

Local First Inclusion

# Our Vision for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)



This document provides a summary of the ambitions within the Flourishing in Norfolk Strategy, the Norfolk Area SEND Strategy and the Local First Inclusion SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Programme. It will support the development of local policy for meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities in education settings.

Working in partnership with children and young people, parent and carers, and education settings and partners will continue to be a foundation of this work and an updated vision for SEND in Norfolk will be co-produced by the end of 2023.



# Introduction

At the start of the summer term 2023 Sara Tough, Executive Director of Children's Services, set out how we want to work with early years settings, schools and colleges as part of our ambition for 'Transforming the Norfolk Landscape'. Specifically, this was to start a conversation about our plans for a new Learning Strategy for Norfolk and the aims of our new Local First Inclusion programme.

I now want to take the opportunity, as the lead Director within Children's Services for the delivery of the Local First Inclusion Programme, to remind us all about our current vision and strategy for Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

We have secured combined investment between the DfE and Norfolk County Council of over £100million revenue and further capital investment to ensure that we can enhance local mainstream provision, build more state-funded specialist provision and address our historic funding deficit within the High Needs Block. Through the Local First Inclusion programme we have set out five key areas of work which will deliver these changes:

1. Mainstream Inclusion, Culture and Practice
2. School and Community Teams
3. School Led Alternative Provision
4. Commissioning Independent Sector Differently
5. SEND Sufficiency and Capital Delivery

The vision and strategies that we have already agreed through the Children and Young People's Strategic Alliance for SEND and within our co-produced Norfolk Area SEND Strategy provide the foundation for the Local First Inclusion programme. We will be providing further information for you throughout the remainder of this summer term and going into the autumn term to ensure that you are aware of our new offers for SEND and how we want to work with schools on securing improvements for children, young people and their families.

I look forward to working with you on this shared programme of work,



**Sarah Jones**  
Director Partnerships,  
Inclusion and Practice

# The Norfolk Context

## Flourish

Through the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance we have a shared ambition that Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can Flourish. Each letter of FLOURISH reflects an aspect of children and young people's lives that they have told us is important to them. More information about Flourish and the Flourishing in Norfolk strategy can be found at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourish](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourish)



We want Norfolk to be a county where every child can **flourish**:

- f**amily and friends  
Children and young people are safe, connected and supported through positive relationships and networks
- l**earning  
Children and young people are achieving their full potential and developing skills which prepare them for life
- o**ppportunity  
Children and young people develop as well-rounded individuals through access to a wide range of opportunities which nurture their interests and talents
- u**nderstood  
Children and young people feel listened to, understood and part of decision-making processes
- r**esilience  
Children and young people have the confidence and skills to make their own decisions and take on life's challenges
- i**ndividual  
Children and young people are respected as individuals, confident in their own identity and appreciate and value their own and others' uniqueness
- s**afe and secure  
Children and young people are supported to understand risk and make safe decisions by the actions that adults and children and young people themselves take to keep them safe and secure
- h**ealthy  
Children and young people have the support, knowledge and opportunity to lead their happiest and healthiest lives

The Flourishing in Norfolk strategy has been developed through the Children and Young People's Strategic Alliance and outlines four priority areas that are particularly important, based on what children, young people and families and the information we have about them has told us.

**There are four priorities which have been identified, these are:**

- 1. Strengthening our shared focus and approach on Prevention and Early Help**
- 2. Working together to support children and young people's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing**
- 3. Improving support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**
- 4. Addressing gaps in learning following the pandemic.**

In Norfolk there are two major programmes which share an ambitious vision to improve support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their parent/carers. These are:

- The Norfolk Area Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Strategy – this is the partnership plan which aims to meet the requirements of the Children's and Families Act.
- The Local First Inclusion SEND and AP Improvement Programme – this is the county council's six-year improvement programme for children and young people with SEND with a focus on providing the right support in the right place at the right time as close to their home and community as possible.

The strategy and further information about Local First Inclusion can be found at [\*\*www.norfolk.gov.uk/SEND\*\*](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/SEND)

## **What needs to happen to make the vision a reality?**

We need to ensure all improvement work for children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities is focussed on the priorities within the Norfolk Area SEND Strategy and the Local First Inclusion SEND improvement programme.

# Norfolk Area SEND Strategy

The Norfolk Area Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Strategy is the partnership plan which aims to meet the requirements of the Children's and Families Act.

It has been developed by representatives from across the council and from health services, and in co-production with children and young people, parent and carer organisations and Norfolk's education providers.

## The four priorities in the Norfolk Area SEND Strategy

By working together as partners four over-arching priorities have been identified for our collective support for SEND in Norfolk, these are:

- **Priority 1** – Working together with children and young people with SEND
- **Priority 2** – Improving what is in place for families and professionals to support CYP with SEND
- **Priority 3** – Communicating the SEND services and support available in Norfolk
- **Priority 4** – Preparing young people for adult life



The Norfolk Area SEND Strategy has been developed with representatives from the following partners:



# Local First Inclusion SEND Improvement Programme

Local First Inclusion is the county council's six-year programme to improve provision and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

The aims of the programme are for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities to have their needs identified earlier and to receive the right support to meet these, whether that is in well-supported mainstream provision or special school in their local area.

Local First Inclusion will bring more than £100m of new investment by the Department for Education (DfE) and Norfolk County Council.

## Local First Inclusion will:

- Provide more advice, support and funding for mainstream schools.
- Introduce 15 new school and community support teams to give early help and support to children and young people, parent/carers and schools.
- Provide more specialist placements for children and young people with complex and additional needs through more specialist resource bases (SRBs), more alternative provision in the secondary phase and by establishing two new-build special schools.

The programme will be implemented by working in collaboration and partnership with stakeholders, including children and young people, parents and carers, schools and settings, and professionals and partners, to develop the right support and provision for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities.





**Stemming from those programmes are key principles which are the foundation for our vision and aspirations for children and young people with SEND that we are committed to:**

1. Promoting inclusion so that children and young people's special educational needs can be met in schools and settings as close as possible to their homes and communities
2. Supporting schools and settings to identify and address needs
3. Providing graduated and collaborative services to meet children and young people's needs as early as possible
4. Ensuring services provide evidence-based and effective support to children and young people, their families, and schools and settings
5. Listening to and incorporating the views of children and young people to improve our planning, provision and services
6. Working in partnership with parents and carers



## Alignment with national Policy – SEND Code of Practice and DfE SEND and AP Improvement Plan

Our local ambition for children and young people with SEND aligns to the aims set out in the SEND Code of Practice and the DfE's Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

### SEND Code of Practice

- Our vision for children with special educational needs and disabilities is that they achieve well in their early years, at school and in college, and lead happy and fulfilled lives.

### DfE's national SEND and AP Improvement Plan

- Our vision is to create a more inclusive society that celebrates and enables success in all forms, with the cultures, attitudes and environments to offer every child and young person the support that they need to participate fully, thrive and fulfil their potential.
- We want the process of identifying needs and accessing support to be early, dignified and affirmative, focusing on a child or young person's achievements, talents, and strengths.
- We also want the process to be easier to navigate, with parents being clear on what support they can expect for their child and where they can turn for help, including how to make use of support through the SEND Local Offer and SEND Information, Advice and Support Services.



# Summary of local and national policy and strategy documents for SEND

The following links and documents contain more information on detail on the strategies referenced in this document:

## Flourish

- An overview of Flourish and the Flourishing in Norfolk strategy (the executive summary, full version, and young people's version) can all be found at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourish](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourish)

## Norfolk Area SEND Strategy

- The current Norfolk Area SEND Strategy, which was updated in Autumn 2022, can be found at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/send](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/send)
- Work is underway to update this strategy, which will become the Norfolk Area SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Strategy

## Local First Inclusion Improvement Programme

- Further information about the Local First Inclusion programme can be found at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/SEND](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/SEND)

## National Policy for SEND

- The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice (2015) and the DfE SEND and AP Improvement Plan (2023) can be found at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)





**Norfolk** County Council