

Joint Commissioning Strategy



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1. Introduction

The purpose of this Strategy is to set out the shared vision and principles for joint commissioning to achieve our commitment to improving the outcomes and life chances of the children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It recognises that children and young people have individual strengths and needs, and that services and provision need to be differentiated.

The SEND Code of Practice 2014 determines how local partners should work together to jointly commission services to meet local needs and support better outcomes. Joint commissioning is the process of meeting needs and improving outcomes through joint planning, agreeing and monitoring services across agencies. The 2022 Health and Care Act made changes to how commissioning takes place, the national and local context, responsibilities and approach are explained in Appendix 1.

Rotherham's vision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities is the same as for all our children and young people; that they be safe, happy, healthy, confident, and successful, contributing to a thriving, inclusive community that is welcoming to all.

Life can be more challenging for children and young people with SEND, and sometimes they need support to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives. An outcome is the benefit or difference that we want to see in someone's life when they are being supported. In Rotherham, professionals and parents are committed to working together to help all children and young people with SEND achieve the following outcomes:

- ✓ I have a voice and this is listened to and respected
- √ I am as healthy as possible
- √ I feel safe
- √ I have help and support in a way that suits me
- √ I have adults in my life who are supported to help me
- \checkmark I am supported to be as independent as possible and have a purposeful life
- ✓ I belong and feel valued

A number of indicators in our outcomes framework measure how well we are working together to support children and young people with SEND.

Evidence from Rotherham Borough data has identified three areas that continue to have a significant impact on the health, well-being and educational access for Rotherham children and young people. Rotherham Local Area will be better if these three areas are addressed. It is proposed they will become the focus of priorities within the SEND Strategy (Appendix 1) and will be referred to as 'commitments'. The following 3 commitments have been identified as priority areas of development and monitoring:

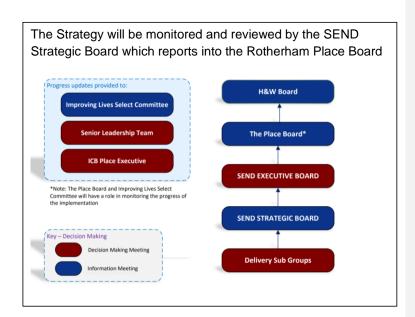
- 1. Reducing number of permanent exclusions and part time timetables for children and young people with special educational needs.
- 2. Reducing number of disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs missing school due to health concerns, including mental health.
- 3. Having a clear process for engagement with children and young people.

This sets our strong clear ambition for children and young people's services. The vision, outcomes and commitments align with the *Place Plan:* Place Partnership – Healthy Rotherham (yourhealthrotherham.co.uk) and *Council Plan:* Council Plan 2022-25 – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

The Strategy is informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis, the Local Offer and the voices of Children and Young People and Parents/ Carers.

This strategy is linked to the following:

- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The Place Plan
- The SEND Strategy
- The Early Help Strategy
- The Local Transformation Plan



2. Priorities and Principles

2.1 Principles

Activity to support children and families is underpinned by the Rotherham Charter (Four Cornerstones):

1. Welcome and care

Our Rotherham Family Approach is informed by respectful, collaborative relationships and a stance of critical enquiry and "locating grand aspirations in everyday practice where the experience of the child is at the centre".

2. Value and include

This strategy has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of partners and will be owned and implemented by all professionals working with children, young people, their parents, and carers.

3. Communicate

Rotherham partners use language that reflects this, we want everything to be the best that parents want for their children:

- That they are happy and healthy both physically and emotionally.
- That we keep them safe and protected from harm and exploitation.
- That we support them into adulthood and that we prepare them for independence.
- We are ambitious for our children; we want them to achieve their potential and participate in decisions which affect their lives.

4. Work in partnership

We want our children and young people to work with us and, along with parents and carers, shape the services we offer to them. We value our children and young people and parents and carers as equal partners.

At the heart of these is trust.



2.2 Priorities

Rotherham Partners' collective approach to delivery allows a 'Golden Thread' from our 'Health and Well Being' strategy aims through to the priorities within the Place Plan. The Place Plan clearly articulates the shared partnership priorities that have been agreed for joint planning and monitoring across agencies.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will have overall accountability for the delivery of the overall Place plan. The management and oversight of the delivery of the CYP Place plan is undertaken by the Integrated Health and Social Care Place Board, co-chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council and Place Director for the ICB, including senior representatives from both the council and ICB.

A pooled fund is established under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006, the aims and benefits of the Partners in entering into this agreement are to:

- Improve the quality and efficiency of the services;
- · Meet the National Conditions and Local Objectives;
- Drive integration between the Health and Social Care Economy;
- Make more effective use of resources through the establishment and maintenance of a pooled fund for revenue expenditure on the services.

A children and young people's work order (Appendix 2) sits under the Section 75 Partnership Framework Agreement for the operation of the delivery CYP Place Plan Priorities. The identified lead officers for each of the CYP Place Plan priorities, plus other supporting officers from the Council and ICB report into the following Operational Groups:

- 1. Best Start in Life Better Start Strategy Delivery Group
- 2. Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Strategic Group
- 3. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities SEND Executive Board
- 4. Looked After Children Corporate Parenting Board
- 5. Preparation for Adulthood Preparation for Adulthood Board

3. Progress since the last Joint Commissioning Strategy

Areas for Development: Voices Priorities	Joint Commissioning Opportunities	Update
Listening, involving and believing children, young people, their carers and their families:	Embed the Four Cornerstones into service specifications as they are refreshed Embed SEND Strategic Outcomes into commissioning arrangements	Four cornerstones embed into refreshed service specifications e.g., CAMHs Revised outcomes framework to be co-produced as part of development of new SEND Strategy.
Resources to sustain and develop the voice of young people in the way they would like it to happen	Review existing arrangements to capture the voice of children, young people and families and explore Joint Commissioning Arrangements for: Parent Carer Forum SENDIASS	SENDIASS jointly commissioned. Parent Carer Forum commissioned by Rotherham ICB to provide peer support services. Work is underway to develop joint commissioning of Parent Carer Forum.
Workforce development to aid better understanding of experience and to promote better responses	Undertake a joint review of workforce development offer for children, young people and families with SEND Devise a consolidated offer with a single point of access Embed Four Cornerstones and SEND Workforce Development Offer into Place Workforce Enabler Group	Joint review of workforce development completed. Consolidated offer and single point of access developed via the graduated response. The Place workforce enabler group has developed following the replacement of CCGs with regional Integrated Care Boards. The revised terms of reference for the Workforce and Organisational development enabler group reflect the Rotherham aspiration to embed the four cornerstones with a commitment to "Develop opportunities to co-produce initiatives such as staff well- being and resilience building" recorded in the Place plan.
		Core competencies developed and implemented.

	Joint work between Rotherham CCG, The Rotherham Foundation Trust and Special Schools to develop Core Competencies Framework and Documented Roles and Responsibilities Roll-out the Health Offer approach across all community health services, so as to provide clarity to schools and wider partners as to health roles and responsibilities	The Health Offer has been updated as part of the recommissioning of the 0-19 service specification.
Clearer pathways and thresholds – better joined up thinking	Develop joint commissioning arrangements for Home Care arrangements.	The terms of reference for the Joint Resourcing Panel have been updated to ensure all packages of care for eligible children are considered jointly.
	Re-commission short-breaks, identifying opportunities for alignment between the Local Authority and Rotherham CCG.	Opportunities for alignment were considered during the recommissioning of short breaks. This resulted in the joint commissioning of specialist short breaks and early education placements for eligible children.
	Review Joint Equipment Panel	The equipment panel review was completed and the revised terms of reference implemented.
Developing the offer from mainstream schools	Develop clear joint pathways of support for children and young people who are accessing specialist school places (SEND Education Sufficiency Strategy)	The graduated response has been jointly developed and provides clear pathways of support for children and young people accessing specialist provision.
	Develop an SEN Support Toolkit	The graduated response includes an SEN Support toolkit.
		The inclusion pathway, including outreach services, is well embed.

	Review Inclusion Services that are traded by the Local Authority Review the offer of speech and language to ensure that it is targeted appropriately at need	The Speech and Language service specification has been reviewed and recommendations implemented to enable the service to target those most in need.
Reducing waiting times for neurodevelopmental diagnosis (Neuro-developmental pathway re-design)	Develop a joint commissioning plan for 2020/21 to reduce the waiting time for neurodevelopmental diagnostic pathway	The joint commissioning plan to reduce the waiting time for neurodevelopmental diagnostic pathway has been developed, implemented and reviewed. The Place Board receives regular updates on progress.
	Develop a joint commissioning plan for 2021/22 to sustain the reduction in waiting time for neuro-developmental diagnostic pathway	The plan to sustain the reduction in waiting time has been developed, implemented and reviewed annually. Oversight is provided through Rotherham Place Board and Health Select Commission.
Understanding of, and response to, SEMH/ anxiety/autism	Joint commission a Therapeutic Review and identify opportunities to align pathways	The jointly commissioned therapeutic review has informed development of pathway redesign for the RMBC Therapeutic service for children in care and the getting advice CAMHs pathway.
	Reflect findings of Therapeutic Review in refreshed arrangements for CAMHS Section 75 agreement	Ongoing development of the pathways will be reflected in the refreshed section 75 workorder when completed.
	Develop a Learning and Evaluation approach to the Mental Health Trailblazer and ensure that findings are embedded into joint commissioning arrangements to support children and young people to be emotionally resilient and have good mental health	The mental health trailblazer is well embed with implementation of With Me In Mind mental health support teams in over 70% of Rotherham schools including all secondary schools.

	Review joint commissioning arrangements for all residential care packages with a focus on quality assurance and clear funding arrangements	All residential care packages are reviewed regularly and health needs considered. A joint quality assurance process has been piloted, further work to embed this in practice is underway. Where appropriate joint commissioning arrangements are in place with clear funding arrangements.
Increasing support to enable independence, including in paid employment	Develop pathways to support the transition for children and young people with long-term conditions	Pathways to support are established, including a specific offer of support to increase access to opportunities for paid employment.



4. What families tell us

Children, young people and their families in Rotherham do not experience equal access to a consistent, high-quality range of educational support, health services and specialist provision. Access varies too much depending on where families live and the schools' children attend. Families tell us about the 'postcode lottery'.

We know that outcomes for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are not yet good enough. Progress has been made to improve children, young people and families experiences when children have an EHCP. "The EHC service we have just had has been excellent. It wasn't the year before." "We have had a review and the EHCP is more specific and personalised." "The EHC team are more approachable, they actually want to hear what my views are now and value what I have to say."

Children, young people and families are not always confident that mainstream schools can meet their SEND needs. There are a growing number of requests for Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment each year. Half of the special schools in Rotherham are regularly full or over their commissioned number and the alternative provision places at the Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are close to capacity (January 2024).

Increased access to the Learning Disability Annual Health assessment is helpful however children wait too long to access some health services for example therapy services and neurodevelopmental assessment.

Information about the support and services available for children, young people and families on the local offer has improved. "The local Offer Website is easier to navigate." "There is better information about preparing for adulthood on the Local Offer than previously." Children, young people and their families have told us that they don't always feel included in their local communities and that they do not always have the same opportunities. This includes within the community, in some education establishments, for training and in the workplace.

Preparation for adulthood is very important. "My son is now in post 16 and preparing for adulthood, promoting independence, travel training etc. has all made a huge difference to his self confidence." Preparation for adulthood does not always work well. Lots of young people and families do not feel prepared for transition to adulthood.

Commented [HS1]: @Cllr Victoria Cusworth RPCF have now shared their impact report and confirmed they were happy for me to include some of the feedback in there in this strategy. I feel it gives a bit more balance to this section, as you pointed out, it was quite negative before. Are you happy with the additions?

5. Commissioning Intentions

Based on the analysis of local need (see Appendix 1d About Rotherham) and what families tell us and underpinned by the outcomes framework; we have identified the following aspirations for the period of strategy. The delivery plan will be developed with key milestones for each of the objectives and outcome measures documented. Progress against the delivery plan will be reported to the SEND Executive Board.

Outcomes	Place Priorities	Actions
✓ I have a voice and this is listened to and respected	Best Start in Life – Better Start Strategy Delivery Group	Joint review and re-design of the pathway and specification for the Children's Community Nursing and Community Paediatrics
✓ I am as healthy as possible		
✓ I feel safe		*Joint review and re-design of the pathway and specification for the Child Development Centre
✓ I have help and support in a way that suits me		Information sharing – Develop and deliver shared information tool across
✓ I have adults in my life who are supported to help me		health and care via wider use of the Rotherham Health Record.
✓ I am supported to be as independent as possible and have a purposeful life		Develop an enhanced offer for babies and pre-schoolers with SEND or suspected SEND to ensure that families
✓ I belong and feel valued		get the right support early on when issues first emerge. This will be through joint working between Family Hubs, the Child Development Centre, Portage

2. Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing – Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Strategic Group	*Implement and Embed the SEMH Continuum of Need and Competency Framework, monitor impact via Inclusion Panel and SEMH Strategic Group. *Continuously improve Neuro developmental assessments waiting times for children in Rotherham. *Improve ADHD resources on the SEND online resource to help schools feel fully equipped. Re-develop, implement, and embed a tiered sleep pathway. Jointly commission Kooth (digital counselling service)
3. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – SEND Executive Board	*Jointly further develop and deliver Graduated Response training to multiagency audience to ensure awareness and advocating of support available via graduated response. *Strengthen multi-agency approach to Youth Justice; reducing the number of CYP with SEND in youth custody Develop and Deliver the SEND 'Family' Hub Update the Short Breaks Statement

	*Jointly commission the SENDIASS service and Parent/ Carer Participation and Peer Support
4. Looked After Children – Corporate Parenting Board	Pathway re-design and review of Looked After Children and Care Leavers Health service specification (extending the age and improving impact measurement).
	Redevelop and implement our therapeutic offer to looked after children, in-house foster carers/ residential care providers.
	*Develop and embed a joint Quality Assurance Process for children and young people in residential care, including capturing their voice.
5. Preparation for Adulthood – Preparation for Adulthood Board	Develop and deliver a Health Passport for Transitions
	Complete a joint needs analysis to inform planning for all young people with long term/ chronic health conditions including diabetes, respiratory, complex care, therapies, epilepsy.
	*Provide a Local Offer and Guiding Voices 'Futures Fair.'

Actions to achieve Commitments are marked with an asterisk *

6. Measures of Success

Outcomes	What this means	Key Performance Indicators	Target
I have a voice, and this is listened to and respected.	All planning is person centred. - Support is planned and delivered in a way that works for the child or young person. It is balanced to include what is important to the individual. - Children, young people, and their families are involved in decision making in all matters that concern them and have greater choice and control over their support. Information is available and accessible. - Children, young people, and their families can find the information they need, are able to make informed choices and navigate the system easily from the earliest years to early adulthood. Co-production with children, young people, and families. - A wider and greater representation of children, young people and families are involved in strategic decision making and the coproduction of services, so that there is better fit between what children, young people and their families need and what is available.	Numbers of children and young people with SEND attending groups that have a Voice and Influence remit (Genuine Partnerships data). Number and % of EHCP audits that Incorporate the view of children and young people, parents, and carers (EHC Audit-Section A) To increase the number of schools, services and settings who are engaging or have engaged with the Genuine Partnerships Four Cornerstones Approach. To increase the number of Schools, settings and services who have been awarded the Charter Gold Accreditation. Number of POET surveys completed annually and responses — will be restarted from September 2024. Numbers of families accessing Rotherham Parent Carers Forum (RPCF dataset) Number of overall visits to our Local Offer Site - new users to the site, numb of engagement sessions on the site. Child survey responses — new indicator this will be introduced for 24/25 academic year.	
l am as healthy as possible	Early identification and early support. - Children, young people, and their families understand how to access support, receive good communication and have a positive experience from all services. Clear pathways to access support and services. - Children and young people's health needs, and importantly their mental health, are identified early and support is put in place at the earliest opportunity.	% of services are delivered in the required time period (18 weeks) (SALT (Speech and Language Therapy), OT (Occupational Therapy), PT (physio Therapists) CDC (Child Development Centre) Number of children with a Personal Health Budget % of Education, Health, and Care Plans with written advice from a health professional within 6-week timescale % of children receiving the 2-year-old health check	18 weeks target 6 weeks target

	Children and young people do not need to be in crisis before support is offered. The right support, from the right people, at the right time - Children and young people get the support that makes a difference and helps them make progress towards the outcomes that matter to them. There is good support available from universal, targeted and specialist services that meet the needs of families at the right time. Support for wellbeing in all Rotherham educational settings - The emotional wellbeing of children and young people is part of the life and work of schools and colleges and there is mental health expertise in every school and setting.	% of children and young people assessed in 2 weeks for a wheelchair Increase % of young people aged 14 or over with learning disabilities offered enhanced GP Annual Health Checks (this info runs over a Financial Year - April to March and is cumulative over this time)	In line with National average
I have help and support in a way that suits me	Inclusive Communities - Children, young people, and their families can access the places they want to go and the things they want to do, alongside their friends and families in their local community. Children and young people will be made welcome, staff will be able to meet their needs and physical accessibility improves. Excellent Universal and Targeted Services - Children, young people and their families can find and access support that meets their individual needs without needing a referral or diagnosis and without being dependent on others. Specialist excellence in Rotherham - The needs of all children and young people, including the most complex, can be met close to home from the earliest years, throughout the whole of their education and into employment. The local area will be able to offer sufficient school places for every Rotherham child.	% of young people with SEND who are EET -Education, Employment and Training (16 - 24 In learning and 20-24 in learning) Reduce the number of children and young people with EHCP's that are considered NEET. Reduce the number and % of Fixed Term suspensions and Permanent Exclusions for SEN Support/EHCP children and young people. Number / % of children and young people with EHCP's that are Elective Home Educated Number / % of children and young people accessing Home to School transport. Reduce the number of children and young people with SEND in Youth custody. Absence and Persistent absence for children and young people with SEND (SEN Support and EHCP) Monitoring of children and young people with SEND who are on Part-time timetabling and accessing AP provision- new indictors for academic year 24/25.	In line with National average In line with National averages In line with National averages

I am supported to be as independent as possible and have a	Preparing for adulthood from the earliest years. - Children and young people are supported and encouraged to build on their strengths and be ambitious for their next steps and their future. Those who support, teach and care for children and young people maintain focus on life skills, experience, and	from September Number of young people referred into Adult Transitions Team. % of SEND young people who are EET - Education, Employment and Training (16 - 24 In learning and 20-24 in learning) Increase the number of young people in Supported Internships across the borough (new measure)	In line with National average
I have adults in my life who are supported to help me	Parent carers, siblings, family, and others who support children and young people with SEND are well supported. They can easily access support for themselves and for the child they care for, and do not need to repeat their story to get support.	Number and % of children and young people with a EHCP who are attending: Mainstream Provision (this includes Post 16/ FE provision), Resource Provision and Specialist Provision – (Special Schools, PRU and ISP) % of sections within the EHC Plans that have been audited as Compliant We will also monitor attainment outcomes for SEND children and young people which will be shared across all working groups Number of children and young people with a Personal Budget in place Increase the number of children and young people with SEND accessing more community activities. Number of parents attending training via Rotherham Parent Carers Forum % of parents and carers of disabled children and young people accessing carers assessments % of cases from panel where graduated response evidence is rated as 'good ' % of Social Care advice received into the EHCP process within the required timescales (6 weeks' timescale) % of EPS advice received into the EHCP process within the required timescales (6 weeks timescales) Number of Quality Assurance visits completed— this is for out of Borough provisions and in borough provisions — new measure	In line to National averages 6 weeks target 6 weeks target

purposeful life	independence so that children and young people have a direction and purpose beyond formal education. High quality transitions. There is high quality, planned transitions between services, settings, and phases. Children and young people continue to progress at every move and are supported seamlessly by well thought out transitions, whether this is between services, settings, or phases. Preparation for employment. Young people are well prepared for their next steps and education, training and opportunities leads to employability for more young people with SEND. Meaningful opportunities beyond age 16. Education settings, training providers, and employers demonstrate their commitment to equality and inclusion and offer positive opportunities to more young people, valuing and appreciating individual's differences and contributions. This means there are more (both amount and variation) of opportunities available to young people and there is something purposeful for everyone. For many this will mean employment; but for others this will look different. The aim must remain that there is a meaningful option for everyone	Number of Supported Internships that led to paid employment- new measure from September. To increase the % of Adults Transitions cases aged 17 and a half and over, who were referred to transitions prior to turning 18, who have a Care Act Assessment in place. To increase the % of Current Adults Transitions cases where the young person is aged between 16 yrs. 6 months and 17 yrs. 5 months (i.e., up to 1 year from turning 17 and a half), who have a care act assessment in place or a worker allocated Number of EHCP's that have been ceased through employment reason.	
	Inclusive Education. All children have access to quality inclusive childcare to make an excellent start to their early education, development, and	Numbers of children and young people with SEND attending groups that have a Voice and Influence remit (Genuine Partnerships data)	
I belong and feel valued	learning. All Rotherham education settings have an inclusive culture and children, and young people receive the same high quality of offer, regardless of which school, college or setting they attend, regardless of where they live.	Number and % of EHCP audits that Incorporate the view of children and young people, parents, and carers (EHC Audits) To increase the number of schools, services and settings who are engaging or have engaged with the Genuine Partnerships Four Cornerstones Approach.	

Accurate identification of needs and intervention in schools,	To increase the number of Schools, settings and services who
colleges, and Early Years settings.	have been awarded the Charter Gold Accreditation.
- Children and young people's needs are identified accurately and there is early, evidence-based intervention to support them. Children, young people, and their families can access support and intervention	Number of POET surveys completed annually and responses.
without the need to wait for a formal diagnosis and without unnecessary delay.	Numbers of families accessing Rotherham Parent Carers Forum (RPCF dataset)
Effective SEN support	
- S EN support is of an equal high standard across all education settings. Children and young people can attend their local education setting and feel confident that they will be fully included and have their needs	Number of overall visits to our Local Offer Site - new users to the site and numb of engagement sessions on the site
met effectively. Children and young people's talents and strengths are at the forefront of all discussions. All planning and support think about the future of the whole person, and positively builds upon the unique strengths, talents, and personality of the individual.	Child level survey responses – new indicator this will be introduced for 24/25 academic year.
Joined up planning and support across education, health, and	
social care.	
- Every service plays their part and children young people, and their families experience high quality planning and provision from the most appropriate teams and services.	

7. Appendices

Appendix 1a Draft SEND Strategy

Appendix 1b Children's Work Order

Appendix 1c National and Local Context, Responsibilities and Approach

Appendix 1d About Rotherham

END