

C.CO

CHILDREN'S OFFER

**SEND  
Placement  
Sufficiency  
Planning**



The

problem

**A significant increase post Covid lockdown of children who need an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).**

**A rise in EHCP requests from schools, particularly at Early Years and Primary stage.**

Current lack of provision is leading to increased parent/carer frustration and increased tribunal awards, generating further budget pressure.

A lack of local planning for appropriate special school places for younger children is evident, with a reliance on placing children in private voluntary independent provision out of area – putting pressure on SEND transport budget and availability of provision.

A new inspection framework for SEND that requires much more focus on demonstrating improved outcomes for children – if they have no special place this hugely impacts their outcomes.

Changing structures for NHS commissioners, meaning it is not clear where and who makes decisions on therapeutic input to EHCPs moving forward.

This is further exacerbated by a scarcity of specialist workforce – psychologists, speech and language, occupational therapy, CAMHS specialists, Neurodiversity assessors, specialist trauma informed education professionals and doctors.

A delay in planning effectively for current and future demand puts pressure on mainstream schools to try to support children without the necessary staff and expertise. .



The

problem

Safety Valve and Delivering Better Value programs focus on more children being supported in mainstream schools to reduce the eye-watering overspend of the High Needs Grant for DfE. A huge amount of administration and monitoring is involved with reduced local authority capacity to deliver.

There has been a rise in non-attendance in schools at Primary and Secondary level and an increase in temporary and permanent exclusions.

An increase in referrals to stretched Early Help and social care services for children with additional needs – increasing the pressure on families and their ability to parent effectively and keep children safe.

The planning process for mainstream school places is not always aligned with data/needs driven from EHCP data and trends. A different approach is clearly needed.

SEND Partnerships' terms of reference often focus on planning for inspection or recovery actions from previous inspection rather than considering future demand and need, children and young people's voices and preparing for adulthood.

# The risks

## **A lack of confidence and trust is created between all parties due to a lack of available support and placements/care specifically – increased tribunal costs.**

A breakdown in positive Local Authority relationships with schools and settings which puts additional pressure on an already stretched workforce in SEND Assessment teams – increased agency staff costs.

A lack of appropriate, skilled workforce in appropriate schools/settings means that Children with SEND fall further behind their peers – an increase in NEET (not in education, employment or training) costs and parents relying on benefits as they are unable to work.

Parental pressure results in more requests for Section 20 accommodation applications – placing further pressure on social care placement budgets.

Children travelling out of area to access school means they do not have local connections to local health services, resulting in additional commissioning being required to meet needs – increase in Integrated Care Board (ICB) budgets and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs overspends.





# Proposal/solution offer menu

**A deep dive into local SEND and EHCP data to deliver an analytical report to project future need, placement and service planning needs locally to assist with budget setting for your medium-term financial plan.**

A facilitated review of your SEND Partnership arrangements to ensure that the terms of reference and inclusion principles can demonstrate equitable engagement, particularly with parents and carers. This will enable you to demonstrate support from all partners in the constantly changing climate and to be ready for the new SEND Inspection framework.

Benchmarking of current and future business processes for EHCPs in line with high performing areas to maximise the work of the SEND Assessment service – co-produce new models of operation to include improved pipeline and access to Education Providers (EPs) and specialist staff.

Cost avoidance analysis and report to improve in-borough position and associated SEND transport costs, through the instruction of personalised budget policy options.

Design and undertake partner surveys and parent/carers surveys on the effectiveness of SEND delivery from an independent, objective perspective to feed into your local SEND improvement planning process.

Produce a SEND key performance indicator dashboard to demonstrate the changes and improvement in system improvement and performance for your local partnership.






## Financial benefits

## and case for invest to save

**For every child placed in a local placement or setting that is commissioned locally versus placement in external PVI setting out of area the savings will be £1000's per child due to increasing costs of Alternative Provision.**



For each locally sourced placement the saving in not undertaking the protracted tribunal hearing would be significant

To retain happy, well-supported SEND permanent staff compared to agency SEND staff could be as much as £1,500 per worker per week.

The commissioning saving locally of having a commissioned health therapeutic offer versus delay in assessments could be significant on top of stretched ICB deficit budgets.

The cost of supporting a child with SEND at home with their family versus a residential social care placement could be between £5,000 and £40,000 per week.

