

Supporting Access to Services Working Group County Durham SEND services

Working in partnership with services in County Durham to support children, young people and their parent/carers with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Revised Terms of Reference – July 2019

County Durham Vision for Children and young people with SEND.

Our shared vision is that all children and young people with SEND achieve the best possible outcomes through having every opportunity to take control of their lives, be as independent as possible and achieve to their full potential.

County Durham SEND Strategy objectives:

To realise the shared vision the SEND Supporting Access to Services Working Group (SAS) will support progress toward 3 key objectives as outlined in the SEND Interim Strategy:

- **Objective 1:** Coordinated leadership and governance across the local area;
- **Objective 2:** Securing high quality support which meets the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families; and
- **Objective 3:** Ensuring that young people with SEND are well prepared for their adult lives and can live independently.

General overview:

- Deliver against relevant actions contained in the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) including evaluation of impact.
- To support the Local Area to fulfil its statutory duties in line with the SEND Code of Practice.
- Support preparation for inspections as part of the SEND Governance System.
- To have in place a clear escalation process for areas of concern in terms of service access

Supporting Access to Services Working Group outcomes:

The following broad outcomes have been taken from the County Durham SEND strategy (refresh document v2.5) that are aligned with the preparing for adulthood framework:

Outcome	Outcome measures
1. Developing independence ensuring that children and young people have the freedom to develop personal and social skills in their local schools and community settings with the opportunity to develop friendships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child and parent satisfaction measures • Learning progress rates • Education, health and care plans produced in a timely fashion.
2. Experience good health through timely assessment and support from 0-25 years with all professionals using personal centred approaches in their integrated support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapy assessment and intervention waiting times. • Rates of school exclusion, attendance, school moves and elective home schooling.
3. Building resilience receiving the right adaptations to support and develop personal strategies that secure inclusion in learning and community settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of independent special school placements • Percentage of children and young people who are not in education, employment and training (NEET).
4. Achieving employment (or life opportunities to their needs) through providing pathways and opportunities to support transition into adult life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people in supported internships • Percentage of children in mainstream schools with an EHCP

Focus of activity of this group

A: To support stakeholder confidence in the system to meet the SEND needs of their children

B: To monitor and anticipate demand for services and escalate this to the SEND Partnership Board as appropriate utilising service data, user feedback and opportunities for co-production

C: Promote the ability and opportunity for children and young people with SEND to access appropriate services in County Durham through promoting positive communication from services with service users.

D: To use clear joint knowledge of escalation procedures at a local, regional and national level to support appropriate access to services

Group Membership

Chair: Strategic Lead Specialist/Inclusion Support and Principal Educational Psychologist, Durham County Council

Co-chair: Designated Clinical Officer (DCO), Clinical Commissioning Group

Representation from:

- Lead advisor for Education 2-19.
- Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning
- Children's Services:
- Durham SENDIASS:
- SEND and Inclusion Specialist Inclusion Support Teams
- SEND Looked After and Vulnerable Casework Team
- Investing in children:
- SALT service:
- Health commissioners:
- TEWV Camhs services
- Youth Justice Service
- School nursing
- MCT representative:
- Strategic Manager Commissioning:
- Commissioning Policy Planning Officer
- Early Years Education
- Community Voluntary Alliance
- Primary School representative
- Secondary School representative
- Special School representative
- FE Sector representative
- Public Health

Meeting frequency: Meetings will be held bi-monthly.

Administration: Provided by the office of the Chair.

Agendas and minutes: Where feasible, the agenda and all supporting papers will be sent to members of the group 7 days prior to the meeting.

Should a member of the group wish to place an item on the agenda, any supporting papers should be made available, so they can be circulated to all members before the meeting.

A note of the meeting, covering key actions and issues, will be circulated electronically to all members following approval of the Chair, normally no later than five working days after the meeting has taken place.

Quorum

The meeting will be considered quorate if there are representatives from each of the following; local authority, health, a representative from schools and parents.

Members of the group are accountable to their own organisations and are expected to update their own individual management teams.

The SEND Supporting Access to Services Working Group will report directly to the SEND Strategic Partnership.

The terms of reference for the SEND **Access to Services Working Group** will be reviewed periodically and at least annually.

Regular updates will be provided to relevant portfolio holders in Durham County Council by Heads of Service from Children and Young People's Services.