



Shropshire Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0 – 25

Our vision sees Shropshire children and young people with SEND that are healthy, happy and safe, and able to achieve their full potential with support from a strong partnership between families, the voluntary sector and service commissioners.

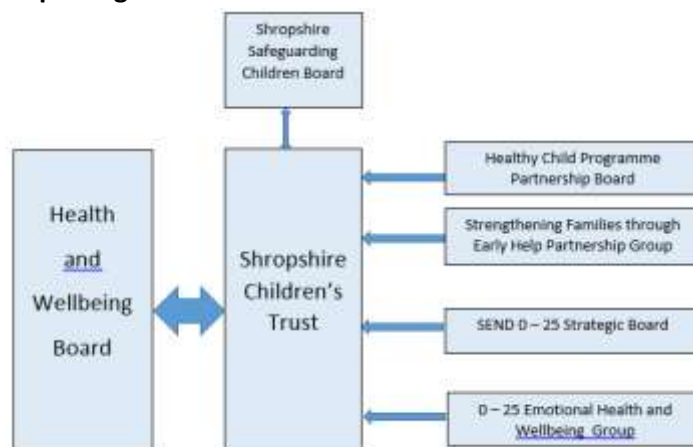
What is the Children’s Trust; Special Educational Needs and Disabled Children and Young People 0 – 25 Strategic Board?

The SEND 0 – 25 Strategic Board is a partnership group that works across organisations to understand, develop and coordinate services to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families with a focus on the continuous improvement of outcomes.

We are;

- Shropshire Council (including Education Services, Safeguarding Children, Early Help, Public Health, Education settings and post 16 providers, Adult Social Care)
- Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Shropshire Community Healthcare Trust
- The Voluntary and Community Sector
- Shropshire Housing Providers
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Shropshire Information Advice & Support Service
- Parent and Carer Council

Children’s Trust Reporting Lines



Why do we need a Shropshire SEND Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0 – 25?

The National context

The Children and Families Act 2014 takes forward the Government's commitment to improve services, life chances and choices for vulnerable children and their families.

It underpins wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Act extends the SEND system from birth to 25 years, giving children, young people and their parents/carers greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met. It takes forward the reform programme previously set out in Support and aspiration:

A new approach to special educational needs and disability: Progress and next steps and makes provision for:

- Children and young people to be at the heart of the system;
- Close cooperation between all the services that support children and their families through the joint planning and commissioning of services;
- Early Identification of children and young people with SEN and/ or disabilities (SEND);
- A clear and easy to understand 'local offer' of education, health and social care services to support children and young people with SEND and their families;
- For children with more complex needs, a co-ordinated assessment of needs and a new 0 to 25 Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) for the first time giving new rights and protections to 16-25 year olds in further education and training comparable to those in school;
- A clear focus on outcomes for children and young people with EHC Plans, anticipating the education, health and care support they will need and planning for a clear pathway through education into adulthood, including finding paid employment, living independently and participating in their community;
- Increased choice, opportunity and control for parents and young people for which they can express a preference and the offer of a personal budget for those with an EHC plan.

The Local Context

To further develop local approaches to integrated and multi-agency working and the coordination of services for children with SEN and disabilities and their families including joint commissioning arrangements of care.

Strengthening partnerships will inform a greater understanding of the context of SEND across Shropshire so that we can be confident that provision is sufficient to meet the full range of need.

Shropshire Partners are committed to the Person Centred Principles on which the SEND reforms are based:

- the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people must be taken into account
- their parents/carers views must be taken into account
- the children, young people and their parents/carers must be able to participate as fully as possible in decision making, and be provided with the necessary information and support to achieve that decision
- the children and young people and their parents/carers must be supported to help the children and young people to effectively prepare for adulthood

We need a plan to make sure that we are working together to:

- encourage and support all children and young people in Shropshire to be ambitious in their aspirations.
- provide extra support for those children, young people and families that might need it to reach their full potential
- develop resilience in children and young people to deal with life situations
- address any inequalities with appropriate and innovative solutions
- provide early and preventative support to make sure children and young people are healthy both physically and emotionally
- build strong and resilient communities that have the right skills to support themselves

What are we going to do?

We will:

- identify our children and young people with SEND and work with partners to design and implement appropriate services and support
- Make decisions that work to protect children and young people with SEND ensuring they are kept safe and happy
- Involve, respect and hear the voice of children and young people with SEND and engage appropriately with all stakeholders
- Base decisions on sound evidence (the JSNA and engagement) and identified need
- Consider collaboration as a starting point for all new or reviewed initiatives.
- Ensure transition assessments and planning take place at the right time for the young person or carer and at a point when the local authority can be reasonably confident about what the young person's or carer's needs for care or support will look like after the young person in question turns 18. (There is no set age when young people reach this point; every young person and their family are different, and as such, transition assessments should take place when it is most appropriate for them.)

We are going to focus on 3 key themes:

- Strengthening the Local Offer
- Personal budgets
- Preparing for independence including transition planning

What are the outcomes?

The work we are undertaking together will result in:

- A strategic approach to the commissioning and coordination of services for children and young people with SEND and their families
- Children and young people with SEND and their families that feel happier, healthier, safer, more valued, more accepted, more responsible for their actions, more positively engaged in their community and successful in achieving their goals

This will mean that children and young people with SEND living in Shropshire

- are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment
- are resilient with good emotional wellbeing
- are as healthy as they can be and see health inequalities reduced
- see any achievement gap narrowed and young people that are prepared for independence and work

Agreed by 0-25 SEND Strategic Board 21 September 2016

What are the lines of accountability?

The chair of the SEND 0 – 25 Strategic Board is a member of the Children’s Trust and is required to provide an update briefing on a quarterly basis to the Trust. Once a year the SEND 0 – 25 Strategic Board undergoes a ‘deep dive’ examination of the work they are doing.

The Children’s Trust in turn, provides an assurance report to the Health and Wellbeing Board twice per year.

Communication and engagement

The 0 – 25 SEND Strategic Board will ensure appropriate engagement and consultation with children, young people and families across a full range of needs and disabilities.

We will work with stakeholders to ensure a broad range of views are heard and used to inform the development and effective delivery of services.

Implementation

Implementation of this Strategy will be supported through the Shropshire Council Corporate Plan, the Children Young People & Families Plan, and the Adult Social Care Plan and approved Joint Commissioning Frameworks

The 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy Group will be the strategic body with responsibility for providing programme oversight and to lead on implementation of the Strategy’s key objectives.