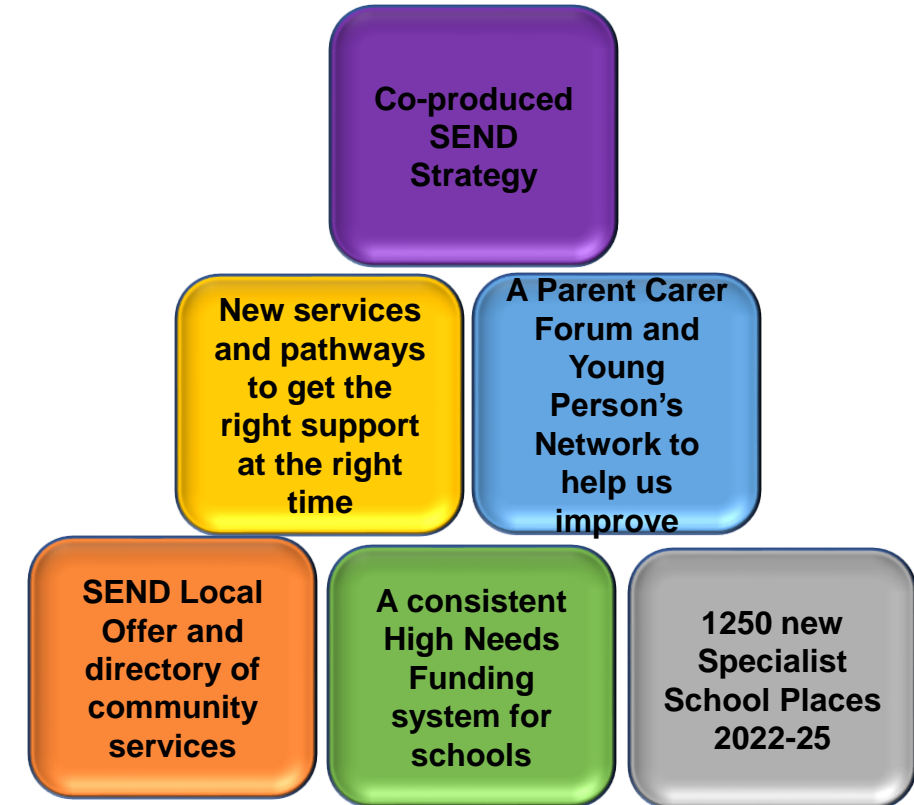
Suffolk Area SEND Partnership Self-Evaluation Summary

This is a summary for parents, carers, young people and practitioners across education, health and social care services about the impact of our local area partnership's SEND arrangements on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Our SEND Journey in Suffolk

- Since the 2014 national SEND reforms, Suffolk have put in place key building blocks, some of which are shown in the diagram, to improve support for children, young people and families.
- For Suffolk, and nationally, there has been a big growth in the number of children and young people with an EHCP. This has put a lot of strain on the whole SEND system and has meant that many families have not yet felt the impact of the changes we have been making.
- There are now around 4,500 pupils with an EHCP and 7,000 overall aged 0-25. Suffolk have as many children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and SEN Support as other comparable Authorities.
- Suffolk recognised that some parents and carers still lacked trust and confidence in the system and their experience of it was adversarial. In response, leaders commissioned the Independent Review of aspects of SEND Services carried out by Lincolnshire in July 2021.
- We developed an Integrated Plan to help drive our [SEND strategy](#). We know support for children with SEND hasn't been good enough, but we are now making good progress and are determined to continue to work together to improve the experience and outcomes for children and young people.

Key Building Blocks



Children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way

What we have done

- Health Visitors undertake a Schedule of Growing Skills or a WELCOMM Speech & Language assessment to help identify additional needs or delayed development.
- The Early Years brokerage team can help you find suitable funded childcare.
- Our network of 29 [Family Hub](#) buildings across Suffolk are an important local resource to access a range of services.
- Special Education Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) in schools can get help from the Inclusion Support Line and Inclusion Support Meetings.
- We have invested £700,000 per year in a [Neurodevelopmental Pathway](#) for children with ASD, ADHD and similar conditions. This includes providing early support through a range of community services without the need for diagnosis.
- Half of schools in Suffolk now have direct access to Mental Health Support Teams in Schools. All children and schools have access to wider support from, for example, Primary Mental Health Workers and School Nurses.
- The [Emotional Wellbeing Hub](#) and the [Just One](#) service in Waveney provides a wealth of on-line resources to help. The backlog from Covid is much improved.
- Over 7000 children and young people in Suffolk now have an EHCP. Audit of the quality of EHCPs show good quality of practice which we are continuing to improve.

More that we need to do

- 89% of EHCPs were issued within 20 weeks in 2021, however a shortage of Education Psychologists, has led to this performance falling to 21% in 2022. We have commissioned external Education Psychology resources and a recruitment and retention plan in place to help resolve this.
- Valuing SEND (VSEND) is being rolled out across Suffolk in 2023 to further support schools with early identification of needs and tailored support.
- We know we have more work to do to ensure the Neurodevelopmental Pathway works well.



Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support

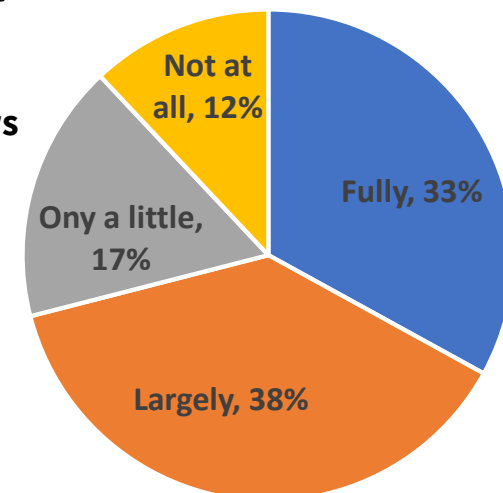
What have we done

- The [Local Offer website](#) and '[The Source' website](#) for young people have continued to be developed to provide a range of impartial information, advice and support to help inform and involve young people and families.
- [Suffolk SENDIASS](#) is a well-used and valued service providing impartial advice on the law and rights of children and families.
- EHCPs are created with families, but the level of co-production is not consistent We have invested an extra £1.8m per year in recruiting and training more staff to improve communication with families.
- From November 2022 dedicated staff have been proactively contacting parents / carers about their experience with the EHCP Planning process which will inform development and training.
- In 2023 93% of CYP in the transition years between early years and reception and primary to secondary met the 15 February deadline for their EHCP to be finalised following an annual review.
- In April 2023 we implemented a new IT system which will allow parents/carers to identify their allocated caseworker, track progress against statutory timescales, message their allocated worker and view forms and documents published to the portal.

More that we need to do

- It is not as easy to find things as it should be on the Local Offer Website. We are moving it on to a better system in November 2023.
- Specialist Education Services are providing more support for transition between school phases and will be introducing termly visits for all schools.

From our survey following EHCP, 71% of respondents felt that the final EHC plan Largely or Fully took account of their views

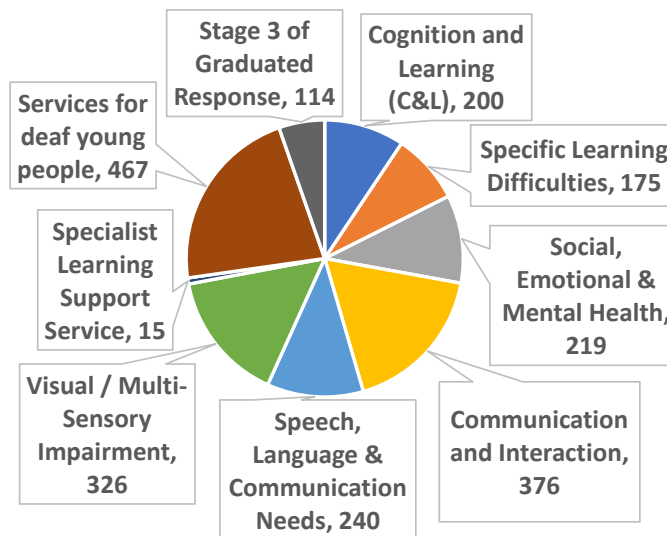


Children and young people receive the right help at the right time

What have we Done

- A £60m capital programme has already delivered 825 new specialist school places. By 2025 this will reach 1250 new places.
- [Specialist Education Services](#) provides substantial direct support to schools. The support received is well understood and valued. Case studies typically show quick positive progress is often made following an intervention
- [Psychology and Therapeutic Services](#) support schools with a range of inclusion and person-centred planning tools.
- Suffolk provide High Needs Funding to schools for around 2600 children and young people without the need for an EHCP.
- New crisis outreach team stabilising young people in mental health crisis situations
- Over 5000 families are signed up to our Activities Unlimited service which provides short breaks and leisure activities to disabled children aged 0-25 in Suffolk.

SES Caseload Autumn Term 22/23



More that we need to do

- Suffolk, along with many other areas of the country, has struggled with increased referrals for children and young people's health services. Recovery plans are in place to reduce waiting times for Mental Health, Eating Disorder services and Community Paediatric services.
- A Designated Social Care Officer has been appointed to improve the consistency of social care input into EHC Needs Assessments.
- Timescales for completing Annual Reviews, particularly for older young people, needs to improve.

Children are well prepared for their next steps, and achieve strong outcomes

What have we done

- A Moving Into Adulthood Plan is part of each child's Annual Review from Year 9.
- Person-centred planning tools such as [PATH](#) and MAP at Stage 3 support young people with future thinking and planning.
- [Suffolk's Post 16 transition guide](#) provides accessible advice on planning for the future.
- Young Person's Workers and Coaches help sustain young people in Education, Employment and Training post age 16.
- An [Employer Handbook](#) has been published with supplements for [Specialist Support Opportunities](#) and being a [Disability Confident Employer](#)
- The co-produced [icanbea...](#) careers inspiration tool helps young people find work opportunities.
- A specialist Disabled Children and Young People's service supports consistency of care from 0-25 for young people with very complex needs. This includes multi-disciplinary Complex Cases Panels, Jointly funded support with health services.
- A new Key Worker Function works closely with vulnerable children and young people with learning disabilities and autism, most typically at risk of being admitted to hospital, to understand what they might need support with.

More that we need to do

- We need to improve the completion of Annual Reviews, particularly for post age 16 young people.
- We are not yet confident that preparing for adulthood outcomes are discussed as thoroughly as we would like in Annual Reviews.
- Increase focus on young people with EHCPs remaining in education and training at academic age 16/17.
- In 2023 we will be supporting Suffolk schools with the implementation of evidence-based approaches to improve basic skills and confidence to help improve attainment and progress for children with SEND which is slightly below similar authorities.
- We are developing a 3-Year Supported Internship Strategy and Programme

Children and young people are valued, visible and included in their communities

What have we done

- The SEND Young Person's network have developed the Safe and Supported project to identify places in the community where they feel safe and supported.
- Community providers such as [Noise Solution](#) , [Green Light Trust](#), [Achieving Aspirations](#), [Access Community Trust](#) and the wide range of providers that are part of [Activities Unlimited](#) provide highly valued support that helps young people, including those with SEND, gain in confidence and be visible and valued in communities.

Welcome to
LANDSEER PARK
"No boundaries in Play"



Ipswich Borough Council are designing and installing play areas to be both inclusive and offer forms of universal play, so no child is excluded with facilities including an Ability Swing, Communication Board and sensory dome.

Schools invite trainers in to discuss how Travel Training for young people with SEND works in Year 10 and 11, ready for Post 16 travel. An event was held in October to celebrate 500 Journeys being signed off.



More that we need to do

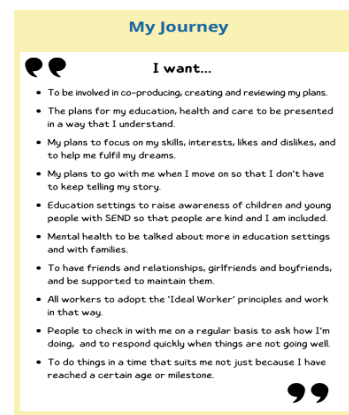
- An innovative 'Warm Handover' scheme is starting to be used in Children's Services to help busy practitioners connect families into local community resources and safely share information. This idea has been taken up by DfE with a national development in progress.
- There is more potential for the changing needs and readiness for travel training over young people's school life to be identified through Annual Reviews.
- Following a successful bid to the Department for Education, we are about to pilot a service to work with children with SEND who are struggling to engage with school by building their confidence through participation in activities and overnight short breaks.

Working with Young People and Families

- The County Council Engagement Hub, along with health service colleagues help co-ordinate an active SEND Young Persons Network, CAT Network, NSFT participation group for mental health service users and Children in Care and Care Leavers groups. These groups have informed [what young people want, and what will make a difference in their local communities and in areas they are interested in.](#)
- [Suffolk Parent Carer Forum](#) are our strategic co-production partner. They provide valued challenge, a vital contribution to service improvements and ensure SEND Area Partners hear about the lived experience of families.
- Healthwatch Suffolk '[My Health, Our Future](#)', now in it's 6th phase, has had more than 50,000 responses from children and young people about their physical and mental wellbeing. This will help inform our ongoing transformation work in health services.
- We publish a '[You said....we did](#)' to help track the impact, small and large, of actions we have taken in response to feedback.
- The Assistant Director Inclusion publishes a regular Open Letter in [Local Offer News](#) for Parents and Carers to update on the progress of our journey to improve the experience and outcomes of young people with SEND and their families.



We worked with our Young Person's Network to ask young people what was important to them.



We worked with our Young Person's Network to find out what makes good support for young people with Autism



We hope this summary about the impact of our local area partnership's SEND arrangements on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). If you would like to feedback please do email localoffer@suffolk.gov.uk to share your views.