

Oxfordshire SEND Local Area Self Evaluation Summary



This self-evaluation summary has been compiled in consultation with representatives from across the Local Area, including parent/carers and senior leaders from schools, Commissioning, Health, Social Care and Education. It represents an evaluation of Oxfordshire and its response to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This report is a living document and should be read in conjunction with other key documents, this includes The Local Area SEND Strategy 2022-2027.

Oxfordshire Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2022-2027



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities has been elevated to a key priority area across all agencies in the Local Area. This includes reporting on improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND and better value for money to a wide range of stakeholders including parent carers, senior managers, governance bodies and elected members on the progress of SEND transformation and other reforms through the Integrated SEND Strategic Board. Leaders at all levels take responsibility for the delivery and outcomes of SEND services across the county and share a better understanding of the challenges that the different services currently face. A [Local Area SEND Strategy 2022 - 2027](#) was co-drafted by senior representatives from Local Authority (LA) Education, Social Care (Children and Adults), Health, education settings and parent/carers and was published in May 2022.

Oxfordshire's strategy outlines the vision and key priorities for improving the outcomes achieved and lived experiences of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND from 2022 to 2027. Our ambition is for all children and young people with SEND to have the right support and opportunities at the right time so that they go on to live rich and fulfilling lives at the heart of their communities. To achieve that ambition, in autumn 2023, we will publish detailed and specific implementation plans that sit beneath our strategy and that focus on taking actions to reduce inequalities.

Leaders of SEND across the system are committed to improving outcomes for Children and young people. The financial climate for SEND in Oxfordshire is difficult and there are financial constraints across the whole system. The challenge this poses to leaders is that we are subject to a statutory duty not to exceed our annual financial allocation. As the demand for services and Post Covid recovery plans exceed the financial resources available, commissioners and leaders are faced with difficult choices about which services to provide for the children and young people we support.

Improving outcomes for children and young people



Local Area SEND Strategy Priorities

1. Improving outcomes for children with SEND

2. Developing a continuum of local provision to meet the requirements of CYP with SEND

3. Good physical and mental health and wellbeing

4. Improving post-16 education, learning, employment and training

5. Positive move into adulthood for young people with SEND



What are our key areas of development?

a) We require a **consistent workforce** across education, health and social care that are skilled, understand each other's roles, work collaboratively with each other, children, young people their families and settings and are able to meet the changing special educational needs of children and young people with SEND at all levels of support. (Strategic Priorities 1,2,3)

b) We are going to focus on the development of effective **Early Intervention and Prevention services** in order to support children and young people at the earliest opportunity, this also ensures best use of available resources. We will map services across the local area so that we do not duplicate and ensure that we offer the breadth of support that children and young people need and publish this on the Local Offer. (Strategic Priorities 1,2,3,4,5)

c) We need to plan and develop **sufficient education and social care placements** so that children and young people can have their needs met appropriately in their local area wherever possible.

d) We will **support children** who are on SEND diagnostic or assessment pathways through available resources including education settings. (Strategic Priorities 1,2,3,5)

e) We plan to improve our inclusion of the **voice of children, young people and families** to improve their experiences by increasing their opportunities for collaborative involvement Oxfordshire aim to get better at gathering and using these views, especially as young people move into adulthood. (Strategic Priorities 1,2,3,4,5)

f) We will maintain our focus on the **quality of assessments** and improve our ability to meet **statutory timeframes** for children and young people at SEN Support and with an EHCP across education, health and social care in the face of growing demand on services. (Strategic Priorities 1,2,4,5)

What are our key areas of strength?

a) We have a well-developed **multi-agency approach** to identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of children in the **Early Years**. This means that most children and families feel supported in having the best start in education. (Strategic Priorities 1,2)

b) We have well-regarded **front-line teams** of specialist and skilled staff that continue to be highly valued by school settings and families for the support that they can offer to children and young people, particularly where bespoke guidance and training has been made readily available. The impact of this is schools and settings can seek advice on how to support children, young people and families from the earliest identification of specific areas of need. (Strategic Priorities 1,2,3,5)

c) We are **prioritising SEND** across all areas and through our transformation work. We continue to gather feedback from families, children and young people to inform the planned improvements. We have strengthened our governance arrangements. This means that we are closely monitoring our progress towards our strategic priorities collectively across the Local Area. (Strategic Priorities 1,2,3,4,5)

d) We have invested additional resource in recognition that provision for **Moving into Adulthood** needed to become a key focus for the Local Area. The impact of this is that we now have a transformation workstream, an appointed adult social care Moving into Adulthood team and work continues on developing effective transitions. (Strategic Priorities 1,2,3,4,5)



Implementation Plan

Representatives from across the local area are working on the Implementation Programme following the publication of the Local Area SEND Strategy in May 2022. This Implementation Plan will also include ways in which we will address the key areas for development outlined as part of our self-evaluation process. It is due for publication in autumn 2023.

Rich and fulfilling lives at the heart of their communities.