

LGA SEND Peer Challenge and SEND Family Survey

Key Conclusions and Action Plan

MY LAMBETH
2030



LGA SEND Peer Challenge: Key Conclusions and Action Plan



LGA SEND Peer Challenge:

What is the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge?

The aim of each peer challenge is to help councils, integrated care systems and their partners reflect on and improve the outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

We received recommendations from the review and have created an action plan for 2023–24 to ensure we are making improvements.

We took the action plan to the Lambeth Parents Forum to discuss with parents their views and thoughts.

This action plan will drive improvement throughout 2024.

Key Conclusions from LGA SEND Peer Review

- Strengths around multi-agency working, commissioning, drive, energy, ambition of all staff
- Excellent examples of services making a difference
- Some excellent educational outcomes
- Challenges on improving quality of EHCP's
- Amount of pupil places available in SEND provision is not sufficient

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SEND Family Survey: Key Findings and Insights



Executive Summary

We received 140 responses and identified a range of cross-cutting themes

EHCPs make a positive difference, however many are still unsure about the impact



Primary settings
were most positive
about EHCPs having
a positive impact



Those in **Early Years**
were most unsure
about whether EHCPs
had a positive impact



Those in **secondary**
settings were least likely
to have had an EHCP
update in over 5 years

More could be done to assure parents and carers about the support available in transitioning to new settings, services and adulthood



Parent-carers didn't feel included in transitions, especially in Preparation for Adulthood



Those with **SEN support** were **more likely to not feel listened to**



Many parents and carers said that **ease of accessing information depends on the service**



SEND Survey and LGA SEND Peer Challenge Action Plan for 2023 - 2024

Recommendations

Key Actions

A joint implementation plan is developed which links strategy to operational actions.

**This will ensure senior leaders are assured on progress and all partners understand the golden thread which connects strategy to operational delivery.*

1. A new Lambeth Local Area SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy is being developed and coproduced due for launch during Autumn 2024. The voices of children and young people and their families are front and centre to the development of this strategy.

** Alternative Provision means education outside school, arranged by local authorities or schools themselves.*

2. Circulate the LGA / SEND Survey Action Plan widely to drive improvements whilst new strategy is being created.

Recommendations

Key Actions

Create further capacity to ensure that the Council meets its statutory duties, including in the SEND teams.

1. Review of the current EHCP team capacity and caseloads.
2. Introduction of Placement Panel to review the outstanding change of placement requests.
3. Communication to be improved with a calendar system from January 2024 for EHCP Team. Families and schools will now be able to book a call time with EHCP Co-ordinator through calling the SEND main phone number.

Recommendations

Key Actions

Create additional capacity to drive up quality of assessments and plans supported by a clear multi-agency quality assurance framework.

1. Focus on quality assurance of EHCP's and work with other local authorities in Southwark and Lewisham to ensure quality.

Continue to focus on the challenges and to seek to mitigate the risks of placement sufficiency for children with SEND

1. First wave of High Needs Capital Allocation Funding for spaces for September 2024, created additional 98 places.
2. Second wave of High Needs Capital Allocation Funding open to applications from schools and special schools until 26th January 2024 and new allocations considered.

** High Needs Capital Allocation funding is used to support local authorities to deliver new school places or improve existing provisions for children and young people with SEND.*

Recommendations	Key Actions
<p>Deliver on already identified additional capacity: the youth engagement project and DSCO (Designated Social Care Officer)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First SEND Youth event for 14 – 25 year old took place in December 2023. 2. Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) to support social care input into EHCP been appointed and will begin their role in March. <i>* The DSCO supports children’s social care compliance with the SEND Code of Practice</i> 3. SEND Youth Co-Ordinator role appointed.
<p>Extend the learning from strong and effective multi-agency working in early years and co-design solutions with schools.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the Family Hub Transformation Programme for Lambeth. 2. Implementation of Better Start Workers for ages 5-11 with review date. 3. Aim to work towards a "Family Hub" to support access to services related to SEND including children's centres and youth hubs.

Recommendations

Increase capacity of the DMO (Designated Medical Officer) and / or develop DCO (Designated Clinical Officer) role to ensure ICB compliance with statutory SEND functions.

System wide SEND training programme to be provided for all staff working with children and young adults 0 to 25 - focusing on strategy, principles and process.

Key Actions

1. Review of roles in health to support joined up working and consider appointment to Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) role.

**The DCO and DMO provide scrutiny and assurance around health services to meet statutory SEND duties.*

1. SEND training and EHCP training plan across Lambeth Children Services regarding understanding SEND and EHCP.

2. SEND and EHCP Training for health partners including CAMHs and therapies.

3. SEND and EHCP Training for School Nurses.

Recommendations	Key Actions
<p>Further embed and deliver on the existing commitments of the council as an employer, commissioner and purchaser to increase opportunities and resources to improve employment and independence.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1131 177 2430 279">1. Pathways for Adulthood Working Group established and embedded.<li data-bbox="1131 348 2219 396">2. Review of Pathways to Adulthood Strategy.<li data-bbox="1131 465 2288 568">3. Economic Inclusion to follow up with widening supported internship opportunities.