

**Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 6 November 2024

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Caring for the vulnerable;

**Development of a SEND Strategy 2025-2028**

(Appendices 'A'-D' refers)

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**Brief Summary**

At the last meeting, it was agreed that the committee would receive a report on the Draft SEND Strategy 2025-28. The plan is in the early stages of development and conversations with partner organisations are ongoing. This report provides the committee with the opportunity to contribute at an early stage, and to agree the proposed timescales, including any future scrutiny and wider member involvement.

**Recommendation**

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- (i) Comment on the "emerging themes" as set out in the report,
- (ii) Consider and agree the proposed timetable,
- (iii) Consider what further engagement the scrutiny committee and members more widely should have in the development of the SEND Strategy 2025-28

**Detail**

The SEND Partnership Board is made up of representatives from Lancashire County Council, ICB colleagues, health providers, Parent Carer Forum, early years, school leaders and POWAR youth forum. The SEND Partnership Board has a current SEND plan 2021-25 and the aim is to refresh this and to combine with a new local area SEND strategy. This is an essential part of the Ofsted SEND Area Inspection framework.



The co-produced SEND Plan 2021-2025 ends in 2025. Education, Health, and Care partners are working together with children, young people, and their parent carers to improve outcomes for children and young people and to revise this plan, as the next stage of the journey of continuous improvement.

The partnership is now coming together to engage, inform, and develop this using co-production, identifying how we meet statutory duties across Education, Health, and Social Care, deliver quality service, and strive to achieve best practice for all children and young people across Lancashire.

Previous work on developing a strategy for an "inclusive Lancashire" will be built upon during this work.

The work on the new strategy is at an early stage, however several emerging themes have been identified, setting out initial thoughts on the priorities that will feature in the plan. The committee is invited to consider and comment on these priorities.

### **Emerging themes from the work so far**

#### **Priorities we must achieve:**

- Ensure enough school places and provide education for children out of settings.
- Meet statutory duties and deadlines for EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plans) and annual reviews.
- Focus on the child's needs, listen to their views, and ensure they attend the right school.
- Improve communication with families, provide impartial information, and enhance co-production.
- Improve EHCP quality, hold each other accountable, and learn from successes.
- Provide timely and appropriate support, improve public health offers, and ensure accessible services.
- Train staff to deliver competent assessments and ensure equity across areas.
- Use data effectively and measure progress creatively.
- Focus on transitions and preparation for adulthood.
- Provide early help and understand family issues promptly.

#### **Priorities we should achieve:**

- Improve flexibility for missing/hidden children and understand roles within Inclusion.



- Enhance co-production, teamwork, and regular meetings in settings.
- Improve feedback loops, listen to each other, and capture pupil voices.
- Streamline processes, ensure timely responses, and provide clear guidance.
- Take ownership of mistakes, ensure realistic expectations, and know children personally.
- Offer timely support, ensure consistent service availability, and have the right Local Offer.
- Train staff at all levels and engage in reflective practice.
- Provide better-informed choices and empower families.

### **Priorities we could achieve:**

- Enhance teacher confidence and support inclusive practices.
- Engage with colleges, involve everyone in the process, and consult widely.
- Advocate for increased funding and ensure accessible resources.
- Simplify access to services and train case managers.
- Develop an inclusion framework and ensure transparency.
- Be flexible in thinking and commit to a co-production model.
- Communicate transport policies clearly and address district priorities.
- Provide bespoke responses to short breaks and consult a wide range of families.

### **Timeline:**

The proposed timeline for the development of the strategy is as follows:

**12 September 2024** – SEND Partnership Strategy Development Day 1 to co-produce the SEND Strategy priorities at PNE Invincibles Lounge.

**September / October 2024** – Draft the beginnings of a new Strategic Plan.

**11 October 2024** – Share initial draft plan at SEND Partnership Board meeting.



**14/15/16 October 2024** – Consultation Working Together Events.

**November 2024** – Scrutiny Committee

**14 November 2024** – SEND Partnership Strategy Development Day 2 to amend draft strategic plan and flesh out details.

**Further consultation and workshops - January 2025**

**Strategic Plan approved - May 2025** – SEND Partnership Board for approval.

**May - July 2025** – Delivery plan to be drafted by priority leads.

**July 2025** – Plan shared, and delivery processes set up.

**Strategic Plan published and delivery of plan commences September 2025** – launch new Strategic Plan and new Continuous Improvement Delivery Plan.

Each sector of the partnership, and each service within the sectors is required to continually review the Strategic Plan alongside the SEND Code of Practice in the context of any gaps and improvement activity.

Each sector and service will create its own action plans for delivering SEND improvements, or already have action plans in place that will continue. Any ongoing actions or projects, plus all new actions and projects, will need to be put into the context of the new co-produced priorities of the SEND Strategic Plan.

### **The role for scrutiny committee**

The Scrutiny committee is asked to consider how best it could engage with the development of the strategy. Consideration should also be given to how councillors more widely could be engaged and enabled to contribute and participate to the development of the strategy.

The Committee are provided with the current Lancashire SEND Partnership Strategy attached at Appendix A for reference, as well as examples of best practice SEND strategies from other Local Authorities at Appendices 'B'-'D' for the Committee to reference.

### **Next steps**

We will proceed through the steps outlined in the timeline.

### **Appendices**

Appendices 'A'-'D' are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire SEND Plan 2021-2025



Appendix 'B'	Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-2025
Appendix 'C'	North Yorkshire SEND Strategy 2023-2026
Appendix 'D'	Manchester Inclusion Strategy 2019-2022

**Consultations**

N/A

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

**Legal**

The Local authority has statutory duties to identify assess and meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities while working in collaboration with parents, carers and relevant partners. The SEND strategy supports in meeting this duty.

**Financial**

No direct financial implications arising from this report.

**Risk management**

There is a risk in relation to a poor outcome in the Area SEND inspection.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985  
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		

