

We want all children and young people in Southampton to have a good start in life, so they can fulfil their potential and become successful adults engaged in their local communities. The council, Health services and other partners are committed to working jointly to ensure that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), their families and carers receive the support they need, when they need it, so that they can achieve and aspire in all aspects of their lives.

Key facts and figures

- Over 6,000 children and young people have a special educational need and/or disability.
- Of these, 996 children and young people - 2.7% - have a Statement of SEN (Special Educational Need) or EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan). This is slightly lower than the England average of 2.8%.
- There are 14 Sure Start Children's Centres across the City. 195 children under 5 are registered as having SEN and all of these are registered with Sure Start and 95% of these have had at least 5 contacts since they were born.
- 33% of pupils with SEND in Southampton are recorded as having behavioural difficulties as their primary need. This is higher than the national average of 21%.
- 57.3% of children and young people with a Statement or EHCP in Southampton attend a specialist school; 37.6% attend mainstream school provision. The remainder attend an SEN Unit or Resourced Provision in mainstream settings, or access other types of education, including pupils educated at home or in alternative provision.
- 5% of SEN pupils with Statements/EHCPs achieved 5 GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths in 2015, compared to a national average of 9%.
- 20% of pupils with SEND support but no Statement/EHCP achieved 5 GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths in 2015 compared with a national average of 24%.
- Southampton has five maintained special schools and one specialist free school. There are six SEN resourced provisions within mainstream schools.

What do we do well?

- All of the city's Sure Start Children's Centres and 90% of day nurseries and preschool provision are rated good or excellent by Ofsted
- All our special schools are graded good or outstanding by Ofsted.
- Our Early Years children with statements of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care plans and children on SEN support are achieving better levels of development than the national average.
- The "One and Only" Pack, a 'tell us once' approach used for collating the views of children, young people and their parent/carers, was published by the Department for Education as a national exemplar.
- Southampton has pro-actively promoted the use of personal budgets for Travel and Short Breaks, contributing to flexible and efficient approaches.
- Waiting lists for Occupational Therapy have reduced from over two years to three months.
- 95% of Educational Psychology assessments are now delivered within six weeks, compared to 50% in 2014 – 15.
- The council has made a £12.9 million capital investment in expanding special primary school
- Southampton has a strong partnership working between health, education and social care with strong links to community organisations, led by a SEND Partnership Group.
- Southampton has a strong record of integrated commissioning in respect of early years and 0-19 years and we are developing joint commissioning proposals for the local early help offer.

Our key challenges:

- Improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND including:
- Improving Key Stage 4 attainment for SEN pupils
- Reducing absence and exclusion levels for pupils with SEN
- Increasing inclusion in main stream school settings.
- Improving effectiveness of identification of children with SEND including:
- Reducing high levels of pupils with SEN support - 17.1% compared to 13.4% nationally
- Addressing the high levels of children identified with behavioural difficulties – 33% compared to 21% nationally
- Addressing the noticeable increase in the number of children diagnosed on the autistic spectrum
- Improving effectiveness of assessing and meeting needs of children and young people with SEND
- Improving timeliness of assessments
- Improving timescales for completion of EHCPs
- Ensuring there are regular reviews of the effectiveness of services and plans

Feedback from parents

Parents have told us that our strengths are:

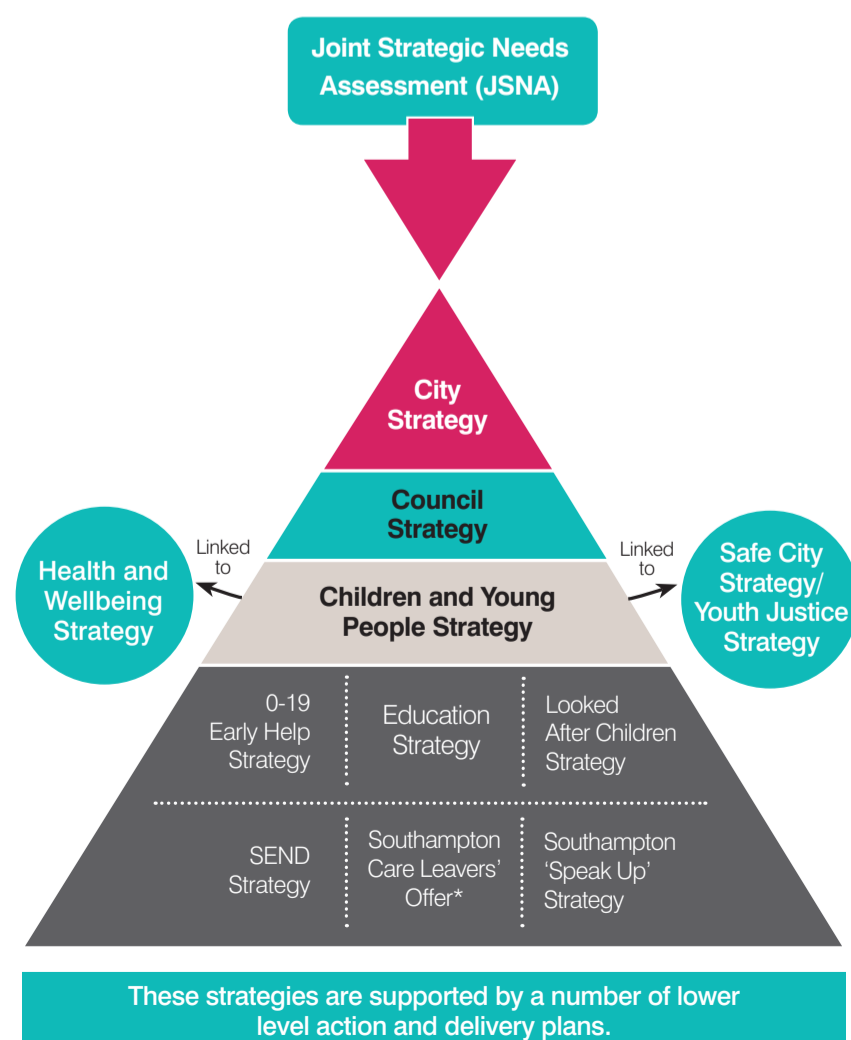
- Southampton Information, Advice and Support Service
- Southampton's Short Break Offer, with the option of Direct Payments, supporting access to a variety of activities and increased opportunities for personalisation, choice and control.
- Willingness to engage with parents/carers to support a positive, co-produced approach to Southampton's Local Offer of support.

Parents have told us that the areas we need to improve are:

- Communication with families and carers.
- Timeliness of Education, Health and Care Assessments.
- Attendance of SEND pupils, including moving those on reduced timetables to full inclusion.
- Exclusions from school.
- Inclusive practice in schools, with a specific concerns relating to academies.
- Access to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) specifically in relation to autism assessment waiting times.

We are committed to involving children with SEND and their families in the development, design and planning of services and we pledge to:

- Strengthen Southampton's Parent and Carer Forum.
- Invite parents and carers to all key strategic decision making groups, making sure they feel like equal partners.
- Improve the ways we engage with children, young people, parents and carers around the SEND reforms in Southampton.
- Embed co-production with children and young people with SEND into the city wide young person engagement work.
- Establish learning and development opportunities for all staff so they understand and can employ co-production principles as part of their role.
- Develop and implement a service evaluation/user experience tool to cover 0-25 core services



*Some strategies are currently in development

The outcomes we want to achieve and why

Outcome	Why is this important?
Children and Young People with SEND, their families and their carers....	
Have control over support and services they receive	We want to ensure that children and young people with SEND and their families are involved in discussions and decisions about their individual support and local provision. We believe that effective participation will lead to a better fit between the needs of families and the services provided, and result in higher levels of satisfaction with our services and reduced costs (as long-term benefits emerge).
Have greater achievement, attainment and equal opportunities in life	Children and young people with SEND have the right to the same opportunities and life chances as their peers. All agencies are committed to working together to ensure that children and young people with SEND receive equitable treatment.
Receive the support they need to promote their health and wellbeing	The mental and physical health of children and young people with SEND is paramount to their sense of wellbeing, achievement and progress in education and life. Being able to access good health care and support that meets their individual needs enables each child to achieve their full potential.
Are safe and secure	Early intervention is key to helping children and young people with SEND and their families to feel safe and secure. Timely assessments and access to high quality services is vital to ensure children and young people with SEND and their families, achieve their potential and prevent an escalation of their needs. Early identification of needs leads to high quality, personalised provision which is planned, delivered and evaluated at all levels.
Develop greater autonomy, independence and resilience to prepare for adulthood	The transition to adulthood can be an extremely daunting process for young people with SEND and their families. With high aspirations, and the right support, young people with SEND can go on to achieve successful long-term outcomes in adult life.

In order to deliver these outcomes, we will take the following actions:		
Children and Young People with SEND, their families and their carers...		We will measure success:
Have control over support and services they receive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and promote the Local Offer website (available on the Southampton Information Directory) to increase awareness of the Local Offer. Increase take up of personal budgets/ personal health budgets. Work with voluntary and community groups as partners, to develop a greater level of support to children and young people and their families Embed person centred planning/approaches at SEND Support Level through workforce development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase % of personal budgets and direct payment budgets Improve satisfaction rate in annual SEND survey Increase parent and young people representation at strategic decision groups
Have greater achievement, attainment and equal opportunities in life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure sufficient places in schools following forecast of need. Develop protocols to support and challenge schools to promote and encourage inclusivity and build good practice. Improve attainment, progress and attendance and reducing exclusions for children and young people with SEND. Review Education, Health and Care assessments and planning pathways to increase numbers of plans completed within 20 week statutory timescales. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve attendance and reduce numbers of pupils on reduced timetables Reduce number of exclusions Improve educational attainment Increase number of Education, Health and Care assessments completed within 20 week statutory timeframe Increase number of special school places
Receive the support they need to promote their health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make reasonable adjustments where necessary to enable children and young people with SEND to have equal access to health services. Promote health and wellbeing including engagement in physical activity and healthy eating. Promote positive mental health and ensure improved access to services, including autism assessments, through an integrated approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase % of GP Practices able to offer 14+ years old Learning Disability Health Checks Increase % of SEND children receiving regular dental checks and have up to date immunisations. Increase % of autism assessments within timescales
Are safe and secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure robust safeguarding monitoring for children and young people with SEND placed out of area. Review the Short Breaks offer, ensuring that it offers opportunities for the whole range of needs and is equitable and fair. Ensure timely access to assessments and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase timeliness of assessments Increase range and targeting of the short breaks offer
Develop greater autonomy, independence and resilience to prepare for adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve transition processes to support smooth transfer from children's services to adult services. Increase the number of young people aged 16-25 who remain in education, enter employment or take up other opportunities such as internships or volunteering. Develop a greater range of options to support independent living and community inclusion. Use technology to help children and young people with SEND to communicate more effectively which will help promote independence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease % of young people with a Statement/EHCP who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) (Post 16) Increase % of young people (19-25) with SEND who have an outcome/destination

The delivery of these outcomes will be supported by a multi-agency action plan which sets out the key actions across all systems to deliver these outcomes.