



## EXECUTIVE

### 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>North Northamptonshire's SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2023-26 and Co Production Charter</b>
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<b>Lead Member</b>	Cllr Scott Edwards, Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills

<b>Key Decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Are there public sector equality duty implications?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972</b>	

### List of Appendices

**Appendix A** – SEND and Inclusion Strategy

**Appendix B** – Co-production Charter

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1. This report introduces the North Northants Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy 2023-26 and the Co-Production Charter.
- 1.2. This strategy provides the framework for how the Council and the local partnership will deliver its statutory duties for in relation to education, health and care for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.
- 1.3. The strategy also includes the NNC Co-production Charter, this is a commitment for how the local partners will work together in line with our statutory requirements within the Children and Families Act 2014.

## **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1. This report introduces the new North Northants SEND and Inclusion Strategy and the Co-Production Charter. Both documents have been co-produced by North Northamptonshire Council and strategic partners as well as families of children and young people with SEND. This strategy sets out our ambitious vision, aims and priorities to ensure that we effectively identify and meet the needs of the children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).
- 2.2. The Co-production Charter is a commitment for all partners to make, that demonstrates how we work in partnership to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.3. This report includes information about how the Strategy and Co-production Charter has been co-produced with all partners and families and how the new strategy will be implemented and monitored.

## **3. Recommendations**

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- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive approve the co-produced SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2023-26 as well as the Co-production Charter.
- 3.2. Reasons for Recommendations:
  - To support the Council and its partners to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
  - To support the Council through the delivery of both the SEND and Inclusion Strategy and the Co-production Charter in delivering its Equality Duties and meeting the requirements of SEND law and guidance.
  - To ensure an effective and consistent offer of support to children with SEND and their families across North Northamptonshire.
- 3.3 Alternative Option Considered: The alternative option would be to not have a SEND and Inclusion Strategy in place. However, this would not be a recommended approach as the Strategy clearly outlines what the priorities are for North Northamptonshire in delivering a better, brighter future for children and young people with Special Educational Needs an/or Disabilities.

## **4. Report Background**

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- 4.1. A working group was established in February 2022 which considered examples from other Local Areas and identified factors they would like to see in North Northamptonshire's SEND Vision and Strategy. They agreed it needed to be succinct and support collective understanding and responsibility for delivering its ambitions.

- 4.2. Officers worked with Northamptonshire Parent Forum Group to define co-production and produce a presentation to support this.
- 4.3. In listening to partners we focussed on the following questions:
- What is working well and why?
  - What are the challenges and issues and why?
  - What steps can we take to resolve these?
  - What would you like to see in the future?
- 4.4. In May 2022 the SEND Accountability Board supported the following proposed principles:
- Co-production at the heart of strategic and operational practices
  - Making SEND everyone's business
  - Making good practice common practice
  - Identifying and meeting the right needs at the right time
- 4.5. From July 2022 through to January a series of multi-agency / parent / carer SEND Improvement workshops were setup, focussing on listening to the experiences of families and services to help us identify key priorities and the ways in which we will jointly deliver those to support the future joint planning and delivery of our local area SEND strategy.
- 4.6. The following elements were highlighted in feedback from these events and other partnership work as important to delivering this:
- We need to improve communication to all partners, and significantly improve communication with parents and carers.
  - We need to change the culture in North Northamptonshire regarding SEND and Inclusion and create a culture of collectively championing and delivering improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families that gives them confidence in the local system.
  - We have some great practice in some settings and schools and some officers in local services, but need to reduce local variation across North Northamptonshire so that where possible local provision meets local needs (make the best practice common practice);
  - We need to make sure that the workforce have the skills to deliver our aspirations;
  - We need to make sure that there is accountability across the system, with clear and transparent performance measures to support this
- 4.7. From the discussion the following priority areas were identified:
- **Co-Production:** Embed co-production as a way of working together with families (parents / carers and young people) in everything that we all do across North Northamptonshire.

- **Early Identification and Intervention:** Identifying and meeting needs at the earliest opportunity – developing inclusive practice and providing the right support at the right time as locally as possible, meeting statutory time frames.
- **Sufficiency:** Building the capacity in the SEND system (including specialist provision / places and specialist support to mainstream settings / schools) to meet identified need locally.
- **Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood:** Improving Transitions for children and young people, 0 – 25.
- **Skilled Workforce:** Developing a skilled workforce that is confident in identifying and meeting SEND and additional needs.
- **Partnership Working:** A shared understanding of the outcomes sought for, and by children and young people with SEND, and clarity of the progress made towards those outcomes across the Local Partnership

4.8. In March 2023 a final draft was considered by the SEND Accountability Board.

## 5. Issues and Choices

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- 5.1. The Council and our local partners must have a joint understanding of needs of children with SEND locally, and to have a joint approach to delivering services this will provide clarity about how our statutory obligations will be delivered.
- 5.2. The Council proposed to the SEND Accountability Board (local multi-agency governance group) that a new SEND & Inclusion Strategy should be co-produced. This proposal stated that in order to address areas of under-performance, and to achieve the best outcomes for children with SEND and their families, the new approach must include all partners, especially children and their families.

## 6. Next Steps

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- 6.1. Once the Strategy is approved implementation plans, some of which are already underway, can be progressed and start to make a positive impact to the lives of children and young people with SEND including their families.

## 7. Implications (including financial implications)

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### 7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1. Delivering services against the values and actions in the Co-production Charter require all Council departments and partner agencies to sign up to these. Delivering the principle of SEND is everyone's business require support from all Council departments and partner agencies. Delivery of both the SEND and Inclusion Strategy and the Co-production Charter supports the Council in

delivering its Equality Duties and meeting the requirements of SEND law and guidance.

7.1.2. The strategy does not include specific saving targets. However, the strategy will support the Council to manage available budgets more effectively.

## 7.2. **Legal and Governance**

7.2.1. There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

## 7.3. **Relevant Policies and Plans**

7.3.1. The Corporate priorities for North Northants are supported through the implementation plan for the SEND strategy priorities:

- Better, brighter futures by developing capacity within the SEND systems children and young people with SEND, can have their needs met sooner and locally. A focus on preparing for Adulthood through the Transition priority, within the SEND Strategy, will promote better training, further education and employment opportunities for young people with SEND.

## 7.4. **Risk**

7.4.1. The new strategy will help the Council address historic under-performance in a consistent way, and by clearly allocating resources to meet identified needs. The new strategy will also include a detailed performance framework that will measure the impact of our work on children and the families.

## 7.5. **Consultation**

7.5.1. The strategy has been co-produced between the Council and key stakeholders including parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, including the Northamptonshire Parent Forum Group, health and social care colleagues, teaching and non-teaching staff, academies and nurseries.

7.5.2. The Council will continue to actively engage and involve all partners, keeping them updated on the process and seeking any further comments they may have. Once adopted, further communication activities will keep the stakeholders informed and updated on the progress being made towards achieving the outcomes of the strategy.

7.5.3. Any decision derived from this strategy that impacts on the Council's delivery of its statutory duties to children and their families will be subject to appropriate engagement and/or consultation.

## **7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel**

7.6.1. No comments from Executive Advisory Panel

## **7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny**

7.7.1. This report has not been considered by the Council's scrutiny function.

## **7.8. Equality Implications**

7.8.1. The proposed SEND and Inclusion Strategy as well as the Charter demonstrates how the Council and partners will deliver their statutory duties captured within the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice.

## **7.9. Climate and Environment Impact**

7.9.1. One of the priorities of the SEND strategy is to identify provision and create capacity which is local to children and young people with SEND, this will reduce the need to travel further to access provision and in turn reduce the carbon impact.

7.9.2. Through delivery of the Strategy any new provision will be reviewed to ensure that a Climate and Environment impact assessment is carried out.

## **7.10. Community Impact**

7.10.1. This strategy will deliver significant community impact for children, young people with SEND and their families, through the provision of co-produced, effective jointly commissioned services which reduce the current adversity and frustration they face.

## **7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact**

7.11.1. The Strategy and the Charter are unlikely to impact on the crim and disorder within the area it is aimed as being an ambitious vision documents with an implementation plan to deliver provide better outcomes for children and young people within North Northamptonshire.

## **8. Background Papers**

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8.1. None.