

## **SE19 SEND Improvement Plan: 2022-25**

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### **Section A: Context and Purpose**

1. The purpose of this plan is to set out the activities that we will undertake to support and assist the improvement of SEND services in the South East (SE19). The aim is to identify actions that will assist all local authorities to deliver effective services that improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. This activity will be funded through SESLIP (the name of the Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance in the South East) as part of the DfE's support for SEND improvement.
2. The plan is set in the context of the wider SESLIP regional improvement plan and builds upon programmes undertaken in previous years funded from DfE grants and SESLIP subscriptions.
3. It will follow the SESLIP view that all children's services have strengths which can help inspire improvement in others; it also recognises that they are all capable of further improvement. It aims to discourage the conclusion that only poor or weak services need improvement help; instead, it celebrates honest self-evaluation and constant improvement as antidotes to complacency.

### **Section B: Expectations for use of the funding as set out by DfE:**

4. This plan recognises the following expectations for the use of the DfE funding:
  - i. funds will be used by SESLIP to support aims and activities set out in this regional plan
  - ii. SESLIP will nominate a SEND programme manager (Sheelagh Sullivan) who will communicate effectively with the DfE and stakeholders within the SESLIP, and that she will report to a lead DCS (Kevin McDaniel of Windsor and Maidenhead) and to the SESLIP Steering Group
  - iii. SESLIP will consider a self-assessment/deep dive and peer challenge programme which includes all LAs in the region, to support improvement and target sector-led improvement activities
  - iv. support will be made available to LAs in the region who require support to improve their services
  - v. additional activity will be identified where a regional approach would be beneficial to the delivery of SEND services
  - vi. activity will be undertaken to feed into the DfE's 'What works in SEND programme'

### **Section C: Approach**

5. The plan embraces the SESLIP regional improvement plan and seeks to promote coproduction with wider partners, particularly children, young people, and their families in identifying and contributing to improvement. The identification, sharing and promotion of good practice is key to the regional approach which acknowledges that all services have strengths as well as improvement needs.
6. In line with this approach, the plan was developed following consultation with a range of regional representative groups who helped to identify the priorities. The plan is intended to provide a broad indication of priority and activity for 3 years (2022-25), but it is anticipated that changes will be made in response to local and national demands.

7. Whilst the plan is not specific in identifying activity related to the proposed inspection framework or the outcome and implementation of the green paper, it includes supportive activities (forums for example) where these areas can be addressed. As necessary, additional meetings or task and finish groups will be arranged.

#### **Section D: Priority areas for support and improvement**

8. Regional SEND groups have identified the following priority areas:
  - i. Inclusion and SEND support in mainstream schools/settings – identification of good practice and ‘what works’
  - ii. Identification and support for SEND in the early years
  - iii. Management of funding for SEND (HNB) including commissioning and monitoring of specialist provision and the use of data to inform demand
  - iv. Successful transitions and preparation for adulthood for children and young people with SEND, in particular the offer for young people 18-25
  - v. Improving practice around EHCPs, including ways to develop and retain key staff (SEN officers and educational psychologists) and supporting the contributions of all agencies including health and social care to the statutory process
  - vi. Developing supportive mechanisms for peer review and peer challenge

#### **Section E: Projects/Activity to support improvement with indicative costs**

9. SESLIP has recruited four freelance consultants to provide programme leadership and coordination. There will be one member of staff with responsibility for communication with the DfE and stakeholders involved in governance. The coordinators will provide support to a network of new and pre-existing successful regional SEND groups who will address the priorities identified. A total of 150 days consultant support has been commissioned to support the network groups, and an additional resource to support facilitation of training or projects has also been secured.
10. The network includes clear mechanisms for oversight and monitoring of progress and is sponsored by a DCS (Kevin McDaniel, Windsor and Maidenhead). A summary diagram illustrating the network groups and the governance structure is provided at the end of the plan. Improvement activity will be delivered predominantly through these networks, with shorter term project groups being identified as needed to address specific issues and/or support the management of changing regional and national agendas.
11. In addition to network and governance groups there are four regional forums and an annual conference that SESLIP will continue to support/endorse to ensure the sharing of ideas and identification of issues or barriers across agencies in a trusted and mutually supportive environment. These forums are included in the diagram at the end of the paper.
12. They are:
  - i. **The SEND Strategic Conversation** - bi-monthly, attended by LAs, NNPCF, DfE SEND Practice Advisers, NHSE/I regional link, DCOs/DMOs/Social Care Representatives (including those with DSCO role), SE PEP representative. This forum attracts an array of good quality speakers presenting SEND topics, including updates from DfE colleagues. It provides a platform for discussion and can help inform regional colleagues and identify areas of difficulty that may be addressed by network groups and/or require new working groups.

Chair – NHS/LA on a rolling basis  
Regional Support: Sheelagh Sullivan (lead) and Ellen Atkinson

- ii. **The SEND LA Regional Conversation** – bi-monthly, attended by LA SEND leads (various roles) and DfE colleagues. The remit is similar to the ‘Strategic Conversation’ but there is an emphasis upon discussion and mutual sharing to find good practice and support for LAs facing challenge or new demands. The forum problem solves but also identifies areas where regional surveys or targeted working groups would be beneficial.

Chair - Rolling chair from regional SEND leads  
Regional Support: Sheelagh Sullivan

- iii. **SE DCO/DMO Regional SEND Forum** –bi-monthly, chaired and convened by NHS colleagues. The forum gives an opportunity to focus on areas of SEND development identified by NHS in partnership with LAs and other stakeholders. There is regular feedback from this group to the Strategic Conversation and crossover as required with SE19 network and working groups.

Chair – Sue Gibbons (DCO Kent & Medway)  
Regional Support/Link: Sheelagh Sullivan

- iv. **SE Social Care/DSCO Regional SEND Forum** – this forum is currently being established and will be in place by September 2022

Chair - Jayne Howarth (Hampshire)  
Regional Support: Ellen Atkinson (lead) and Sheelagh Sullivan

- v. **Co-production Annual Conference** – the next conference (virtual) will be held in July 2022. The conference shares good practice around coproduction from across the region, providing a platform to inform and inspire others around this key way of working.

Leads:  
Sarah Clarke and Andrew Howard (NNPCF), Hero Slinn (Buckinghamshire)  
Regional Support: Ellen Atkinson

Priority	Network group responsible including leads/support and resource/cost	Intended Outcomes	What will be different for CYP and their families?
<p><b>Priorities 1 &amp; 2</b></p> <p><b>1. Inclusion and SEND support in mainstream</b></p> <p><b>2. Identification and support for SEND in the early years</b></p>	<p><b><u>SE19 Regional Inclusion and Support Group</u></b>  <i>Leads:</i>  Helen Johns (West Sussex)  Julia Katherine (Surrey)  <i>Regional Support:</i>  Ellen Atkinson  Sheelagh Sullivan  <i>National link:</i>  Whole School SEND</p> <p><i>Resources required:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support from SEND coordinators</li> <li>• Potential project costs to support preparation of materials/facilitate training activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A group is established by September 2022 to undertake focussed activity and create a learning community of practice which contributes to improved local outcomes for SEND.</li> <li>• Schools/settings are established as part of the learning community of practice and are actively involved in identifying, using, and sharing inclusive practice.</li> <li>• The learning community is able to explore and share capacity strengthening mechanisms for self-evaluation and peer support within and between authorities.</li> <li>• Practice is shared beyond the region as part of the DfE 'what works in SEND' programme.</li> <li>• Specific activity around early identification and support, including resources and training opportunities targeted at early years settings will be in place</li> <li>• Tools for evidencing satisfaction with provision/practice will be developed and/or shared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children, young people and their families will be involved in identifying 'what works' in schools/settings.' They will be involved as part of the 'learning community' at every level.</li> <li>• More children and young people in the South East will have their special educational needs met through the support ordinarily available in schools and settings</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 3</b></p> <p><b>3. Management of funding for SEND</b></p>	<p><b><u>SE19 High Needs Budgets Strategic Forum including associated working groups:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Commissioning</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>INMSS</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Contract Assurance</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Lead: Nathan Caine (East Sussex)  Regional Support:  Nick King  Lucy Butler</p> <p><i>Resources required:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support from SEND coordinators</li> <li>• Potential further funding required to develop regional data base</li> </ul>	<p>The group will support the achievement of the outcomes below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to identify activities to facilitate a focus on High Needs spending and will link, as appropriate, with other regional finance groups.</li> <li>• Act as an informed link to DfE to inform and support regions around the implementation of changes signalled by the green paper.</li> <li>• Ensure synergy across the region through the development of local agreements/MOUs related to INMSS.</li> <li>• Liaise with other RIIA groups to ensure intelligence support/information to facilitate successful joint commissioning of pan region specialist provision.</li> <li>• Source/develop mechanisms that ensure that LAs have benchmarking data to support improvement and capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual feedback gathered from the region indicates that children, young people and their families increasingly feel that there is sufficient and suitable provision to meet the need of children and young people with SEND where specialist provision is required and agreed.</li> <li>• Regional PCF groups from across the region report (via agreed feedback mechanisms) that they have been involved in the</li> </ul>

Priority	Network group responsible including leads/support and resource/cost	Intended Outcomes	What will be different for CYP and their families?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish regional mechanisms for ensuring robust intelligence and monitoring of the quality of INMSS placements used by the region</li> </ul>	development of specialist provision at individual and pan regional level.
<p><b>Priority 4</b></p> <p><b>4. Successful transitions / preparation for adulthood for CYP with SEND</b></p>	<p><b><u>SE19 Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) LAs and Providers Forum including associated working group:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>LAs Post 16 Group</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Leads: Eileen Derby (Chichester College) Amanda Derby [(Portsmouth) Sharon Willis (Portsmouth) Regional Support: Lucy Butler</p> <p><i>Resources required:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support from SEND coordinators</li> </ul>	<p>The group will support the achievement of the outcomes below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and promote means of capturing the voice of young people</li> <li>Identify and promote 'measures of satisfaction' tools, particularly for young people 19-25</li> <li>Identify good practice for transition at key points that can be promoted at regional forums (especially for CYP with EHCPs) and create a resource repository that can be shared across the region</li> <li>Link with other regional network groups and forums to identify, share and promote good practice for improving the offer post 16 across all agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional data shows the number of young people (post 16) with SEND in college. supported apprenticeships/in work has increased between 2022-25</li> <li>Young people and their families report through individual LA and/or regional surveys (as identified by the working group) that the offer for their future is clearer and supports their aspirations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 5</b></p> <p><b>5. Improving practice around EHCPs</b></p>	<p><b><u>SE19 Operational Team Managers Group</u></b></p> <p>Lead: Karen Spencer (Portsmouth) Regional Support: Sheelagh Sullivan Ellen Atkinson</p> <p><i>Resources required:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support from SEND coordinators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved practice and confidence in regional operational teams through provision of regional guidance and the work of task and finish groups to problem solve challenging issues and provide potential solutions</li> <li>Greater clarity and support for managers through opportunities for discussion and problem solving around complex challenges and/or changes to national guidance/legislation around EHCPs</li> <li>The creation of a repository of useful materials gathered from LAs that will support others to improve practice</li> <li>Materials/information to support LAs carry out their duties</li> <li>Improvements in the quality and timeliness of advice and information to EHCP reviews and assessments through co-working with other forums (particularly DCO/DMO and DSCO forums)</li> <li>Group is confident to act as a channel for raising concerns that may be impacting on the ability of operational teams to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CYP and their families feel increased satisfaction around EHCP processes in data gathered by individual LAs, and/or reported in SEND inspections across the region.</li> </ul>

Priority	Network group responsible including leads/support and resource/cost	Intended Outcomes	What will be different for CYP and their families?
		sustain and/or improve performance so that they can be shared at governance levels	
<b>Priority 6</b>  <b>6. Developing supportive mechanisms for peer review/challenge</b>	<u><b>SE19 Steering Group</b></u> <u><b>SE19 SEND Strategic Conversation</b></u>  Specialist multi-agency task and finish group identified through the strategic conversation, as advised by the steering group and approved by SESLIP.  <i>Resources required - tbc</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer review/challenge/support models investigated to provide a menu of options, including steps for engagement and brokering support -Year 1</li> <li>• Mechanisms for securing and training peer reviewers are in place including young people, carers/parents as equal review members -Years 1/2</li> <li>• A timetable for reviews is in place that takes into account the new SEND inspection framework and offers priority to areas who have a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) or Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) - Years 2/3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidence in Regional SEND partnerships is increased as SEND inspections identify fewer areas of weakness across the region.</li> </ul>

## S.E.19 SEND SESLIP Network Structure as at July 2022

