

Lambeth.gov.uk/SEND (9)



Our plan for all Lambeth children to do well

(Lambeth's local area SEND and inclusion strategy 2021–24)



Important – please read before you start

There is a lot of information in this booklet, and you may not want to read all of it. Instead, try looking at the contents list below and on page 3 to find things you want to read about.

Words written in orange

In this easy read booklet, some words are shown in **orange**. We do this if the words may be hard to understand or if the words might have another meaning in other places.

At the back of the booklet is a words list that explains what the orange words mean. The words list starts on page 29.

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What this booklet is about

This booklet is from Lambeth council and our partner groups. It is about our work to support people with special educational needs or disabilities, and other people who need extra help, to do as well as they can in life. (Some people shorten special educational needs or disabilities to 'SEND'.)

The long name for this work is 'Lambeth's Local Area SEND & Inclusion Strategy 2021–2024'. We just call it 'the strategy' in this booklet. The strategy is part of the work we do for the Children and Families Act.

In the strategy, Lambeth council and its partners promise to do all they can to include children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities in what's happening in our schools and colleges.

The **strategy** is part of the 'Lambeth First Borough Plan'. The plan aims to make Lambeth a great place to live, learn and set up businesses. Together these will give local people new chances to do well. They will also help Lambeth council give excellent council services.

These changes should also make things fairer and more equal for all the different groups of people in Lambeth.



Lambeth is part of the United Nations' Child Friendly project.

We understand the needs of people with special educational needs or disabilities. And we know there are other groups of people who need extra help to feel part of what's happening in our schools and colleges. We will make sure the strategy includes all their needs.

Many different services and people will help us make the **strategy** a success. For example, councillors, leaders, doctors, teachers, and people from voluntary groups. All of these have members on the Lambeth **SEND** Strategic Partnership Board.

We listened to what local people with special educational needs or disabilities told us about what happened to them in the past. We also listened to parents. We thought about what they told us for a long time before making the promise to work together to make their lives better.

We expect a lot from Lambeth's young people. In return, we want to make sure they get the right support, skills and chances to become the best they can be. And we want them to know we can help them get over any unfairness that gets in their way.

We know that our rules for when a young person changes from being a child to being an adult are sometimes hard to understand. Because of this, the **strategy** says we must make this change as easy as we can for young people, their families and the people working with them.

We hope you enjoy reading about the **strategy** and how, with our **partners**, we will make our promises happen over the next 3 years.

Merlin Joseph

Lambeth council's children's services

Councillor Edward Davie

Member for children and young people at Lambeth council

Andrew Eyres

Integrated health and care

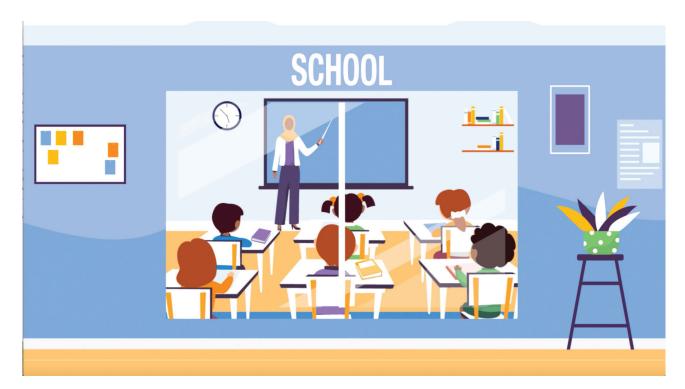
Things you need to know first

In Lambeth, we want all our children and young people to do well. But we know that we must find people with special educational needs or disabilities when they are young, and then support them properly.

A lot of people in many different groups are working with people with special educational needs or disabilities to make sure the strategy is a success. The strategy will be a success when **all** our children and young people have an equal and fair chance to learn.

Our local SEND services were inspected in January 2020. The inspectors said we are doing well in our work with people with special educational needs or disabilities. They were very pleased with our leadership and the way we work with families, so we will continue working like this.

And we will continue our work to make sure people with special educational needs or disabilities continue to get the chance to learn as they grow up. This way they can have a good life when they are older.



We will also continue our work to make sure everything we do includes people with **special educational needs or disabilities** and the other groups of people who need extra help. By doing this we can make sure everyone gets the chance to learn and no-one get missed out.

What the strategy uses to set our targets

The **strategy** uses the results of the inspections and our own checks to set us 7 targets to work on. (There is a lot more about the 7 targets in the second extra information section that starts on page 24.)

Trust

Our work in the 7 targets will help families trust us to listen to them, to think about and then do what is best for them and their children. Trust is based on knowing who is in charge of each part of the work we do. In Lambeth we believe this has already been done:

- Councillor Edward Davie looks after the work Lambeth council does with children and families.
- Lambeth council and NHS South East London clinical commissioning group are in charge of making sure we do what the Children and Families Act says. This work is done by the Lambeth SEND Strategic Partnership Board with help from other groups and parents.

What we are still doing

We continue the work being done as part of our Children's and Young People's Plan. This work aims to make Lambeth one of the best places in the world for children and young people to grow up, and includes the Better Start programme and community Early Help.

The success of 'Lambeth Made' is giving our children and young people the chance to find more jobs and training.



We want to build on this to make sure all children and young people have a fair and equal chance to do well, including those with special educational needs or disabilities.

How the 7 targets were set

The **strategy** sets us 7 targets to work on most. These were set after looking at the results of:

- Lambeth's Area Strategy 2017–20.
- Lambeth's Local Area SEND Inspection in 2020.

These told us what we'd done well, and what we'd done not so well.

What we did well

We did well with these things:

- When we score our own work, we get the score right.
- Our local leaders make a difference to the lives of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities.
- We are good at sharing information.
- The extra work we do with partners in education, health and care services is meeting the mental health needs of our children and young people.
- Parents like being able to discuss things with us.
- Our healthcare workers are helping local people.
- Our leaders do very well when they work with other groups.

What we did not so well

We did not do so well with these things:

- There is a delay in checking the progress of children who do not go to nursery school.
- Leaders of our local mental health services for children and young people do not check enough education and health care plans.
- We do not do enough to help young people with special educational needs or disabilities prepare for becoming an adult and moving to services for adults.
- Not all parents know about our website and not all think its useful.
- When the time comes to look again at the education and health care plan for a child or young person, we do not always make sure the education and health care plan has kept up with their progress.

Research and data

We used **research and data** about public health and education to set up the **strategy**. With this we can find and then target the children who need support to help them learn and progress.

From earlier research and data we set up the 'Raising the game' programme. This has helped us identify and support black Lambeth boys who are not doing as well as they should in school. We can already see that this work is improving the boys' lives.

Because of the success of 'Raising the game', we will use **research and** data to identify and target other groups of children and families that need extra support.

Covid-19

When the **strategy** was being written, Covid-19 was still affecting a lot of people. But when Covid-19 was at its worst, we had to close our schools and colleges, and people had to stay at home. This will affect a lot of our children and young people for a long time.

But in Lambeth we acted quickly and continued to educate the children and young people who needed extra help most. But we know that the people who need extra help most are often the ones who are falling behind the most too. So we must do more to find and help these people.

How the strategy will help us

The strategy will help us:

• continue our work to include everyone in Lambeth in our work.



- build on the good work we have already done.
- look out for changes in people's needs.
- put our money in the areas that need it most.

To help us do this, we have set up some rules to guide our work for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities. These are shown on pages 12 to x.

Rules for our SEND work

Services made for people

The best way to be sure we have the right services for young people with special educational needs or disabilities is to work with them and their families as we set up our services. So that is what we will do. By listening, our services will meet the different needs of different people.

Finding out people's needs

We already work with a lot of other groups and have systems set up to collect and understand information about children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities. This information helps us decide where we should put money to get the best results.

We will support our services to work together with other groups and services to include people with special educational needs or disabilities in their work and decision making.

Training our people to meet all children's needs

Before coming to work for us, many people already know how to do their job. But as time goes by, the way things are done may change. So we ask people in children's and adult services, health services and in nurseries, schools and colleges to continue learning while they are working for us.

We will tell our people who work with children to check how well their new learning affects the way they do their jobs. And we will make sure training is fair to all the different groups of people in Lambeth.

Setting rules for how and when we step in to help

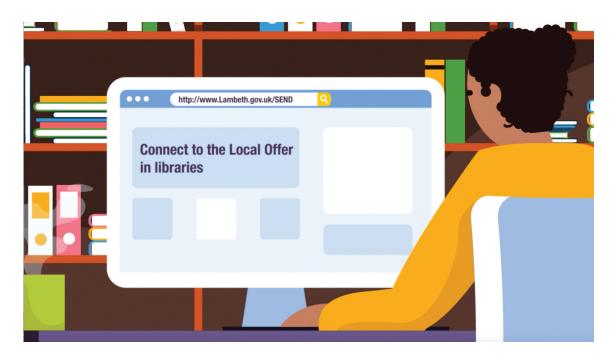
We will collect information to help us understand and improve our work and support for people with special educational needs or disabilities.

Building good relationships with other groups

There are many local groups run by volunteers and local people in and around Lambeth. These groups do a great job and we value the work they do. We will use Lambeth Together and others to work with these groups to find new and better ways of doing things.

Fairness for people who do not use computers

When Covid-19 kept people at home, many of them used computers to find out about and then use our services.



But we know that some Lambeth people do not have a computer. And if someone does not have a computer, they could be left behind. So we will make sure there will always be ways to find out about and use our services without using a computer.

Telling people about the new rules for SEND work

We must make a plan for telling people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families about the new rules for our SEND work. We will use information and work with others to find a good way to tell all the different groups of people in Lambeth about the new rules.

More about the strategy

Who is the strategy for?

The strategy is for children and young people who are vulnerable learners. To make sure the strategy includes all groups of vulnerable learners, we will always listen to these children and young people.

We must learn to include and understand vulnerable learners in the ways that are best for them. And we accept that vulnerable learners may find it hard to find and use our services. So we must find new ways to reach out to include them.





What's happening about SEND in England?

Our strategy is part of England's plans for involving people with special educational needs or disabilities in the things that affect them. These plans include the SEND Code of Practice, the Children and Families Act, the Care Act, and the Education Inspection Framework 2019.

What's happening about SEND in Lambeth?

Compared to the rest of England, a slightly higher than average percentage of Lambeth children and young people are known to have special educational needs or disabilities.

In Lambeth, there are also more black children with special educational needs or disabilities compared to white British people. And more boys than girls have special educational needs or disabilities.

We want to know the reasons for these differences. So, as part of the **strategy**, we will ask our **partners** to get better information about how they identify **special educational needs or disabilities**. This will include asking **partners** to take account of children's backgrounds and culture.

Inspectors say that nearly all the schools in Lambeth are good or better than good, and over half of them are 'outstanding'. We're proud that nearly half of children with **special educational needs or disabilities** go to a regular school or college rather than a special school.

They do well too. For example, in Lambeth's primary schools, children with special educational needs or disabilities do better than in over half the other parts of England. This is because many of our schools have support areas for children with special educational needs or disabilities.

But we know that some children with special educational needs or disabilities need more help than regular schools can give. So we have built more special schools. This means children with special educational needs or disabilities do not have to travel a long way to school.

Children with an education and health care plan

Compared to the rest of England, a slightly higher than average percentage of Lambeth children and young people have education and health care plans.



And the number of children with an education and health care plan is going up. This is because:

- the Children and Families Act covers people from birth to age 25.
- our services identify children with special educational needs or disabilities earlier.
- schools are more willing to apply for an education and health care plan because they get extra money from the government.
- we are seeing more children with issues that qualify for an education and health care plan.

Our special educational needs or disabilities services

The work we do with and for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities is good in many ways. And the strategy will help us make this work better.

The exam results of Lambeth children, including vulnerable learners, are getting better and better.

We have been working with vulnerable learners and their families and carers for a long time. And we often work with our schools and partners to set up new services.

About money

Lambeth council, its schools and its **partners** have less money than they used to. This is because:

- 1 There has been a big change in the way the government shares out school money among councils. Lambeth used to get a big share before the change, but now we will get less money for at least the next few years.
- 2 Lambeth has fewer children in its schools. This means we get less money from the government. Fewer school-age children also make it harder for us to set up the right size classes.
- 3 As well as Lambeth getting less money for its schools (see 1 above), most of our schools must find extra money to put into pensions for the people who work for them.

The government has given extra money to councils in areas like Lambeth because we have a lot of people who need extra help. But this money has been used up quickly because more people need help. So we need to work with our partners to do more with less money.

To do this we must make sure the money is spent on things for the people who need them most. The **strategy** will help us do this.

Together, this work is making big changes to the lives of Lambeth's children and young people. Fewer children are being banned from school, and the changes we've made to the Fair Access project is helping more people understand the needs of children and young people.

What still needs to be done better

Young people already tell us how much they value their learning and the information and support they get. But the following things still need to be done better. The **strategy** will look into them.

Young people tell us they want more chances and support to share their thoughts and ideas about our services. This will help make sure that our services change to meet their needs and the needs of their families.

More and more of Lambeth's little children now go to nursery. This is good because children with special educational needs or disabilities are then found early. The strategy must work out how to find little children with special educational needs or disabilities who don't go to nursery.

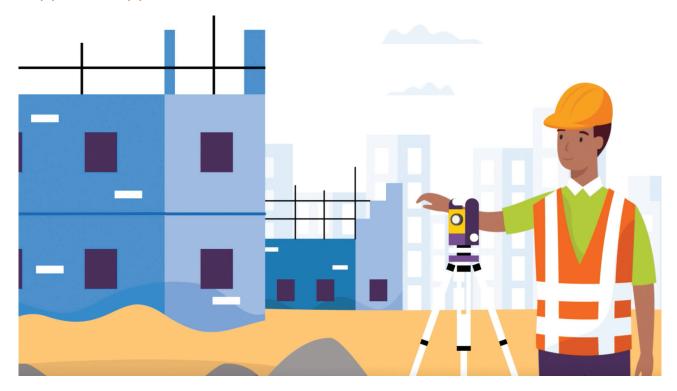


Children have to wait a long time to see a doctor who can do checks to find out if they are autistic. The waiting time needs to be much shorter.

Vulnerable learners are waiting too long for our services to check their needs. The waiting time needs to be much shorter.
Although fewer children are being banned from Lambeth's school, more needs to be done to get parents and carers to understand and support our work to help young people avoid getting involved in anti-social behaviour and crime.
More and more, education and health care plans aim to support children and young people to learn social skills as well as their learning in school. But sometimes, when it's time to look again at the education and health care plan, people do not do a good job.
This can mean that education and health care plans have not kept up with the person's needs and progress. To help stop this from happening, health, mental health and social care workers must always be there when education and health care plans are looked at again.
Our services for people with special educational needs or disabilities meet all the rules. But more needs doing so that all parents and carers know about the services. When this is done, more children and young people will join in local activities, including after-school and holiday clubs.
There are gaps in services for adults with special educational needs or disabilities.
More needs to be done to help young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families prepare for becoming an adult. There must be no break in support as they move from our children's

services to the care services for adults.

More needs to be done to support young people into work, college and training. For example, giving young people the chance to become a supported apprentice.



More young people with special educational needs or disabilities need to be supported to move into work.

For the **strategy** to be a success, Lambeth council and our **partners** must continue to train the people who work for us. We will help them to learn the best ways to find, check and meet people's mental health needs, including people who have an **education and health care plan**.

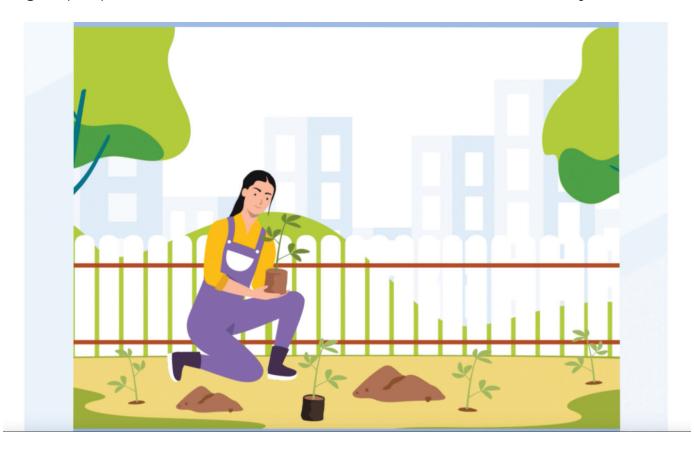
We will find computer programs and kits that can support young people as they get ready to become an adult. Our secondary schools will also to give better support to people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other attention difficulties.

We will check how well the training is doing and, if we need to, we will make changes to our services to make them even better.

Our vision

We believe that, like everyone else, children and young people with a special educational need or disability, and all vulnerable learners, have the right to a good and enjoyable life.

A life where they have an equal chance to get and use the things that give people a better future and allows them to be the best they can be.



Extra information 1

More about the Children and Families Act

From September 2014, the Children and Families Act 2014 brought in a lot of big changes to education, care and health services. The changes meant to support children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities to be the best they can be in life.

The Children and Families Act aims to do this by:

- joining up support across education, health and care, from a child's birth until the person becomes age 25.
- making sure support is offered as early as possible in the child's life.
- making sure children and young people, as well as their parents and carers, are included in setting their own life goals and join in the decisions about the support they need to achieve them.
- finding better and cheaper ways of doing our work.

The Children and Families Act told local councils the work they had to do. These are the 8 main things local councils must do:

- 1 Work closer with partners. 'Partners' include:
 - people who supply services for children under 5.
 - all types of schools and colleges.
 - · health providers.
 - children's and adult social care services.

Local councils must also work with other services and providers when setting up support services. This is to make sure councils are not the only service provider in their area.

- 2 Involve young people and children with special educational needs or disabilities, as well as their parents, carers and families, in decisions about which support services they need.
- 3 Set up a local offer for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities. The local offer should be written using clear words so that anyone can understand what is available.
- 4 Allow parents, carers, and young people to have a 'personal budget' from which they can choose and control the education, health and social care services they get.
- Work with the local education, health and social care services when working out, planning and buying services. This will lead to more simple and joined up support through a single education and health care plan covering a person from birth to age 25.
- 6 Make sure there is an easy and known process for the changes that happen at important points from birth to age 25, especially when moving from child services to services for adults.
- 7 Think about continuing services beyond age 18.
- 8 Bring in new rules for protecting young people aged 16 to 25.

Full information about the changes is in the Children and Families Act 2014. You can find more information at https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/oWS_CRgpPCvEMA5hVcNgT?domain=legislation.gov.uk

Full information about setting up the changes is in the SEND Code of Practice 2014. You can find more information at https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/RUZOCxGp2T1k72xIv3feA?domain=gov.uk

Extra information 2

More about our 7 priority targets (priority actions)

Priority 1: Getting children and young people to join in our work

Set up a children and young people's group to give children and young people a place to talk about what has happened to them so far, making sure they believe they are listened to, understood and can help us in our plans for services.

Work with young people to make a charter for their work, including our guidelines for working together on new services and ideas.

Use a toolkit to measure the results of the children and young person's engagement forum to check progress and make sure goals are met.

Priority 2: Co-production and decision-making when making services for children/young people with special educational needs or disabilities

The SEND Strategic Joint Commissioning and Engagement Board looks after buying and engagement ideas, and makes sure families are involved in taking them forward.

Make sure that engagement ideas involve a range of families with different backgrounds and experiences, representing all the different groups of people in Lambeth.

Make sure there is an effective SEND and Inclusion Communication Strategy so that our partners use easy and clear words when telling parents about changes. Information should be written using clear words so that anyone can understand it.

A 3-year SEND and Inclusion Strategy, made with parents and carers, that shows: how it will meet the needs of children and young people; and the results of the special educational needs or disabilities inspection.

Priority 3: Local offer that anyone can understand

Work on making a local offer website and set up a team to support it.

Make sure the local offer website can be used by everyone, including people with disabilities. And make sure parents, carers and our workers get to know about the local offer website.

Set up an ongoing process to improve the local offer, giving young people and their parents the chance to say what they think of any changes.

Priority 4: Make sure Lambeth council and its partners have systems and processes in place to stop SEND children being overlooked

An Early Years SEND Strategy for children and families. This will: support families and the services for the under-5s; make sure that our early years services and partners are working together; and check that the targets are met for our work for children aged under 5.

Make sure all children aged under 5 with special educational needs or disabilities are found early. To be done through joined-up working among the support services so that all children found to have special educational needs or disabilities at age 5 have had their needs checked.

Targeted support for all vulnerable learners in schools. Also, make sure our workers give learners the right help at the right time so that they stay in a regular school rather than a special school.

Children at risk of being banned from school get the right support at the right time to lessen the risk of being banned and to find ways to help young people who have been banned from school avoid getting involved in anti-social behaviour and crime.

Looked-after children have health checks and looked after children with education and health care plans get a school place when the council sends them to live outside Lambeth.

Vulnerable learners within the youth offending service are found and have their learning needs checked and supported.

Our plan for all Lambeth children to do well

Find out which groups of school children are at risk – for example, because of their backgrounds. This is to make sure they get equality in learning, a place in school and better results when they finish school.

Young people aged over 16 with an illness or medical condition are correctly checked and have any learning disabilities identified.

Ensure that Lambeth's young people are correctly identified and tracked after they become 16, making sure their needs are met and reducing those who are not in work or training.

Priority 5: Building knowledge in our workforce so that vulnerability is recognised and needs are met

Give our workers the chance to train in work time on things like the differences between people because of brain differences, mental health and wellbeing. This will help them identify need, decide what needs to be done and offer services so that the person can join in education.

Make sure everyone in Lambeth council and its partners know the part they play in identifying the needs of people with special educational needs or disabilities. They must also know how to record the needs so that services can work together earlier to assess and meet them.

Raise awareness of anti-racist/anti-oppressive practice and quality assure all training and workforce development opportunities to challenge discrimination in service delivery and/or access to services.

Priority 6: Education and health care plans that reflect our complex learners over time

Continue work on the education and health care hub, working with our workers, parents and children's and young person's services to make sure education and health care plans are targeted at the person and the results are made by everyone involved.

Proper checking when education and health care plans are made and yearly checks will continue, helping us get closer to doing this at the proper time, and keeping up with improvements in other councils around the country.

Check education and health care plans to make sure they show every child's strengths, needs and service needs as they grow up, and making sure they keep up with what we would expect for a child that age.

Make sure the health, social care and early help checks are taken into account and affect the results and services used by children and young people with education and health care plans.

Make sure that, from Year 9, education and health care plans take account of and support the hope that nearly all young people will move towards paid or unpaid work. The plans will also support independent living for everyone.

Priority 7: A pathway to adulthood that supports all vulnerable learners

Work on a long-term plan to help people prepare to become an adult.

A range of ways to move from learning into work that young people with special educational needs or disabilities can understand.

Set up a supported employment partnership to provide supported jobs so that young people with special educational needs or disabilities and other vulnerable learners can move into paid work.

Work to set up a programme of opportunities in all parts of Lambeth for young people to get life skills for travelling, managing money, looking after yourself, healthy living and how to live in your own home.

Join up **SEND** Transition so that there are clear ways to move between children's services and adult services. Young people can then have a smooth move into adult services when needed. Work on processes and support services for those who will not be supported by adult services.

Our plan for all Lambeth children to do well

Set up social and leisure schemes, including after-school and holiday clubs, that are suitable for young people whose needs are not being met.

Strengthen the links between the mental health services for children and the mental health services for adults to support the young people who will move between the services. Also, produce clear guidance about other services for those who will not be supported by adult services.

Find and tell people about the processes for young people with a lot of health needs who are moving from children's nursing services into the care of primary health care teams.

Fix the gap in services for adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and similar disorders by setting up an easy process for moving from children's services into community services.

Make a toolkit of things to help young people, their families and our workers to understand how to support the move into adult life.



Words list

All the different groups of people in Lambeth

'Different' is the important word. Different can mean many things. For example, women and men are 2 different groups of people. People with disabilities and people without disabilities are different groups. And people with family backgrounds in other countries may be different groups.

Anti-social behaviour

This is when someone acts in a way that causes or is likely to frighten or upset other people.

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

A person with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder can seem restless, may have trouble thinking hard and may do things without thinking.

Autism

A person with **autism** does not have an illness or disease. It just means their brain works in a different way compared to other people. A person with **autism** usually has a very good memory but may find it hard to mix with and speak to other people.

Child friendly

This is when children's needs, rights and opinions are taken into account in local decisions, plans and projects.

Education and health care plan

This used to be called a 'statement'. The plan sets out the learning, health and social care needs of someone needing extra support in school.

Local offer

This gives information about all the local council's services to support children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families.

Looked-after children

These are children who the council looks after, such as in a foster home.

Partners

These are the groups in and around Lambeth who work with Lambeth council to help children and young people (up to age 25) who have a special educational need or disability to do as well as they can in life.

Research and data

This is work done by scientists to get facts and figures about something.

SEND

This is the short name some people use for special educational needs or disabilities.

Social skills

These are things we have learned that help us get along with people. The main social skill is talking, but other social skills include things like smiles, the way we move our bodies and how we look.

Special educational needs or disabilities

This is when someone has a learning difficulty or disability that makes it a lot harder for them to learn than other people the same age. Some people use SEND instead of special educational needs or disabilities.

Strategy

This is the 'Lambeth Local Area SEND & Inclusion Strategy 2021–2024'. In the strategy, Lambeth council and its partners promise to do all they can to include children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities in what's happening in our schools and colleges.

Supported apprentice

This is a young person with special educational needs or disabilities who is on a study course based mainly at the place where they work. Supported apprenticeships aim to support the young person to stay in paid work by learning the skills they need for work.

Vulnerable learners

In this booklet, this means:

- children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities.
- children in need.
- children and young people who are on a child protection plan.
- looked-after children.
- children and young people who are black, Asian or from an ethnic minority group who were not treated fairly in school and this has led them to miss out on chances for more education, training or jobs, or be in danger of getting involved in violence.
- children with hidden disabilities who miss out because people did not know about their disability.
- children and young people whose learning was badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



About this document

Title: Lambeth Local Area SEND & Inclusion Strategy

Purpose: To improve the educational, health and emotional wellbeing and life outcomes for all young people in the borough aged 0-25 years who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

Approved by: The Cabinet, Lambeth Council

Date: 13 September 2021

Status: Final

Implementation date: Immediate

Review frequency: Refresh every 3 years

Next review date: Autumn 2025