

# SESLIP Targeted Support

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## Targeted Support

- Funded through DfE Regional Improvement & Innovation Alliances Grant – for Children's Social Care (CSC) and SEND
- Significant increase in funding for 2025/26, particularly for SEND activity. Overall budget of £460k for Targeted Support Programme
- Aim is to deliver 12 SEND and 3 children's social care packages for 2025/26
- Provide a unique opportunity for the local area to focus on a particular topic, of their choosing
- Sits within everything else that's going on, including the area's own SEND development programme, the fuller range of SEND review activity provided by the LGA Peer Review approach or DfE SEND Advisor work etc
- Is LA area specific or group of LAs – see SESLIP regional programme for PAN-SE initiatives



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## DfE Principles for SEND reform

1. **Early.** Children should receive the support they need as soon as possible. This will start to break the cycle of needs going unmet and getting worse, instead intervening upstream, earlier in children's lives when this can have most impact.
2. **Local.** Children and young people with SEND should be able to learn at a school close to their home, alongside their peers, rather than travelling long distances from their family and community. Special schools should continue to play a vital role supporting those with the most complex needs.
3. **Fair.** Every school should be resourced and able to meet common and predictable needs, including as they change over time, without parents having to fight to get support for their children. Where specialist provision is needed for children in mainstream, special or Alternative Provision, we will ensure it is there, with clear legal requirements and safeguards for children and parents.
4. **Effective.** Reforms should be grounded in evidence, ensuring all education settings know where to go to find effective practice that has excellent long-term outcomes for children.
5. **Shared.** Education, health and care services should work in partnership with one another, local government, families, teachers, experts and representative bodies to deliver better experiences and outcomes for all our children.



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## Why we do it?

It is the right thing to do – helping each other to improve outcomes for children and vulnerable families

There are major national and regional challenges facing local authorities currently and into the next few years.

DfE has moved towards a greater emphasis on regional peer improvement, and this is our opportunity to respond

We are a large and relatively diverse region which means we have much expertise and experience to share. The region knows what the region needs and can discover new ways of working from each other

Importantly – this gives us an opportunity to reflect, collectively learn, and develop a strong collective position together in turbulent times

Core Purpose – to be useful! To complement what your LA is already doing and provide some additional capacity



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## DfE Enablers

### Children's Social Care Enablers

- Multi-agency working is prioritised & effective
- Leaders drive conditions for effective practice
- The workforce is equipped and effective

### SEND Enablers

- Co-production and relationships at the heart of the system
- Shared vision and evidence-informed priorities
- Stable and knowledgeable leadership and governance
- A focus on high-quality delivery of the essentials
- A well-organised, skilled and supported workforce
- Explicitly enables the voice of the child:
- Promotes the engagement and involvement of the LAs Parent Carer Forums
- Supports reflective practice, quality assurance and audit
- Supports effective leadership, management and professional supervision
- Uses regional diagnostic information and analysis
- Uses other forms of LA engagement and feedback
- Uses existing LA centered work including the Delivering Better Value in SEND toolkit

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## Where we can support

- Developing/reviewing the local area Self Evaluation (SEF)
- Transitions, including 16+
- Alternative Provision
- Timeliness/quality of new EHC assessments
- Annual Reviews
- SEND support and inclusive practice in mainstream schools
- Joint commissioning
- Coproduction and impact
- Graduated Response
- Outcomes for children – including evidence of partnership working having positive effects
- Quality Assurance
- What happens when (following an agreement for a health assessment for example)
- Banding and funding arrangements
- SEND Sufficiency planning

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## Targeted Support Model

- Small designated central team (SESLIP associates with significant experience of working in and with different Local Authorities). The engine room.
- Tactical and specific use of **subject matter experts** (YOU) where needed and required.
- First port of call, is not to use associates and consultants. Key is to ensure there is the right expertise available, shared across the region.



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## Targeted Support Process

- Initial contact
- Scoping meeting
- Proposal
- Signed off by DCS/equivalent
- Activity Records
- Developed with you
- c.40days equivalent of support (includes set up, governance, review, report)
- Funding for LAs who provide staff to take part in other areas Targeted Support



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## Willing to take part - SMEs

- Professional development
- Learning about what is taking place in another LA, how they are approaching issues which you are also working on
- Leadership skills and ability to influence in wider arena.
- Opportunity and exposure to think and work strategically and gain understanding of wider issues affecting other service areas.
- New relationships and network building
- Create opportunities for collaborative working
- Gain new perspectives on practice within your local authority and test out assumptions

East Sussex, Hampshire, Medway, Milton Keynes, Reading, West Sussex, Wokingham



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## Projects underway...

Area	Topic & Activity	When?
Buckinghamshire	<b>What is available before request for EHC Assessment?</b> Audit of EHC Assessment referrals Observation of panels	November – December 2025
Reading	<b>Annual Reviews</b> Process mapping inc. pathways for health & social care	November – December 2025
Wokingham	<b>Effectiveness of Ordinarily Available Provision</b> Mapping & evaluation	January - February 2026
Hampshire	<b>Joint Commissioning for SEND</b>	February – March 2026
Surrey	<b>Parental-carers engagement?</b>	November -
Pan – Region (East & West Sussex, Portsmouth, Southampton)	Children's Social Care – <b>Safe Uncertainty</b>	

Interested: Portsmouth, Milton Keynes, Bracknell Forest, Brighton & Hove, East Sussex



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# What would be useful?



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## Get in touch

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More information in the prospectus on the website (click the image)

### Targeted Support Prospectus



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