

## SEN Strategy update

Update 4: April 2008

**Our Strategy for Special Educational Needs** aims to improve the range of specialist provision across Norfolk for children and young people.

In future all special schools will be called **complex needs schools** and provide for children and young people aged 2-19 years.

At the moment there are 39 specialist units in mainstream schools, in future the Strategy aims to increase this to 59 **specialist resource bases** and each will have an area of specialism such as autism, learning or behaviour.

It will not be necessary for children to have a statement of SEN in order to be referred to the specialist resource bases. This will help children to get the support they need more quickly.

From October to December 2007 we held a consultation to ask where these complex needs schools and specialist resource bases should be located to create a fairer, more equitable spread across the county.

The results of the consultation and proposed next steps were discussed by county councillors in January and February this year. You can read a full copy of the reports from Children's Services Review Panel and Norfolk County Council Cabinet and Cabinet Scrutiny Committee via our website [www.norfolk.gov.uk/senstrategy](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/senstrategy).

A big thank you to everyone who attended consultation events and / or gave written or verbal recommendations. We continue to receive some really constructive and helpful comments and suggestions which we really welcome, and which are helping to shape the future of provision for children and young people with special educational needs.

**Meera Spillett**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Prevention, Early Intervention and Specialist Services**



**Meera Spillett**  
**Deputy Director**

### Are you a parent and would you like to be involved?

We are looking into the best way of forming a parent reference group for the SEN Strategy, to increase the number of ways that parents can contribute. We will publish details on our website by the end of April.

Go to [www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENStrategy](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENStrategy)

## Who makes it happen?

The SEN Strategy Team are:

- Michael Bateman, Strategic Manager – Special Educational Needs
- Kim Mwanza, SEN Strategy Project Manager
- Marianne Ashford, SEN Strategy Secretary

The Strategy Team works closely with a range of stakeholders to find the best way to improve SEN provision and report the recommendations to the SEN Strategy Project Board. Project Board then decides what work the Strategy should undertake and approves the overall project work. This work is overseen by Children's Services Management Team, Children's Services Review Panel and then finally by Norfolk County Council Cabinet.

### SEN Strategy Project Board representatives:

#### Norfolk County Council, Children's Services

- Deputy Director of Children's Services
- Head of Planning and Buildings
- Service Manager - Special & Additional Needs
- Strategic Manager – Special Educational Needs
- Area Director
- Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager
- Management Accountant
- Head of School Performance, Organisation and Inclusion
- Senior Adviser (Equalities and Special School Development)

- Norfolk Association of Special Schools Headteachers (NASSH)
- Norfolk Association of Secondary Schools Headteachers (NASH)
- Schools in Norfolk at Primary Phase (SNAPP)

#### Other Organisations

- NHS Norfolk
- Great Yarmouth & Waveney Primary Care Trust
- Family Voice Norfolk Parent
- Norfolk Governors' Network
- Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers)

### How are people involved?

When Project Board agrees a piece of work to be done, a working group is set up with similar representation to the Project Board, but with different members. The Strategy Team also has standing reference groups who they seek advice from such as the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Steering Group. The Strategy Team regularly attend the meetings of other stakeholders / groups interested in SEN.

Family Voice Norfolk are our main independent parent reference group. If you are a parent interested in getting involved, you are welcome to contact Family Voice as they represent your views.

#### **Family Voice Norfolk:**

Tel: 07950 302937

Web: [www.familyvoice.org.uk](http://www.familyvoice.org.uk)


 family voice  
 together improving services


We also work closely with Norfolk Parent Partnership, who are an "arms length" service funded by Norfolk County Council to provide support and information to parents and carers whose children have SEN.

#### **Norfolk Parent Partnership:**

Tel: 01603 704070

Email: [parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk)

Web: [www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk)

## Recent investments within the Strategy

The SEN Strategy contributed to the recent building of an SEN suite at the **City of Norwich School** with a particular focus on visual impairment and hearing impairment.

Our specialist resource bases will be placed in mainstream schools, although recently the Strategy piloted a specialist resource base for autistic spectrum disorders at **Fred Nicholson Special School**. The focus of this type of SRB is to help reduce the number of children who are placed out of county.



Before



After

## Current work

**Feasibility studies:** This work includes an analysis of future need and complex needs school funded places. It will take into consideration planned housing growth, the reduction of out of county placements by providing suitable provision for children in county, and increases in SEN incidence. In excess of 70 school site assessments will be carried out and areas of expertise for each specialist resource base and complex needs school will also be considered.

**Training and development:** A group is considering the training and development needs created by the SEN Strategy, in particular the development of complex needs schools and specialist resource bases. A training and development plan will be developed to ensure that all school staff have the relevant skills and knowledge in preparation for the future.

**Residential development:** This project is planning the development of residential and short breaks provision across the county to increase the range and number of places available to children and young people with special and additional needs.

## Good news

**Outstanding Ofsted reports** have been achieved by

- **Chapel Road Special School**
- **Sheringham Woodfields Special School**

**Specialist status** has recently been awarded to **The Hall Special School** and **The Parkside Special School** in communication and interaction, which follows on from **Eaton Hall's** achievement of specialist status in behavioural, emotional and social development.

This clearly recognises the excellent work carried out in our special schools.

## What happens next?

We will report the results of the current feasibility studies, including any recommended change to the current number of complex needs school funded places, to county councillors via the Children's Services Review Panel.

This report will be available to you via the website **[www.norfolk.gov.uk/committees](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/committees)** and the SEN Strategy website **[www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENStrategy](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENStrategy)** approximately one week prior to the **16 July 2008** Children's Services Review Panel meeting.

Further reports to county councillors for Norfolk County Council Cabinet meeting on 11 August 2008 and/ or Cabinet Scrutiny Committee will be available in the same way. Please contact us if you require any further information on this.

## Links with other Norfolk County Council strategies

The Strategy Team have ongoing links with many other strategies such as:

- Behaviour & Attendance Pathfinder which is looking at how behavioural support services can be better delivered.
- Primary Capital Programme - a building programme for secondary schools.
- Building Schools for the Future (BSF) - a building programme for secondary schools.

## For further information and feedback

If you have any comments or questions about this update, or would like more information, please contact:

**Kim Mwanza, SEN Strategy Project Manager**

By phone: 01603 224495

By email: [senstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:senstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk)

Or by post: Room 24, Children's Services, Norfolk County Council, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL