

# LISTENing

## Tameside Special Education Needs and Disabilities Strategy

2020 – 2023



# FOREWORD

The vision of all partners and services in Tameside, is for every one of the children and young people in the Borough to be safe, healthy, happy, ambitious for their future, and to develop skills for life.

This is a vision for all children, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). We want them all to have the opportunity to be the best they can be, to be happy, and to have choice and control over their support. We are ambitious for every child and young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

We would like to thank the professionals, parents and partners who helped to write this strategy, in particular we would like to thank our friends and colleagues from OKE (Our Kids Eyes) for their invaluable feedback and support.

Leaders in health and care, schools, nurseries and colleges must now continue to work together with young people and their parents or carers to ensure we know what they want us to achieve and the ambitions they hold for themselves. We need to know what the child or young person needs, as early as possible, the best way to meet those needs and the difference we are making.

We are mindful that we are introducing the strategy in what is a very challenging financial context. The demands on our limited resources are great and we must ensure we are both effective and efficient. Our promise to families and young people is that we will always engage honestly with you about how we can meet this challenge. With this strategy we have an opportunity to improve all our services. This is the way we will work with children and young people, and their parents or carers, so they are involved in the decisions so that we provide the right help, at the right time, in the right place to support them to be the best they can be.

**Councillor Leanne Feeley**  
Executive Member Lifelong Learning & Skills

**Dr Christine Ahmed, GP**  
Tameside & Glossop CCG Governing Body  
Member & Starting Well Lead

SEND STRATEGY



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# INTRODUCTION

We are publishing our new SEND Strategy to ensure that those aged 0-25 with special education needs and/or disability receive the support and provision they need.

The Children and Families Act 2014, clearly sets out roles and responsibilities for the Local Authority and partners, in ensuring that children and young people with SEND are able to achieve their full potential.

The SEND Strategy aligns with our Corporate Plan and should be considered alongside this.

## Corporate Plan



### Transforming Tameside & Glossop Our People - Our Place - Our Plan For everyone every day



Starting Well

Living Well

Ageing Well

## Priorities

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>VERY BEST START</b> <b>Very best start in life</b> where children are ready to learn and encouraged to thrive and develop	<b>ASPIRATIONS &amp; HOPE</b> <b>Aspiration and hope through learning</b> and moving with confidence from childhood to adulthood	<b>RESILIENT FAMILIES &amp; SUPPORTIVE NETWORKS</b> <b>Resilient families and supportive networks</b> to protect and grow our young people	<b>WORK SKILLS &amp; ENTERPRISE</b> <b>Opportunities for people to fulfil their potential</b> through work, skills and enterprise	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>Modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment</b> that works for all generations and future generations	<b>NURTURING COMMUNITIES</b> <b>Nurturing our communities</b> and having pride in our people, our place and our shared heritage	<b>LONGER &amp; HEALTHIER LIVES</b> <b>Longer and healthier lives with good mental health</b> through better choices and reducing inequalities	<b>INDEPENDENCE &amp; DIGNITY IN OLD AGE</b> <b>Independence and activity in older age, and dignity and choice at end of life</b>
Reduce rate of smoking at time of delivery Reduce the number of children born with low birth weight Improve school readiness Children attending 'Good' and 'Outstanding' Early Years settings Take up nursery at 2yrs Promote good parent infant mental health	Reading / writing / maths at Key Stage 2 Attainment 8 and Progress 8 at Key Stage 4 Young people going onto higher education Children attending 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools Number of 16-19 year olds in employment or educated Proportion of children with good reading skills Promote and whole system approach and improving wellbeing and resilience	Early Help Intervention Reduce the number of first time entrants into Youth Justice Increased levels of fostering and adoption Improve the quality of social care practice Improve the placement stability for our looked after children Reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences	Increase median resident earnings Increase the working age population in employment Increase the number of people earning above the Living Wage Increase number of enterprises / business start ups Working age population with at least Level 3 skills Increase the number of good quality apprenticeships delivered	Improve air quality Increase the number of net additional dwellings Increase the number of affordable homes Digital inclusion - average download speeds Reduce tonnes of waste sent to landfill and increase the proportion recycled Increase journeys by sustainable transport / non-car Increase access to public transport	Increase participation in cultural events Reduce victims of domestic abuse Reduce the number of rough sleepers / homelessness Improve satisfaction with local community Victims of crime / fear of crime Reduce levels of anti social behaviour Increase access, choice and control in emotional and mental self-care and wellbeing	Increase physical and mental healthy life expectancy Improve the wellbeing for our population Smoking prevalence Increase levels of physical activity 'Good' and 'Outstanding' GPs practices Reduce drug and alcohol related harm	Increase the number of people helped to live at home Reduce hospital admissions due to falls Increase levels of self-care / social prescribing 'Good' and 'Outstanding' social care settings Prevention support outside the care system

Great Place  
Vibrant Economy

In particular this strategy supports the Corporate Priorities of:

- Very best start in life
- Aspiration & hope through learning
- Resilient families & supportive networks
- Opportunities for people to fulfil their potential



# CONTEXT

The SEND Code of Practice, under the Children and families Act 2014, required us to implement significant changes to our processes and to the way we work and provide services.

We are required to deliver these services by knowing our children and young people well, by targeting services better and using our resources efficiently

Tameside is the 23rd most deprived local authority in England (out of 317 Local Authority areas), with some areas in the 5% most deprived nationally. There are 54,921 children and young people aged 0-19 (67,400 aged 0-25) in the borough and 1 in 4 live in poverty before housing costs, this rises to 1 in 3 when housing costs are taken into consideration.

We have high aspirations for all our children and young people and want to ensure that we deliver the best outcomes for those with SEND. The aim of this strategy is to turn high aspirations for all of our learners with SEND into a reality. All children and young people grow up to become adults and need to be equipped to live in a diverse and challenging society. Whatever their ability, they need to have the opportunity of employment, to be able to take part in their local community, to assess and take appropriate risks, and to live as independently as possible.



# OUR VISION

Together, all Tameside partners agreed the guiding principles for developing a successful SEND system. We want children & young people with SEND to have the opportunity to be the best they can be and to have choice and control over their support.

**We want to enable Tameside's children and young people to have better education, health and emotional wellbeing outcomes.**

**We want to ensure that we provide the right service in the right place, at the right time, supporting children & young people to have a good quality of life, live healthily and to achieve their full potential.**

**The delivery of good and outstanding education to every one of our resident children is a key priority for Tameside MBC.**

**This is because together with support in their early years and to parents and through addressing poverty, the future life chances of those who are currently children will in large part be determined by their educational outcomes as a means to reducing inequality.**

**So our focus is not just upon our formal statutory responsibilities, important though those are, but upon providing effective strategic leadership to ensure that all those partners with a role to play are delivering effectively for our children.**



# OUR OUTCOMES

We will work to enable our children & young people to feel:

1



SAFE



2

HEALTHY

3



HAPPY

4



AMBITIOUS FOR  
THEIR FUTURE

SKILLS

5



DEVELOP SKILLS FOR LIFE

and for them to



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**We are committed to the following principles**

**This will mean we will:**

- Work in a spirit of co-production and partnership with parents and their children and young people with SEND, involving them in all key decisions.
- Work in partnership with partner agencies and schools involving them in all key decisions guided by our LISTENing framework.
- Have the highest expectations for children and young people with SEND, ensuring that they are fully included in all educational settings and that their needs are met by high performing local schools.
- Maintain a commitment to Tameside's maintained schools and academies, promoting and championing strong leadership and inclusive practice for children and young people with SEND across all phases, mainstream and special.
- Ensure a rigorous focus on the preparation for adulthood outcomes and life after school.
- Ensure that resources are fairly and consistently allocated according to needs.





# OUR VALUES

- We believe that all young people with SEND have the right to lead a normal life and to be part of their community.
- We believe that every child has the right to attend a good local school and that all children should be able to attend a mainstream school unless there is an overwhelming reason why this cannot happen.
- We believe that every child and young person has a right to have their health, social care and education needs met within their local community.
- We will enable the views and wishes of children and young people with SEND and their parents to be heard, and we will work with them to ensure that they have confidence in local providers to meet their children's needs.
- We expect every early years setting, maintained school or academy, further educational college and training provider to make, at least, good provision for children and young people with SEND.
- We expect that every young person will make good progress in their education and development;
  - that they transition smoothly into the next stage of their education and;
  - that they are helped to secure independent living and opportunities for employment as far as possible.
- As an inclusive authority, we do not undervalue our specialist education provision. It is an essential and valued component of our Borough's education system; we will continue to work in partnership with our specialist providers to ensure they provide excellent services for those pupils who are unable to attend mainstream schools.



# THE CHALLENGES THAT DRIVE OUR AMBITION

Tameside maintains core statutory responsibilities for SEND and vulnerable pupils which can only be effectively delivered within a wider, whole systems, approach to inclusion within which children's needs are identified early, high quality support is available and schools all see it as their responsibility to meet the needs of children with additional needs. There are significant financial pressures already upon the High Needs Block of the Direct Schools Grant, and an effective inclusion strategy will be key to keeping these under control.

## JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) looks at the current and future health and care needs of our population to inform and guide the planning and commissioning (buying) of health, well-being and social care services within Tameside.

The JSNA:

- Is concerned with wider social factors that have an impact on people's health and wellbeing, such as housing, poverty and employment.
- Looks at the health of the population, with a focus on behaviours which affect health such as smoking, diet and exercise.
- Provides a common view of health and care needs for the local community.
- Identifies health inequalities.
- Provides evidence of effectiveness for different health and care interventions.
- Documents current service provision.
- Identifies gaps in health and care services, documenting unmet needs.

Our JSNA has six key recommendations as follows:-



# JSNA RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Continue to improve the identification of children and young people with SEND across the system**

Although much improved, identification of children and young people with SEND across the system needs to improve further. Commissioners should ensure that systems used by services across the health, social care and education system enable the identification of those with SEND at the earliest opportunity to enable the monitoring of support and outcomes for this population group

## **Continue to improve the monitoring of outcomes for those with SEND**

Although much improved, the continued development of a holistic set of outcome measures for those with SEND at an individual and population level, covering health and social outcomes in addition to educational outcomes would further improve understanding of the needs of this population group. These should be developed collaboratively with partners and include benchmarking where this is feasible.

## **Continue to improve the monitoring of children and young people during transition to adulthood**

While information exists on educational outcomes, further work is required to strengthen information collected on young people with SEND after they leave the school system, limiting the ability to measure success in preparing those with SEND for adulthood.

## **Ensure commissioning plans reflect the needs of the local population**

Ensure that the information in this needs assessment - including the increasing number of children with the most complex needs, the demographics and the most common primary needs - underpins commissioning of services, such as educational psychology services

## **Continue to improving educational Outcomes for SEND children and Young people**

Continue to review Fixed Term Exclusion policies and practice to ensure schools are supported to gain EHCPs for behaviour (SEMH) where this would best support the child or young person.  
Continue to review SEND support at key transition points in educational phases – reception intake, KS1 to KS2, secondary transfer, Post 16, and transition to adulthood to ensure needs are continually met.

## **Incorporate the 'Voice of the Child' across the whole SEND system**

Continue to embed a meaningful approach to co-produce the SEND process, support and services with children and young people with SEND and their families across health, education and social care



# OUR PRIORITIES

Based on what our JSNA tells us and in partnership with parent-carers, young people and partners across education, care and health we have developed 4 Headline Strategic Priorities:

1. **INCREASING & IMPROVING INCLUSION** of children and young people in mainstream settings ensuring appropriate preparation for adulthood.
2. **INCREASING CONFIDENCE** of parents and carers in services and systems across all of the partners in Tameside ensuring appropriate preparation for adulthood.
3. **INVOLVING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** who have SEND and their families, in decisions about their future and in the shaping, accountability, quality and delivery of services ensuring appropriate preparation for adulthood.
4. **IMPROVING ACCURACY & TIMELINESS** with which we identify and assess children's and young people's needs including ensuring appropriate preparation for adulthood.



# OUR ENABLERS

In order to achieve our strategic headline priorities we will require the following to act as enablers:

1. **Neighbourhood Working** – to provide a collaborative approach to delivering local services and joined up support for people locally.
2. **Co-production** – to understand the needs of the SEND community and engage them closely in the design and delivery of services.
3. **Resources** – to consider all available means of resources.
4. **Robust Performance Management data** - to measure outcomes and progress.



Neighbourhood  
Working

Resources

Co-production

Robust  
Performance  
Management  
data



# HOW WILL WE GET THERE

We have developed Improvement & Development Action Plans for each of our Headline Priorities that help us plan & understand what we need to do to get there.

We will JOINTLY COMMISSION the most appropriate services to meet the needs of children and young people in Tameside who have SEND and their families ensuring we have better co-ordination of services and more joint working across all partners in the borough.

Our Joint Commissioning Strategy outlines our approach and what our Joint Commissioning Intentions are and our Joint Commissioning Improvement, Development & Action Plan will be responsible for ensuring delivery of our commissioning intentions.



# OUTCOMES

Our SEND strategy sets out a clear direction for the future.

Our outcomes framework aligned to our 4 headline priorities ensures we understand where we are on our journey to achieving our vision. We will use this to tell us what impact our actions are having on our SEND Community.

We also want our families, children and young people to report a positive experience of our SEND systems and support, feel empowered and confident to engage and to make decisions.

The Local Authority and its partners will deliver on these outcomes by monitoring the progress and outcomes of every child and young person to ensure they do their best and achieve well. We will find better ways to understand:

- **Aspirations** - What the child or young person wants to achieve.
- **Identification** - What the child or young person needs, as early as possible.
- **Assessment & meeting the needs** - The best way to meet those needs and
- **Outcomes** - The difference we are making.



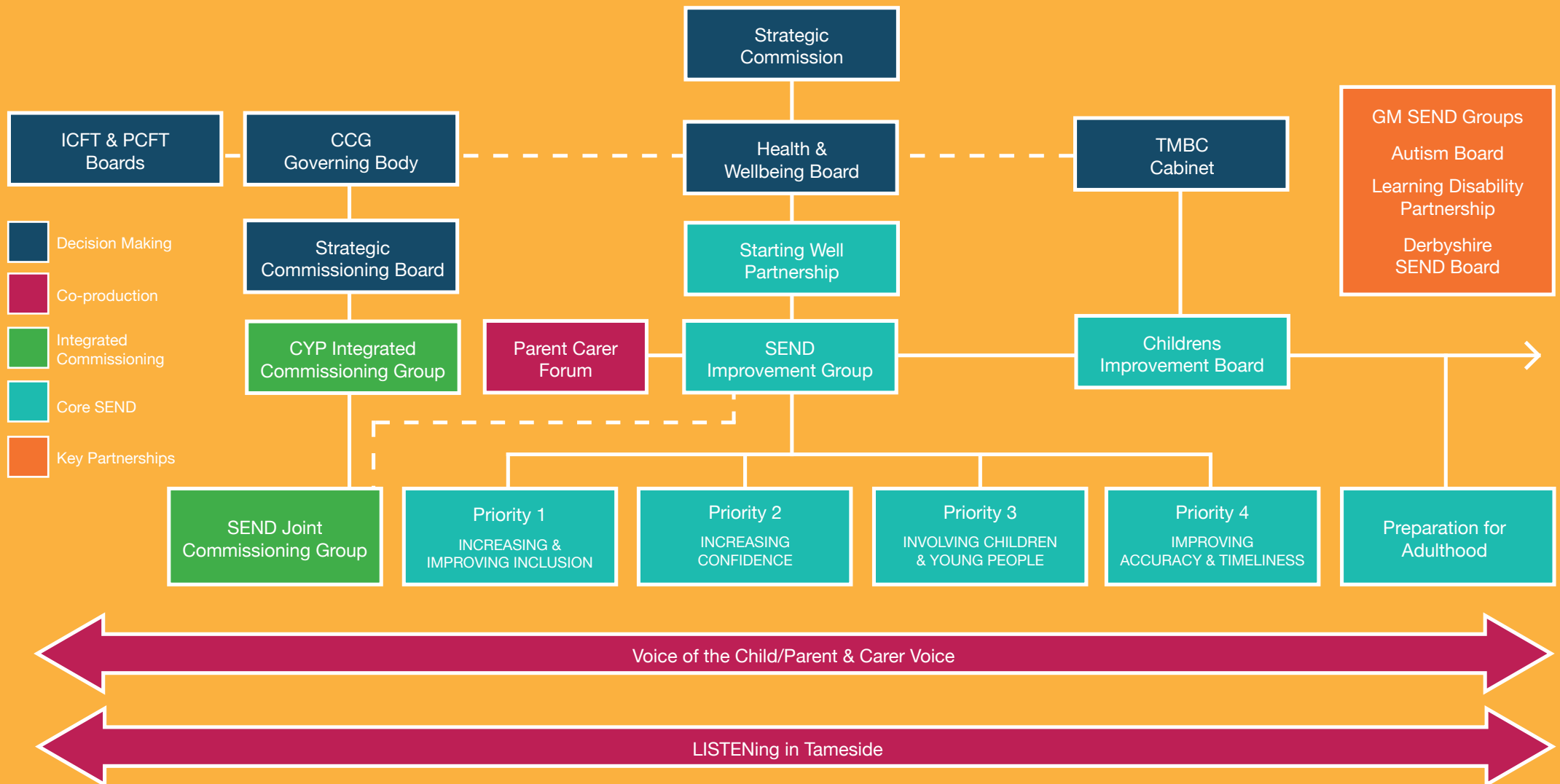
**Aspirations**

**Assessment  
& meeting  
the needs**

**Identification**

**Outcomes**

# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





# GOVERNANCE

Tameside Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Improvement Group provides the oversight and governance for this Strategy.

They will monitor the progress outlined within our 4 Headline Improvement Development & Action Plans and how we are progressing against the indicators contained within our Outcomes Framework.

