

Overview & Scrutiny

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 30th November 2022
Title of report: Hackney SEND Strategy 2022 - 2025
Report author: Joe Wilson, Head of SEND
Authorised by: Paul Senior, Director of Education & Inclusion
Brief: <p>This report is to provide the Commission with the opportunity to note the work of the SEND Strategy 2022 - 2025. The report is provided to also illustrate the key priorities and strategic aims that local partners have identified as being key for focus over this period in response to local needs.</p> <p>Hackney is committed to ensuring that children and young people achieve positive outcomes educationally, within the community and in preparing them for adulthood and independence.</p> <p>The SEND Partnership Board has set an ambitious programme to transform the experience of families and the delivery of high-quality services to achieve the best outcomes for our children and young people.</p>

Report to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Report title: SEND Strategy 2022 - 2025

Meeting date: 30th November 2022

Report originator: Joe Wilson, Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. This report will provide Councillors with an overview of the local area SEND Strategy.
- 1.2. The Strategy has been co-produced with a wide range of key stakeholders across Hackney including: Families, young people, schools and settings. The overall aim of the Strategy is to provide detail on Hackney's current approach to SEND, and to set key priority areas for the coming years.
- 1.3. Hackney has a vision to provide an excellent, inclusive and equitable local experience for all Hackney children and young people with SEND.
- 1.4. We want all our children and young people to have access to the right support at the right time from local services and to be able to travel easily to a great inclusive local school, which engages with their neighbourhood parent/carer community. We want all our children and young people to be in schools and to access services which fairly reflect the diversity of the Hackney community.
- 1.5. The four main priorities in the Strategy will ensure that the above vision is progressed for our children and young people and are as follows:

Priority One - Outstanding Provision and Services

Priority Two - An Earlier Response

Priority Three - Preparing for Adulthood

Priority Four - Joining up our Services

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Commission members are asked to note the contents of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1. There has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people (CYP) with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) which has increased year on year since the 2014 SEND Reforms framework and the associated duties was set in government policy.
- 3.2. Hackney currently has the 12th largest number of children and young people with SEND nationally, with over 1 in 20 children and young people having an EHC Plan (5.3% of local school age population has a EHCP, compared with 4.4% statistical neighbour LA average). This context has meant that leaders have had to adapt to ensure that our vision for SEND is able to meet growing numbers and levels of need, but also ensure that our children and young people have the opportunity to make excellent progress.
- 3.3. The underpinning principles of the Strategy are as follows:

Listening to our children and young people

- We will actively listen to our children and young people with SEND through a number of mechanisms that support and promote our children to have a voice
- We will incorporate the feedback we receive from our children and young people into our planning both on an individual level and when strategically planning

Co-production

- We will work with our parents, carers and those who represent them to co-produce on an individual basis but also to develop and deliver strategy

Outstanding communication

- We will communicate with our families and young people in meaningful ways
- We will form excellent relationships with our partners to ensure communication is easy and effective
- We will make sure we share information between agencies effectively and in a timely way

Transparency

- We will operate honestly and within a framework of reflective practice
- We will be transparent with families, children and young people about what can and cannot be achieved
- We will be clear about timescales with families, schools and setting

Multi-agency working

- We will think multi-agency in every aspect of our work to make sure silo working is removed
- We will actively work to break down barriers between agencies to improve the experience of our families accessing multiple services

Data quality

- We will actively work to improve our data quality across the partnership
- We will use our data to inform decision making and evaluate progress
- We will be transparent with our data when co-producing with parents and carers

Excellence and ambition

- We want the best for our children and young people in Hackney
- We will aim high and always strive to improve and evolve to meet the changing needs of our community

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Hackney SEND Strategy

Report originator: Joe Wilson, Head of SEND

Date: 17 November 2022

Cleared by: Paul Senior, Director of Education and inclusion