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| **Knowsley Joint SEND Policy** |
| **2018-2021** |



**Legislative Framework**

This policy sets out the intentions of the local area partners in relation to how we will fulfil our statutory responsibilities; sets out our shared principles and vision; establishes the links to our strategies and plans.

These statutory responsibilities are based on the relevant and current legislative framework:

Children Act 1989

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Mental Health Act 2007

Equality Act 2010

Children and Families Act 2014

Care Act 2014

Transforming Care Programme 2015

Working Together [Safeguarding Children] 2018

**Statutory Responsibilities [duties]**

All agencies, providers and services have a number of **joint** statutory responsibilities. These apply to all those aged 0-25 with SEND – at SEN Support and with an EHCP.

**Co-production**: children/young people with SEND and their parents/carers must be fully involved in decisions that affect them – at individual level and at a strategic [service and whole system] level. ‘No decision about me without me’ and ‘better together’.

**Collaborative, joint working**: All adults involved in supporting children and young people must work together. This includes sharing information in order to work together effectively. Joint working is achieved by a **‘person-centred’, ‘team around the person approach’** – overcoming obstacles and issues in order to deliver what is required to meet individual needs. Joint assessment, joint planning, joint review. We understand the roles and responsibilities of everyone else and are more effective because we do things together, the experience for the child/young person and their parents/carers is more streamlined and effective, and the child’s journey is more successful and happy. ‘Knowsley Better Together’

**Local Offer:** The local offer is what we expect to be available for children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers, including details of all services, provision and progression routes. We must have a sufficient and appropriate offer to meet the needs and aspirations of our cohort. We must develop and review our local offer in co-production with children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers. We must have a Local Offer website that provides accessible information for children and young people with SEND as well as their parents/carers.

**Principles**

1. All adults will follow the **Thrive[[1]](#footnote-1) approach** when identifying and meeting needs – which results in the right support at the right time. Support is always identified and provided – at a level commensurate with need.
2. Adults will support children and young people with SEND in order to equip them as far as possible to **live independently, find a job and live a healthy and active social life** – with the right level of support when they need it as an adult. This means that:
   1. We **‘prepare children and young people for adulthood’** from the earliest age

and stage possible

* 1. We seek to **‘empower’ and ‘enable’** and will actively work to avoid developing unnecessary dependency.
  2. We agree with the **social model of disability** – a child may have an impairment that presents difficulties in developing and learning, but it is other people and the environment that ‘disables’ them.
  3. We will seek to engage and develop our **community assets** [it takes a village to raise a child]; encouraging extended family and community [neighbours and organisations] to support children and young people with SEND so that they become happy and fulfilled participants in their local community. We will endeavour to enhance the quality of life for each other.

1. **Reasonable adjustment** means that others change to accommodate the needs of person with SEND. Everyone has access to the same opportunities appropriate to their needs because we treat everyone as individuals.
2. All children and young people are **valued equally** whatever their needs or ability
3. Once they reach 16 years of age, we **prioritise the choices and voice of the child/young person**; process and partnership working is responsible for ensuring that decisions are in the best interests of the child/young person. In order to balance choice with safety, all adults involved in the life of the child/young person have a joint responsibility as follows:
   1. We acknowledge the right of children and young people with SEND to make mistakes and the responsibility of all adults to keep children and young people safe from harm

**Our cohort – children and young people with SEND 0-25**

The child population in Knowsley shows a projected increase, with admissions into primary schools increasing by more 5,000 (primarily due to increased house building) by 2021.

It is difficult to predict the impact of increased population on the numbers of those with SEND and we have therefore commissioned data analysis and projection from a specialist provider. Data changes and should be noted as a snapshot that indicates a position and shows a trend.

2017 data tells us that there are 4,295 children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 resident in Knowsley. This reflects an increasing/decreasing trend

* Knowsley still has the third highest rate of total SEND in England [a decreasing – improving trend]
* Knowsley has the 7th highest rate of children receiving SEN Support in England [a decreasing – improving trend]
* Knowsley has the 9th highest rate of children with EHC Plans in England [a decreasing – improving trend]

Although there have been changes in the numbers of children receiving both SEN Support and EHC Plans in Knowsley and nationally, Knowsley still has a high rate of both kinds of SEND intervention.

**In August 2017**, in Knowsley, there were 10,050 people eligible for disability living allowance; of these 1,530 were children and young people (0-25). Disability Living Allowance (DLA) provides a non-contributory, non means-tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of severely disabled people who can make a claim for help with those costs before the age of 65.

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|  | Under 5 | 5-11 | 11-16 | 16-17 | 18-24 |
| Numbers | 180 | 590 | 530 | 50 | 180 |

This marks an overall reduction in children and young people eligible for DLA since 2010, which is mainly due to the change to Personal Independent Payments for those over 16. However, there is an identifiable increase of children aged 0 to 11 years old eligible for DLA in 2017, which will affect provision in future years.

**Our intentions**

Knowsley is an inclusive borough and **our vision is that all children and young people have the best start in life, thrive, aim high and achieve their potentia**l and naturally, we want the same for those children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

1. We will improve outcomes for those with SEND [achievement at school, employment, health, happy and fulfilled lives].
2. Child and young people will live, grow up, learn and participate in their local community. They will attend local schools and provisions whenever possible and in all but exceptional circumstances.
3. Our education provision is inclusive and most pupils with SEND will be educated within the mainstream sector
4. Our housing providers will support our aspirations for children and young people to live in their local community
5. Local employers will provide workplace training and supported employment opportunities for our young people with SEND
6. Communities will provide the support and opportunities needed for those with SEND to join in social and leisure activities and groups of their choice. The council will ensure that facilities are accessible. Knowsley will introduce a scheme to enable local shopkeepers to offer a ’safe space’ if someone with SEND needs help.
7. We will prepare children and young people for as independent an adult life as possible providing as much support as possible for as long as needed without developing a dependency. We will achieve this through the Thrive approach.
8. We will adopt an effective ‘front door’ for extra help and support adopting a ‘tell it once’ approach and if needs and eligibility change they pick up where they left off, without having to start the whole assessment process from the beginning of the process
9. We will ensure that there is fair and equal access to resources and provision within the available allocated funding
10. We will be clear about what additional and different [extra] support looks like and who these services are intended for
11. We will increase choice and control by developing more options; for those with the most complex level of need we will continue to develop bespoke packages, increasing the use of personal budgets [learning from our experience of personalised health budgets, direct care payments, and adult personal budgets
12. We will engage children/young people in all decision making about the services they receive. We will develop a children/young people SEND Forum and collaborate with them to reach as many children/young people as possible in our planning and review at strategic [whole system] level
13. We will engage parents/carers in all decision making about the services they receive. We will formalise work with the parent/carer form [Knowsley Parent/Carer Voice] and collaborate with them to reach as many parents/carers as possible in our planning and review at strategic [whole system] level
14. We will ensure there is leadership at every level through a robust governance structure that provides a link from the frontline to elected members and Chief Executives [LA and CCG]

**Policy into Practice**

This policy is implemented through a number of strategic plans

Knowsley SEND Strategy 2018-2021

Knowsley Joint Commissioning Strategy 2018-2021

Knowsley Accessibility Strategy 2018-2021

**Review**

The SEND Partnership Board will review this policy on a three-year cycle

This Board comprises stakeholders and partners working with and representing our SEND population.

1. Thrive – Timely, Helpful, Respectful, Innovative, Values-based, Efficient. The right support at the right time to help them thrive. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)