

# Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

Report for Health and Wellbeing Board  
27<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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## Special educational needs and disability (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy.

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
<b>Report Sign off</b>	Exec Board	A. Perrington Assistant Director	9/9/2018
	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Office (Director Level)	Julian Wooster	
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Frances Nicholson	
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The Joint Commissioning &amp; Partnership Programme as a subgroup of the Local Area Improvement Network (LAIN) is working to contribute to the SEND Strategy outcome: <b>Creative partnership</b> working delivers effective, fair and transparent systems and services</p> <p>The SEND Code of Practice requires that “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 (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.” pg38. Development of the SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy sets out the principles we are working towards together in our commissioning, and the governance arrangements.</p> <p>The SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy is supported by an Action Plan for which the focus of the first year will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-ordinating Information, Advice and Guidance (via Participation and Engagement Group)</li><li>• Identification and Assessment</li><li>• Improving outcomes - EHC assessment, planning and review</li></ul>		

<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>	<p>That the Health and Wellbeing Board note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The future intended direction to support progress being made against the 5 SEND strategic outcomes and recommendations from the Gloucestershire SEND peer review in relation to Joint Commissioning and Partnership.</li> </ul> <p>That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the draft Somerset SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b></p>	<p>To formalise our shared understanding of commissioning and inform the development of robust priorities and effective joint working to meet local needs more effectively. And to include this within the HWB strategic refresh.</p>
<p><b>Links to Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy:</b></p>	<p>The SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy and the SEND Joint Commissioning &amp; Partnership groups oversight of joint commissioning work will ensure partners meet the joint priorities as set through the three key strategies; the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Children and Young People’s Plan and SEND Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p>	<p>Purposeful data sharing: The sharing and analysis of statistical information across key partners remains problematic and isn’t routine. Data across partners is used for different purposes and is not easily matched at individual level. Joint commissioning therefore remains at an early development stage and will be addressed through the work supporting this strategy.</p> <p>Financial pressures on all key partners; Historical structures which are not matched to need, staff vacancies and the need for additional savings continue to pose significant risk to the pace of transformation across the Local Area. Restructures and holding vacancies are commonly used across key partners to meet the financial challenges, and have resulted in a loss of expertise and capacity to support the heightened legislative duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and Code of Practice 2015. The timescales relating to decisions about savings needing to be made encourage partners to work separately</p>

**Background**

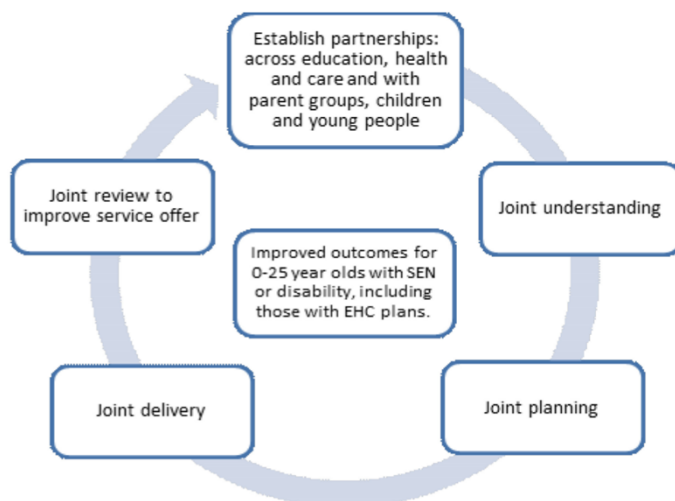
The Joint Commissioning & Partnership Programme as a subgroup of the Local Area Improvement Network (LAIN) is working to contribute to the SEND Strategy outcome: Creative partnership working delivers effective, fair and transparent systems and services. The subgroup brings together partners from Health, Education and Social Care and parent carers.

The SEND Code of Practice requires that *“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 (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.”* pg38.

Development of the SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy sets out the vision, principles, processes and reflects the wishes of young people in Somerset for the commissioning of services for children, young people with SEND and their families. It is drafted by the Somerset local area Joint Commissioning Group. Joint Commissioning for SEND is overseen by the SEND Intervention Board. The SEND Intervention Board reports to the Somerset Children's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board, who hold overall accountability for meeting the outcomes of children and young people with SEND. The SEND Joint Commissioning & Partnership group will oversee the commissioning process for SEND Reforms, reporting by exception to the SEND Intervention Board.

Commissioning is a process for securing better outcomes for people, children and families across partners including parent carers and children and young people, in using resources in the most effective and efficient way to ensure that the right service is available in the right place, at the right time.

#### The joint commissioning cycle



### Principles

We seek to embed the SEND Charter and will ensure our joint commissioning supports the following principles (see page 6 of the strategy for more detail);

- Participation & Engagement
- Co-production & Collaboration
- Evidence Based and Outcomes Focussed
- Transparent
- Effective Communication

Through the joint commissioning cycle we will jointly ensure all professionals:

- share responsibility for children and young people's outcomes and are familiar with the annual action plan
- work to the vision and Principles of the joint commissioning strategy
- have clear expectations and clarity in their roles and responsibilities
- Align existing contracts, develop new joint contracts and identify priorities and risks
- Implement a shared commissioning cycle, including quality assurance reviews
- Understand dispute resolution protocols for parents, carers and young people and for professionals.

## **Action Plan**

The SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy is supported by an Action Plan for which the focus of the first year will be:

- Co-ordinating Information, Advice and Guidance (via Participation and Engagement Group)
  - Local Offer, SENDIAS and SEND communications plan; single point of access and navigation support
  - Guidance for parent carers and schools including toolkits
  - SENDIAS Service
- Identification and Assessment
  - Emotional Health and Wellbeing / SEMH (shared pathway for behavioural presentations)
  - Refresh ASD strategy including identification, assessment and provision pathways for both SLCN and ASD
  - Developing a joint needs assessment
- Improving outcomes - EHC assessment, planning and review
  - Person centred planning and reviewing including Personal Budgets and Direct Payments
  - SEND Workforce Development Plan (as part of Children's Services Workforce Development Strategy)
  - Capital Sufficiency Programme

## **Background Papers**

**Appendix A – SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy (JCS)**

**Appendix B – SEND JCS Action Plan – Year 1**