

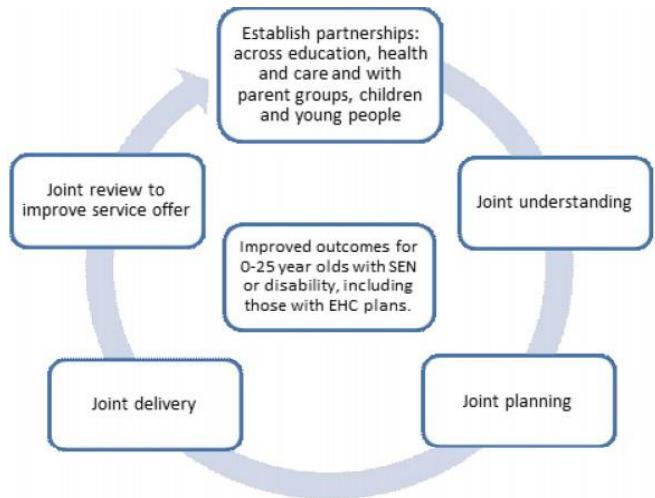
# Derby Local Area SEND and Inclusion Joint Commissioning Strategy 2025-2028

**‘We are an Inclusive and Ambitious City providing  
the right support at the right time so that every  
child and young person can live their best life’**

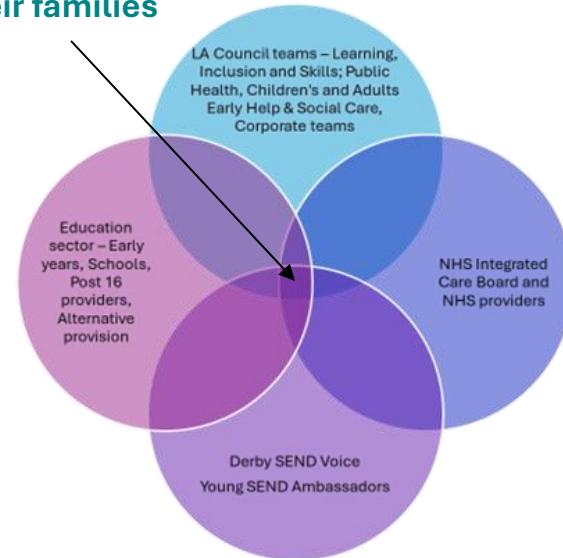
# The Local Area SEND and Inclusion Joint Commissioning Strategy

...outlines how Derby City commissioning partners will deliver the best possible services for children and young people with SEND including those on SEN Support and children and young people accessing alternative provision, through a strong integrated and strategic approach, using the direction set by the Local Area Inclusion Plan

**Commissioning is...** the process of understanding the needs of a group, and using resources to meet those needs through the planning and buying of services.



## Children, young people & their families



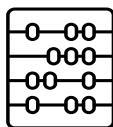
**Joint commissioning is...** where this is done in partnership, working together to plan and buy services in a better and more joined up way. It operates in a continuous cycle. **SEND commissioning duties** extend to a range of partners across the City, at an individual and cohort level. The purpose is to better meet the needs of children earlier and holistically.

# What do we know about Derby?

We are home to 261,400 residents according to the 2021 census, which was an increase from 2011. Whilst Derby is a relatively small city, it's culturally diverse with just over 66% of the population from a White British background and 15% from an Asian/Asian British ethnic background according to the latest census. 87.1% of Derby residents speak English as their first language, which is lower than the national average of 90.8%.

Derby has areas of high deprivation with one in three residents living in an area regarded as one of the top 20% most deprived in England. Around 96,000 people live in areas classed as within the 20% most deprived in the country and there are increasing levels of poverty in the city, including growing rates of child poverty

This as we know directly impacts on the achievement rates of children and young people (ref Child of the North) and their specific abilities in relation to social communication and emotional regulation. The prevalence of this has been amplified through the impact of the pandemic, creating greater demand across education, health and care (ref Ofsted reports).



There are just over **88,000** people in the city aged 0-25 years.

**38%** of children live in poverty in Derby, with **22%** of those aged 0-15 years living in low-income families.

There are **107** schools in Derby, and there are **three main NHS Trusts serving the population of Derby City and Southern Derbyshire including acute hospital services, mental health and specialist community services** - Derbyshire Community Healthcare Services (DCHS), Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (DHCFT) and the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust (UHDBT)



**46,582** young people in the city are school aged, with **4,271** Education, Health and Care Plans maintained by Derby City Council alongside **6,729** children and young people receiving SEN Support..

**46 permanent exclusions, 51 CME, 726 EHE**



ND average wait time - 67 weeks with 1530 waiting

SaLT average wait – 6 weeks

69% of people have first contact with Mental Health Services within 4-weeks

The number of disabled children are currently waiting for a LA OT assessment is **24**

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# What families said about services and support

## Derby SEND Voice:

“While challenges remain, some positive changes are already being felt, and families are beginning to see signs of progress, laying the groundwork for more consistent and responsive services in the

## Challenges

- Navigating processes like EHCPs is difficult
- Problems reaching the right people when help is needed
- Communication remains an issue

## What young people have told us

**Emotional and Mental Wellbeing:** This was a strong theme. Some children felt ‘happy’ and that their support is ‘really good’, some ‘sad’ or ‘anxious’.

**Social and Community Inclusion:** Many children feel socially isolated and are looking for more fun ways to get involved in their community, whether that's through clubs, sports, or other activities. ***[Support is] good but I want more to do more activities in the community.***

**School and Learning Support:** There's a clear and consistent message that they would love support that's tailored to their unique ‘different way of learning’,

**Practical and Life Skills:** They specifically mentioned wanting to learn how to develop skills to ***[prepare for being an adult]. [I would like] help to learn to cook and to prepare for being an adult.***

**Consistency and Reliability:** A few young people shared some frustrations, particularly around consistency.

**Choice and Personalised Support:** ***[More access to support, more options or at least one option suitable for support.]***

The Compassionate Enquiry identified that there needed to be a stronger focus creating a more proactive, early-intervention model, and building stronger partnerships to break down the barriers between different professionals and parents. What is clear is that the communication systems in place are not leading to a good knowledge and understanding of the work underway, opportunities available to engage in the community, or being recognised as such.

# Co-produced Joint Commissioning Priorities and Actions

Improving the experiences of families has been at the centre of driving change in the system and creating **a more inclusive system**. By shifting our focus from reacting to problems, to a longer-term, strategic commitment to collaboration, **we can create a more supportive future for children and young people with SEND**.

Our approach to commissioning is underpinned by:

## Our Principles

- Participation & Engagement
- Co-production & Collaboration
- Evidence based & Outcomes focused
- Transparency

## Our Process

- Shared governance and decision making
- Shared data
- Transparent finances

Jointly prioritize Early Intervention and Right Support at the Right Time

In collaboration with the Derby SEND Voice and Young SEND Ambassadors

- Jointly commission interventions – including SCERTS®, PINs®, Early Talk Boost
- Integrating assessments at early years across health, care and education earlier at key points including neurodiversity triaging, 2.5 year olds check
- Establishing an inclusive curriculum repository and school to school support programme that builds the capacity of education settings deliver personalized and adapted learning as part of Quality First Teaching and SEN Support, to raise outcomes
- Jointly commission social, emotional and mental health interventions for families and children such as Enhanced Family Support
- Joint commission provision for complex needs in residential, at transition points, and for those requiring high levels of intervention in the community
- Establish an integrated Learning Disability pathway and Down Syndrome pathway.

Invest in Development and Support for families and professionals

In collaboration with the Derby SEND Voice and Young SEND Ambassadors

- Jointly commission Workforce Development across education, health and care professionals to meet needs of children and families
- Jointly develop toolkits and guidance for professionals, schools and families
- Jointly commission support at locality level for families, enabling them to develop strategies to meet the needs of their children
- Jointly commission support for young people to develop strategies that work for them

Ensure that there are good communication channels at all levels

In collaboration with the Derby SEND Voice and Young SEND Ambassadors continue to **strengthen our communication** with parents/carers demonstrating how we have listened and what we have done to positively impact on experiences.

- Integrated websites
- Shared campaigns and publicity
- Co-ordinating Information, Advice and Guidance – Provide effective support to parents, carers and young people at the right time by further development of the Local Offer, SENDIAS service resulting in a single point of access and navigation support including at the Neurodiversity Hub and Family Hubs.

# How will we know when we have good joint commissioning

We will see positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families:

- Services will be easy to understand, access and navigate
- Young people will have a positive experience as they move from childhood into adulthood with increasing independence
- High levels of satisfaction will be reported from children, young people and families
- Children and young people will have improved outcomes

They are able to say:



**I am active, independent and participate in society**



**I have a plan for my future**



**I have real life experiences, learning opportunities, good careers advice and guidance and insight into the world of work**



**I enjoy good physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle**



**Those that care for me understand how they can help me realise my potential**



**I am supported to dream big**