



Wolverhampton SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy

2022-25





Wolverhampton
SEND Partnership Board

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

NHS
Black Country and
West Birmingham
Clinical Commissioning Group



Wolverhampton
Joint Strategic Commissioning

W V S C
Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council

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Foreword

As joint chairs of the SEND Partnership Board, we believe that by taking a joined up strategic approach to commissioning we will work better together to develop and sustain effective joined up approaches to local support for children and young people with Special Education Needs and/or disabilities (SEND). We believe that by taking this approach we will bring about positive improvements in information, advice and services, and most importantly we will improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families. Through this strategy our ambition is to ensure outstanding services that can respond when people need it most. We are committing to working together to commission services that will allow us to deliver a system that is joined up, consistent and both efficient and effective. It should not matter which part of the system you enter, the service you receive should be the same and be easy to understand what is being received, what the next steps are, and a clear shared view on the outcomes that will be achieved for our Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The Strategy, our joint commissioning priorities and the principles that underpin our work were co-produced with SEND families and our children and young people. Bringing together Children's Services commissioners and partner agencies to provide high-quality and sustainable services to improve outcomes has been a constant and dominant policy theme for the past decade. Wolverhampton has already demonstrated the potential to transform SEND and wider children's services so that they are person centred and focused on the needs of the local area through a strong history of partnership working. This Strategy brings that partnership working under clear governance and monitoring arrangements to further improve and integrate our commissioned services.

The aim of this Joint Commissioning Strategy, the tracker that supports it and the action plan to be developed are to support local children's services to strengthen and progress their integrated commissioning and joint working further for the benefit of local people. We hope that the Joint Commissioning Strategy will be a really useful tool for Wolverhampton to use to support continuous improvement in integrated commissioning in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for local people. We are very grateful to all the people and organisations involved in co-producing this Strategy and identifying the joint commissioning priorities with us.

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Executive Director of Families,
City of Wolverhampton Council

Sally Roberts
Chief Nursing Officer,
Black Country & West Birmingham CCG

Sarah Baker
Co-Chair Voice4Parents, Voice4Parents

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1. Legal Framework

Section 25 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities that should ensure integration between educational provision and training provision, health and social care provision, where this would promote wellbeing and improve the quality of provision for disabled young people and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to ensure co-operation between children's and adults' services to promote the integration of care and support with health services, so that young adults are not left without care and support as they make the transition from children's to adult social care. Local authorities must ensure the availability of preventative services for adults, a diverse range of high quality local care and support services and information and advice on how adults can access this universal support.

Local authorities and CCGs must make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities (Section 26 of the Act). The term 'partners' refers to the local authority and its partner commissioning bodies across education, health and social care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities, including clinicians' commissioning arrangements, and NHS England for specialist health provision.

Joint commissioning should be informed by a clear assessment of local needs. Health and Wellbeing Boards are required to develop JSNAs and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies, to support prevention, identification, assessment and early intervention and a joined-up approach. Under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, local authorities and CCGs can pool resources and delegate certain NHS and local authority health-related functions to the other partner(s) if it would lead to an improvement in the way those functions are exercised.

To take forward the joint commissioning arrangements for those with SEN or disabilities described in this chapter, partners could build on any existing structures established under the Children Act 2004 duties to integrate services.

“a duty on local authorities that should ensure integration between educational provision and training provision, health and social care provision”

The NHS Mandate, which CCGs must follow, contains a specific objective on supporting children and young people with SEN or disabilities, including through the offer of Personal Budgets.

Joint commissioning arrangements should enable partners to make best use of all the resources available in an area to improve outcomes for children and young people in the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way (Good commissioning: principles and practice, Commissioning Support Programme, (Rev) September 2010).

Partners must agree how they will work together. They should aim to provide personalised, integrated support that delivers positive outcomes for children and young people, bringing together support across education, health and social care from early childhood through to adult life, and improves planning for transition points such as between early years, school and college, between children's and adult social care services, or between paediatric and adult health services.

Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010), public bodies (including CCGs, local authorities, maintained schools, maintained nursery schools, academies and free schools) must have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between disabled and non-disabled children and young people when carrying out their functions. They must publish information to demonstrate their compliance with this general duty and must prepare and publish objectives to achieve the core aims of the general duty. Objectives must be specific and measurable.



2. Our Vision for SEND in Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton's vision is that we become a highly inclusive City where we work with children, young people, and their families with SEND so that they can achieve their full potential. We recognise that all children with SEND are individuals with aspirations to lead their own lives. While life for a child or young person with SEND and their family is anything but ordinary, the ordinary life principles are what extraordinary achievements are built on.

As a partnership, the Local Authority (LA), the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), key stakeholders on our SEND and Commissioning Partnership Board and the Wolverhampton Voice for Parent (V4P), share a common firm belief that all children and young people should have access to good local provision including health and care and every opportunity to thrive, whether this be in education, employment, independent living or participation in their community.

The Local Area has a shared view of where we are in our effectiveness in identifying the needs of children and young people, in meeting those needs and in securing good outcomes for children and young people. In Wolverhampton there are many strengths in the system, but there is still work to do to achieve our goals. We are working together to continuously improve the quality of our work to secure better outcomes for children with SEND through a clear SEND strategy and a 12 month fast paced transformation project called 'The Culture of Inclusion and Belonging'.

There is a commitment from all partners to give priority to the strategy and the project so that we enable a culture of inclusion, belonging and support, ownership, continuous improvement and co-production of policy, strategy and services. We are collectively ambitious for our children and young people with a special educational need and/or disability and to ensure that needs are identified as early as possible, with timely assessment and appropriate support provided as early as possible. In Wolverhampton we have strong political support from our Lead Member, the Cabinet and Council.

The Lead Member maintains a regular oversight of all activity through regular briefings. Wolverhampton benefits from a Designated Medical Officer role, providing the health link with the Local Authority. The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) has a rolling programme to update information for commissioning purposes. A SEND JSNA has been developed in 2019 that underpins the SEND and Inclusion Strategy and underpins all our Joint Commissioning Activity.

We can only achieve our ambitions for children and young people if there is leadership throughout and across the system. The whole system must own this strategy and contribute. This strategy must be a holistic, systems-based approach which successfully joins up different services, partners and professionals. The intention is to create a system which centres the child in a community-based support network. The successful implementation of this model will ensure an enhanced delivery of services and an improved educational experience with better health and education outcomes for children and young people.



The SEND Partnership Board

brings together key stakeholders including: Voice 4 Parents, head teachers, leaders and service managers in education, health, social care, public health, commissioning, and the voluntary sector. The Board is responsible for providing strategic direction and supporting joint commissioning to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND. It works in partnership with the City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton CCG and wider co-production partners, to provide strategic oversight to:

- * Identify all children and young people with SEND
- * Assess and meet their needs
- * Improve their outcomes.

The Board believes that children, young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support they receive. It is committed to working with all stakeholders to co-design and co-produce solutions to create an inclusive future that changes lives: where disability does not define identity, expectations and aspirations are high, and ultimately where – with the right support– a good, ordinary life becomes a reality for all.

Wolverhampton Challenge Board

is a strategic body for young people in the city to influence decision making at a strategic level. It has been developed and facilitated by Changing Our Lives. It aims to make sure that young people with the label of special educational needs and disabilities have good lives. The Board works with SEND Partnership Board members and a network of young people (including schools and colleges) around the city. The Board is not about consultation; it is about achieving outcomes. In 2017 the Challenge Board published its first White Paper which was developed around the idea of an 'ordinary life'. This emerged out of a desire from the Board to make a good, ordinary life a reality for all young people in the city.

3. Our Joint Commissioning Arrangements and Governance

The **SEND Partnership Board** provides strategic direction to improve the lives of children and young people with Special Educational Needs / Disabilities and championing their wish to live an 'ordinary life'.

The SEND and Commissioning Partnership Board works in partnership, with the City of Wolverhampton Council, Black Country and West Birmingham CCG and wider co-production partners, to provide strategic oversight to:

- **Identify all children and young people with SEND**
- **Assess and meet their needs**
- **Improve their outcomes**

The **SEND Strategic Joint Commissioning Group** primary purpose is to establish and support a shared vision for Strategic Joint Commissioning for SEND across Wolverhampton, including parent carers and children and young people as a strategic partner. Meeting on a monthly basis the group has representation from City of Wolverhampton SEN and Social Care Commissioners, Public Health, the Black Country and West Birmingham CCG, School Improvement, Voluntary and Community Sector, Mainstream Schools, Children's Forum and Voice4Parents.

The group brings together all key SEN commissioners and partners in the city to review strategic commissioning planning, but also to identify key areas and services where joint funding and delivery can be done so together. There are clear reporting arrangements into the group, and clear governance arrangements through the SEND Partnership Board for any recommendations and approvals. Reports on progress against identified joint commissioning priorities through a tracker are reported as is performance of a joint commissioning checklist.

Several Boards and Groups report into and can raise items to be included on the SEND Strategic Joint Commissioning Group trackers. These include;

- **The SEND Health Steering Group**
The SEND Health Steering Group will provide strategic direction for all SEND health related matters and provide the necessary decision making to get the right systems, processes and framework in place to develop, deliver and improve the SEND Health Community offer.
- **The Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing Board**
The Wolverhampton CYP Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board is responsible for the development, implementation and review of a strategic plan to ensure that the emotional mental health and well-being needs of children and young people of Wolverhampton are met in a timely, effective and sustainable manner.



- **Schools Forum High Needs Funding sub-group**

This funding sub group of the Schools Forum has a SEN focus and has oversight of any commissioning and funding from the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The groups purpose is to ensure that High Needs funding is allocated appropriately to ensure the best possible outcomes for all children and young people with Special Educational and/or Disabilities (SEND) in Wolverhampton. The group provides a structured forum for stakeholders to offer their views on High Needs funding in Wolverhampton, ensuring a transparency of the use of High Needs funding. The group offers advice and recommendations regarding the use of High Needs Funding to Wolverhampton's Schools Forum and highlights any areas for joint commissioning to the SEND Strategic Joint Commissioning Group

- **Voice4Parents Steering Group**

Voice4Parents is a group of parents and carers, living in Wolverhampton, whose children and young people have a range of special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). It is the aim of V4P Steering Group to ensure the voice of parents and carers in Wolverhampton remains at the heart of service planning and delivery. Voice4Parents are members of the SEND Strategic Joint Commissioning Group and play in active role in identifying the key priorities for joint commissioning.

4. Our Vision for Joint Commissioning in Wolverhampton

Central to this strategy is an 'ordinary life' as described by Wolverhampton Challenge Board and the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (2020).

"We define an ordinary life as being valued as people first, as loving family members, as rebellious teenagers, as paid employees, as community leaders, as home owners and tenants, as neighbours, as friends and partners. Where young people with the label of special educational needs and disabilities are seen in society and have active lives in society. Not living in service land and hidden away from communities in segregated services with other disabled people."

"An 'ordinary' life is faced with its challenges and responsibilities. Not kept away from any risk and being over protected. It's about taking risks, making mistakes, changing our minds and sometimes getting into trouble. An ordinary life is one where people are in control of their own lives and make their own choices about where to live, who to live with, who to have relationships with, where to work, how to spend their own money and what to do to both learn and have fun. Being in control of these things improves quality of life."

Wolverhampton Challenge Board
Ordinary Life White Paper - Nov 2017

To achieve this ambition commissioners from all agencies must focus on and deliver against 4 key approaches;

1. Building the Foundations for Joint Commissioning

Where joint commissioning works well, much effort has gone into building strong foundations, and then maintaining those foundations so they stand the test of time. Those foundations include relationships based on trust, a shared vision, values and priorities and strong collective leadership and governance.

The right values and behaviours need to be evident not just in the relationship between commissioners in the NHS, CCG and local authority, but also between commissioners, providers and people who access services, but also between the staff who work directly with individuals and communities. A shared vision of what can be achieved through working together sets the right tone for all relationships, and ensures that everyone knows the priorities for action.

2. Taking a person-centred, place based and outcomes focused approach

Joint commissioning can help build services around people rather than around organisations to improve the experience of education, health and care and to make a real difference to outcomes. To achieve this, commissioning needs to operate at three different levels: that of the individual person; the place where they live; and the wider population of which they form a part.

Joint commissioning should be at the heart of public service and should be based on a clear set of values and principles that deliver on the commitment to be person centred, place based and outcomes focused. It starts from the principle that people are at the heart of commissioning.

3. Shaping provision to support people, places and populations

To do its job well, commissioning has to match needs and services across people, places and populations. Commissioners will be meeting specialist health care needs, delivering education sufficiency and quality and arranging social care, linking to community services and support within available financial, staffing and community resources. Commissioners have to identify both the type and number of services they want to commission and how they can best manage the balance of the number of people who can be supported, the price they can pay and the quality they expect in terms of services then influence provision and the market to meet these intentions.

4. Continuously raising the ambition

There are of course many factors contributing to successful and continued improvement. Our vision is to enable commissioning partners and stakeholders across teams and organisations to jointly deliver improved outcomes for local people. Our vision is to balance a strongly evidence-based approach with the appetite required for appropriate joint risk-taking to try something new. We will monitor progress and set the bar high

5. Key Partners in Joint Commissioning

**City of Wolverhampton
Council**

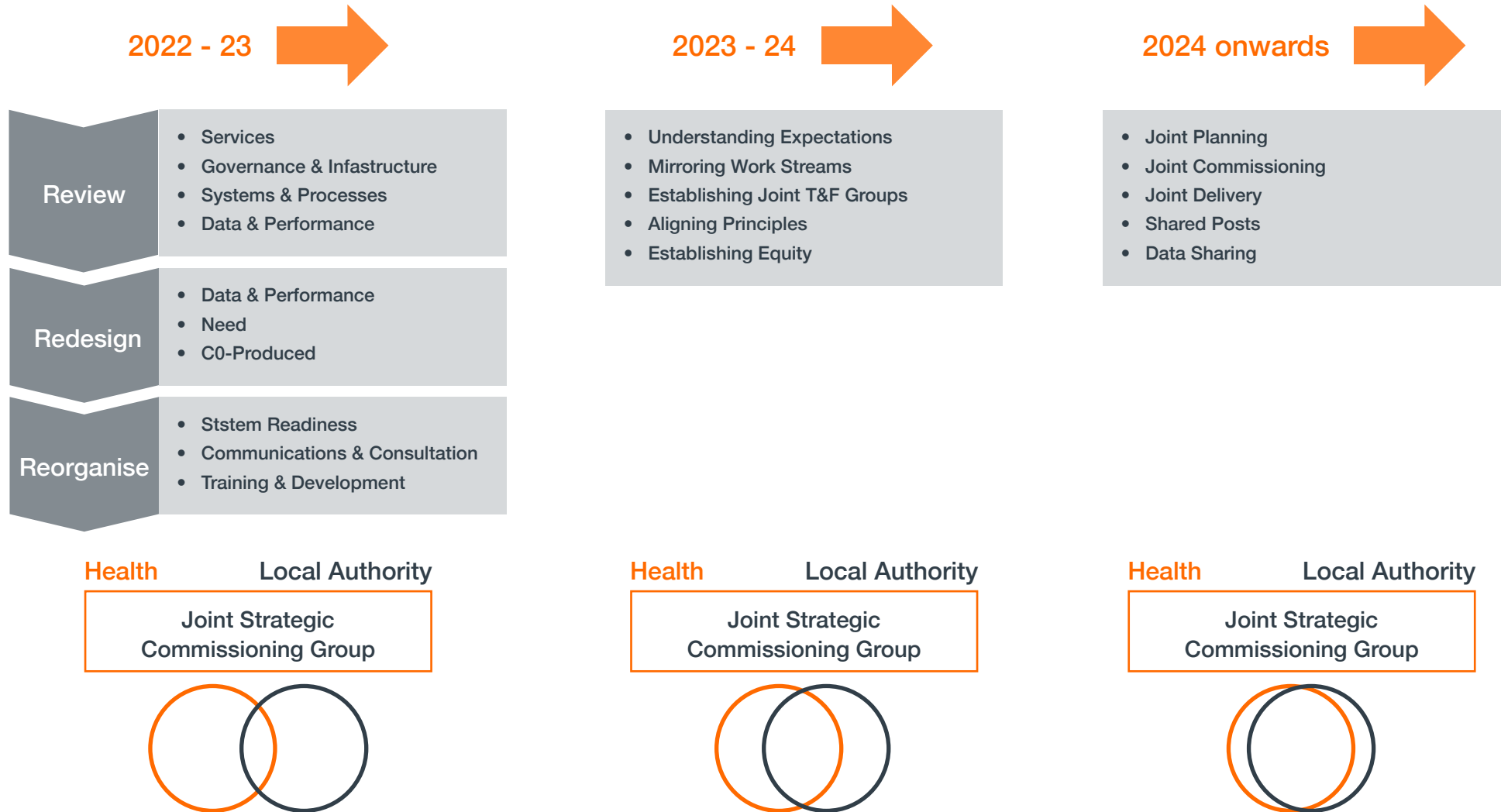
**Black Country & West
Birmingham Clinical
Commissioning Group**

SENStart Team
Educational Psychology
Children's Social Care
Early Identification and Support
Public Health:
Sexual Health
School Nursing
Health Visiting
Adults Services and Transitions

Changing Our Lives
Voice 4 Parents
CVS
Hy5! Young People's SEND Forum
Challenge Board
Special Schools
Mainstream Schools
Post 16
Information, Advice & Support Service
Designated Medical Officer
Speech & Language Therapy
Healthwatch
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector
Data Dashboard

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Physiotherapy
Occupational Therapy
Community Paediatrics
Children's Community Nursing Service
Children in Care Nurses
Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Inspire
Children's Continuing Care
Primary / Acute Care

6. Timeline for Joint Commissioning





7. Levels of Joint Commissioning

Strategic Level

Working closely together in a fully integrated way at a contracts and service level can be challenging. The NHS, CCG and City of Wolverhampton Council can have differences in language, in assumptions, in expectation of what good looks like, as well as gaps in understanding of how other partners work and the policy drivers that underpin its practice and priorities. They also have different lines of accountability and this can shape differences in outlook, assumptions and ways of working. This is why the first stage of integrated commissioning, at a Strategic Level, is so important to set the culture and partnership commitment.

Joint Strategic Commissioning Group Commitment (Strategies)

This Joint Strategic Commissioning Strategy makes clear its commitment to:

- **Agree Strategic plans and a shared joint commissioning vision, working together to meet priorities and jointly monitor and support progress**
- **Share strategic and internal restructure changes with each partner agency at the earliest opportunity, and will endeavour to align arrangements wherever possible.**
- **Have shared governance of joint commissioning and commit to being enablers for others.**

Contract and Service Level

The NHS and local government are responsible for the discharge of different statutory duties, which gives rise to different roles and different activities. One such set of differences stem from local government's market shaping duty to promote diversity and quality in the market of care and support for people in their local area. For the NHS, no such equivalent duty exists, and as a consequence, the two take very different approaches to markets and procurement.

Joint Strategic Commissioning Group Commitment (Contracts)

This Joint Strategic Commissioning Strategy makes clear, however, that where a lead agency is the contract holder;

- **We commit to listening to and incorporating each others performance measures and outcome requirements.**
- **We commit to joint monitoring and aligned contract management processes.**
- **We commit to increasing the number of jointly produced specifications and jointly funded services over the cycle of this strategy**
- **We commit to supporting each other with oversight of value for money, high cost placements and maintaining budgets.**
- **We commit to share performance data freely and openly ensuring GDPR requirements and protocols are in place.**

Placements and Micro Commissioning

In year placement processes are being mapped to yearly and strategic cycles of commissioning for SEND to identify touch points, dependencies and improve processes.

Whilst it is important and practical that autonomy for in year EHCP decisions remains the responsibility of the Local Authorities SENSTART and placement teams and relevant Health teams, it is equally important that these decisions are understood by commissioners and their impact on sufficiency monitored.

Joint Strategic Commissioning Group Commitment (Placements)

This Joint Strategic Commissioning Strategy makes clear its commitment to:

- **The Local Authority will involve all partners in the process of yearly placement commissioning under the DfE High Needs Funding Guidance process.**
- **Partners will play an active role in decision making around specialist place commissioning and understand the dependencies and cost outcomes of this.**
- **In year placement decisions and sufficiency data reporting will be shared routinely at the Joint Strategic Commissioning Group.**

Provider Level

Our aspiration is for early years settings, schools and other education providers to work in local, professional collaborations. By challenging, supporting and working with pride, these collaborations will inspire, achieve and maintain good outcomes for every child and young person to fulfil their potential. This same principle applies to Health providers and partners.

We want to encourage a change in the SEND environment to foster greater collaboration. There is a tension in doing this, as there are different views between providers about the best ways to improve and the financial situation means that some providers are experiencing greater financial difficulties than others.

However, we believe that quality collaboration for improvement is the most effective way to achieve the best outcomes for our children and will create a sustainable SEND system. There are many examples of successful collaboration at provider level in Wolverhampton and elsewhere, as well as many forms of collaboration. Using the skills of our education, health and social care partners such as the Outreach Service, City of Wolverhampton College, Resource Bases and Emotional Mental Health Provider(s), we will learn from best practices here and elsewhere, to put in place collaboration which works. The Joint Strategic Commissioning Group, through all partner commissioners, will play its part in brokering effective collaborations and where appropriate, share information to improve outcomes.

Provider Forums

We will have jointly chaired and run provider forums driven by all partner agencies to support our providers, schools and settings. The first of these will be Resource Base Forums and Alternative Provision Forums beginning in 2022 and meeting bi-monthly. These will be underpinned by monthly data returns and best practice approaches.

This collaborative approach at a provider level, brokered by the JSCG, will be expanded to key provision areas that require a priority focus such as emerging ASD and SEMH needs, with relevant commissioner led forums established throughout the lifespan of this strategy.

Joint Strategic Commissioning Group Commitment (Providers)

- This Joint Strategic Commissioning Strategy makes clear its commitment to:
- Establish and provide leadership for provider forums and market engagement across Wolverhampton
- Identify areas where greater collaboration at a provider level is required. Analysing data and trends and understanding the market to work at pace to support this.
- Enable and foster collaboration when approached to do so by providers, working to support professional and informal partnerships.
- Ensure the Local Offer website is updated with the latest service, contract and provider level information.

Quality Assurance

For all provision we will strive to ensure the highest quality of service. Commissioners will monitor this at a provider level through data returns, contract management and risk registers. We will work with service professionals and teams within newly designed QA Frameworks to assess the quality of provision. This applies to all in city and out of city placements, providers, services and contracts.



8. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Recommendations

The Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Wolverhampton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2019 focuses on children and young people aged 0-25 years who are residents of or who are educated within the city.

The JSNA aims to provide Wolverhampton SEND Partnership and Commissioning Board with an up to date understanding of the needs of local children and young people with SEND. Our JSNA made several recommendations which joint commissioners will work towards achieving.

Strategic recommendations

- Instil at the heart of the new joint strategy for children and young people with SEND, the principle that with the right support, an ordinary life can and should be a reality for all.
- Agree an all partner commitment to the development of accessible information as standard in line with the NHS England Accessible Information Standard.
- Continue to progress the alignment of key commissioning arrangements across the system to improve the offer and response to the changing needs of children and young people with SEND in the city. This should include agreement of a co-ordinated community health offer for children and young people with SEND across CCG and Public Health commissioned nursing services.
- Improve the co-ordination of services and support across the Education, Health, and Care system so that families feel more supported and do not have to repeat their story.
- Undertake local investigation into the significant variation in key areas of need that are seen locally compared to that seen nationally. This is with particular reference to MLD, SCLN and SEMH.
- As part of the Task Force that has been established to address exclusions, have a particular focus on the over-representation of young people with SEND in the excluded population.
- Encourage take up of a tailored PSHE support package to special schools and mainstream schools with resources bases.
- Undertake a review of the leisure offer made to children and young people in the city with a view to improving the range of fun, inclusive activities available for them to enjoy with their friends and family.

Operational recommendations

- Boost the work that is happening jointly between Public Health and RWT to reduce smoking in pregnancy which can lead to premature births and complications in early childhood.
- Improve information sharing arrangements between Early Years and Healthy Child Programme 0 -19 service to create a richer understanding of the needs of pre-school children in the city.
- Ensure the IASS is able to meet statutory requirements as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and detailed in the Minimum Standards.
- Work with Public Health, Education and School Health Education Unit to improve the participation in the Health Related Behaviour Survey across Special Schools and Resource Bases in the city.
- Work with Wolverhampton CCG, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and local Primary Care Networks to achieve year on year improvements in the completion of annual Learning Disability health checks.
- Undertake a deep dive review to understand a) the primary need of young people with SEND in contact with YOT and b) whether there is evidence of a correlation between primary need and severity of CJS outcome.
- Work with Education, Skills and Employment, and Employers in the city to improve the Post 16 offer and opportunities for young people with SEND.

Data recommendations

- Reintroduce Part B of the disability monitoring question on CWC Equalities Monitoring information to enable a better understanding of the types of disabilities our residents are living with.
- Reduce the variation in codes being used to record categories of need for children and young people with SEND.
- Improve the recording and reporting mechanisms by which key partners - including Primary Care, Public Health, Community Health, Leisure Services and Housing - capture information on children and young people with SEND, and their families, with a view to improving the service and support offer available.

9. Key areas for focus and improvement 2021-2024

In consultation with our children and young people and Voice4Parents, SEN Commissioners across Education, Health and Social Care have jointly identified some key areas for improvement over the lifespan of this strategy (2021-2024). It is worth noting that these are not the priorities for SEN in the city but for better joint commissioning. The priorities are;

Priority 1 – Emotional Mental Health & Wellbeing

Whilst we have a jointly commissioned service, with joint funding and shared monitoring and governance, this area of SEN need has seen significant growth in demand over the past few years and this has only been exacerbated by the effects of national COVID restrictions and the impact of the pandemic on children and young people's mental health.

SEN data in relation to CAMHS services, and understanding of the wider tiers of provision and support available is something we must, as a joint commissioning group, focus on as a priority over the next year. Parent / Carers and Children and Young People with SEN must understand that there is Emotional Mental Health support services available to them and focused upon their specific needs.

Priority 2 – Leisure activities and Short Breaks

We as commissioners understand and appreciate that parents and children and young people have wanted to see improvements in the leisure and short break offer in the city for sometime now. By including this priority as part of the strategy, we will be able to track progress and ensure that action is now taken at pace to address this demand and need.

Short Breaks and Leisure activities were reviewed in 2019 with several recommendations made for a new model. This new model will be developed through a Short Breaks Implementation Group, consisting of 4 workstreams and involving Voice4Parents, Finance, all SEN commissioners and Service Leads. The group will convene in October 2021 with a new model programmed to be in place for September 2022.

Priority 3 – Autism Spectrum Disorder Pathways

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has been the most common primary need in each of the last five years for children who have an EHC plan. There has been a consistent growth in demand for specialist provision for ASD and SEMH. This growth in demand, together with a lack of specialist provision for SEMH and ASD locally, has informed our sufficiency strategy. We are working to ensure we have a complete understanding of identified ‘primary need’ to better inform commissioning decisions and future planning for sufficiency of appropriate places.

To address these issues children’s SEN commissioners must jointly work together with Adult commissioners to Commission and implement a pathway for children and young people that can respond to demand and meets recognised service standards. Review and improve post diagnostic Support and by better implementing the Transforming Care Programme.

Priority 4 – Co-production and parent/carers and children and young people as a Strategic Partner

We must trust and embrace parent/carers and children and young people to shape the provision and services we commission. We must embed at the earliest opportunity discussion, views and engagement with them. Commissioners have a wide variety of intelligence and evidence, but none is more important than the experience of service users.

We must build on our foundations of engagement with Voice4Parents and extend this partnership to be more meaningful, earlier in the commissioning cycle and to also include children and young people. All Children’s commissioners are determined and supportive of this approach, and we now must embed this into all joint commissioning processes and arrangements.

Priority 5 – the Local Offer

As well as identifying what is already available across education, health and social care, it is also there to point out any improvements needed or gaps in provision. A good Local Offer relies on the participation of children, young people and their parents/carers. Work is underway on refreshing the Wolverhampton Local Offer, but it is important that commissioners are continuously engaged with the local services on offer in the city so they can understand gaps and demand.



10. Monitoring progress and development of a Joint Commissioning Action Plan

Monitoring of joint commissioning should be at a systems and service level, and we have processes to track both in Wolverhampton. Commissioners will use the Joint Commissioning Tracker to assess, record and monitor joint commissioning at a service level. Importantly, we will utilise and report against a Joint Commissioning Checklist at a Strategic Level. Both reports will be presented to the SEND Partnership Board to ensure that we are accountable and that we have a shared understanding of where we are at and what more needs to be done.

The Joint Commissioning checklist covers a number of key areas at a systems and strategic level. **The top level areas of the checklist are;**

- **An agreed vision for all Partners**

Local partners (the local authority and the CCG) should identify the outcomes that matter to children and young people with SEN or disabilities to inform the planning and delivery of services and the monitoring of how well services have secured those outcomes. Agreed vision takes a life course approach, meaning that opportunities are identified for minimising risk factors and enhancing protective factors through evidence-based interventions at important life stages from the perinatal period onwards.

- **Clear Data**

Joint commissioning should be informed by a clear assessment of local needs. Health and Wellbeing Boards are required to develop Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies, to support prevention, identification, assessment and early intervention and a joined-up approach.

- **A Clear Strategy, arrangements and Governance**

Local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) must make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities. The arrangements must cover the services for 0-25 year old children and young people with SEN or disabilities, both with and without EHC plans

- **Agreeing Resources**

There should be mechanisms in place to agree how services will be funded and by who, both at a contract and EHCP level. The Local Authority and the CCG must have a Section 75 or other agreement in place setting out which budgets are to be pooled and how resources and management structures are to be integrated. There should be an agreed approach for funding packages of care for children with more complex needs.

All of these headline areas have action points and more detailed checklists against them. A RAG rating will be taken against this checklist on a quarterly basis, incorporating the views of all children's commissioners and importantly those of parent/carers and children and young people.

- **A Joint Commissioning Action Plan**

The SEND Joint Strategic Commissioning Group will develop an action plan based on the self assessment of the checklist and incorporating the 5 joint commissioning priorities identified in section 5. This Joint Commissioning Action Plan will have more detail on what specific actions commissioners will take over the lifespan of this strategy. The action plan will be produced for March 2022 and will be refreshed annually.

Annex A

SEND Joint Strategic Commissioning - Priorities Summary

Wolverhampton

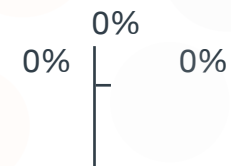
Overall RAG

November 2021

0% 0% 0%

Actions RAG

November 2021



OVERALL SCORE

Joint Commissioning Priorities

1. Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
2. Short Breaks and SEND Leisure offer
3. ASD provision and ASD Pathways
4. Co-production at a Strategic Level
5. The Local Offer

OVERALL PERCENTAGE SCORE

Priorities Overall RAG

GREEN	AMBER	RED
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Action RAG

GREEN	AMBER	RED
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

SEND Joint Strategic Commissioning - Local Area checklist Summary

Please select **Wolverhampton**

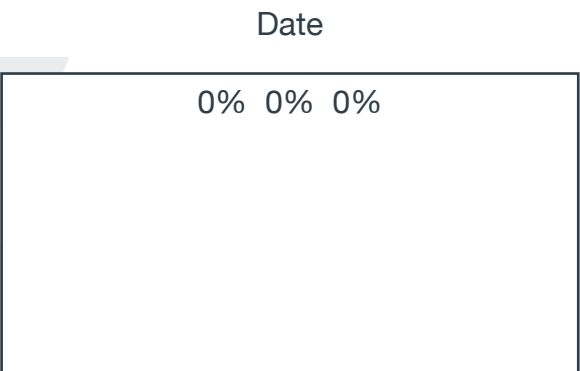
GENERAL SCORE

Joint Commissioning

- 1. An agreed vision for all partners
- 2. Clear data
- 3. A clear strategy, arrangements and governance
- 4. Agreeing resources

OVERALL PERCENTAGE SCORE

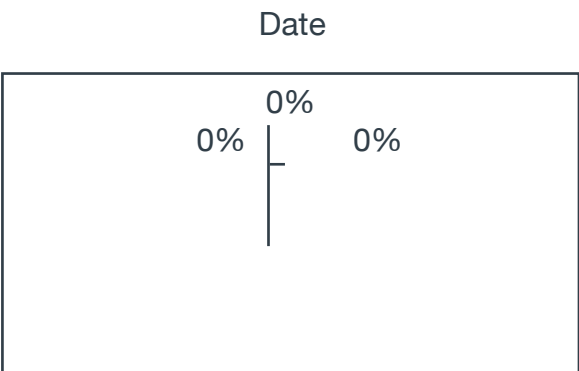
1st Audit



1st Audit - NOVEMBER 2021

GREEN	AMBER	RED
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

2nd Audit



2nd Audit - MAY 2022

GREEN	AMBER	RED
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

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