

# Supporting our children & young people with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

## SOMERSET HEALTH & WELL-BEING BOARD



# SEND Presentation

Following the Inspection in March 2020 and the publication of the Inspection Report in May 2020, the following presentation was developed to build awareness of findings of inspectors and priority areas for improvement.

Teams asked to reflect on current practice and to revisit the SEND Charter as a first step towards addressing some of the cultural barriers to improvement.

The presentation has been viewed over 1,400 times by staff across the Local Area network.

<https://youtu.be/eB4LwuxVGGs>



# Inspection – Publication on 27 May 2020

- Between 9 March and 13 March 2020, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Somerset to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 as detailed in the SEND Code of Practice (2015).
- These inspections evaluate how effectively the local area meets its responsibilities.
- The local area includes the Local Authority (Education, Public Health, Children's and Adult Social Care) Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS England for specialist services, Early Year's settings, Schools and Further Education Providers.
- A Written Statement of Action (WSOA) is required (from both the LA and the CCG) as inspectors identified significant concerns in relation to statutory duties - 60% of local areas inspected to date have been required to produce WSoA.
- WSoA Time extension agreed by OFSTED (19<sup>th</sup> August – 30<sup>th</sup> September)

## National Context — Review launched Sept. 2019

- Exponential rise in EHCPs – Number of pupils with an EHC plan in Somerset has increased by 19.8%, from 1,690 in Jan 2019, to 2,024 Jan 2020. 2.6% of all pupils.
- Exponential rise in spend on SEND - £54m in Somerset and £7m more than budgeted for.
- Complex System – with multiple accountabilities – NHS and Schools are key but criticism focused on LAs – ‘blame game’
- 60% of local areas inspected have not met statutory requirements - e.g. Suffolk outstanding children’s services have failed their re-inspection
- SEND Home to School Transport – separate from above £4.8m – not related to family resources/benefits
- Tribunal System – adversarial based on parental preferences and meeting SEND education needs (not on overall best interests of the child or value for money)
- Parents have limited confidence in the system – everyone is unhappy

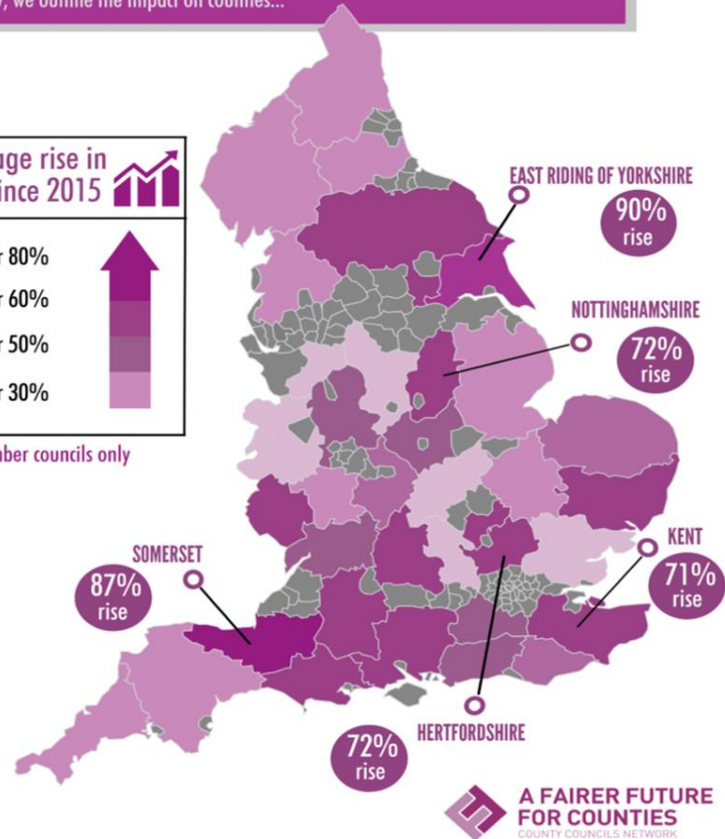
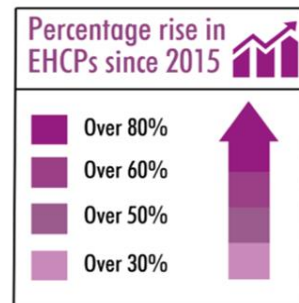
# Somerset Context

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

### Exploring funding pressures in county areas

In 2014 the government raised the age limit of Education, Health, and Care Plans from the age limit from 19 to 25. This extended the statutory duty for councils to provide support for young people with special educational needs - but without any extra funding to account for the rise. Below, we outline the impact on counties...

CCN  
COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK



- Along with other LAs there has been a rapid increase in demand for assessment of -Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- More children are identified with Special Educational Needs in Somerset than similar areas - 12,217 pupils are identified with some form SEN 15.4% of all pupils
- More children are identified with a Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) need (related to behaviour in schools) and less are identified with Autism than national average
- High rates of Exclusions for pupils with SEND
- Educational outcomes for pupils with SEND - are overall below the national average for pupils with SEND
- Previously Somerset operated a unique high needs funding model which meant that a Statement of Educational needs was necessary only in the most complex of cases – leading to specialist provision
- SCC SEND services similarly operated in a unique structure and were only brought together in 2018.

# The effectiveness of the local area

- ✓ Joint working in the early years leads to effective early identification of children with complex needs.
- ✓ Speech and language therapy provision for young people in the Youth Offending Team is well established.
- ✓ The effectiveness of joint working in the early years supports timely and accurate identification of young children's needs
- ✓ Outcomes for children and young people with SEND in the 'West Somerset Opportunities Area' are improving because of better joined-up working between services.
- ✓ Opportunities for co-production are improving. Leaders are increasingly responding to the views of parents through the strengthening relationship with the parents and carers forum.
- ✓ SENDIAS staff advocate exceptionally well for children, young people and their parents. The service is very well led.

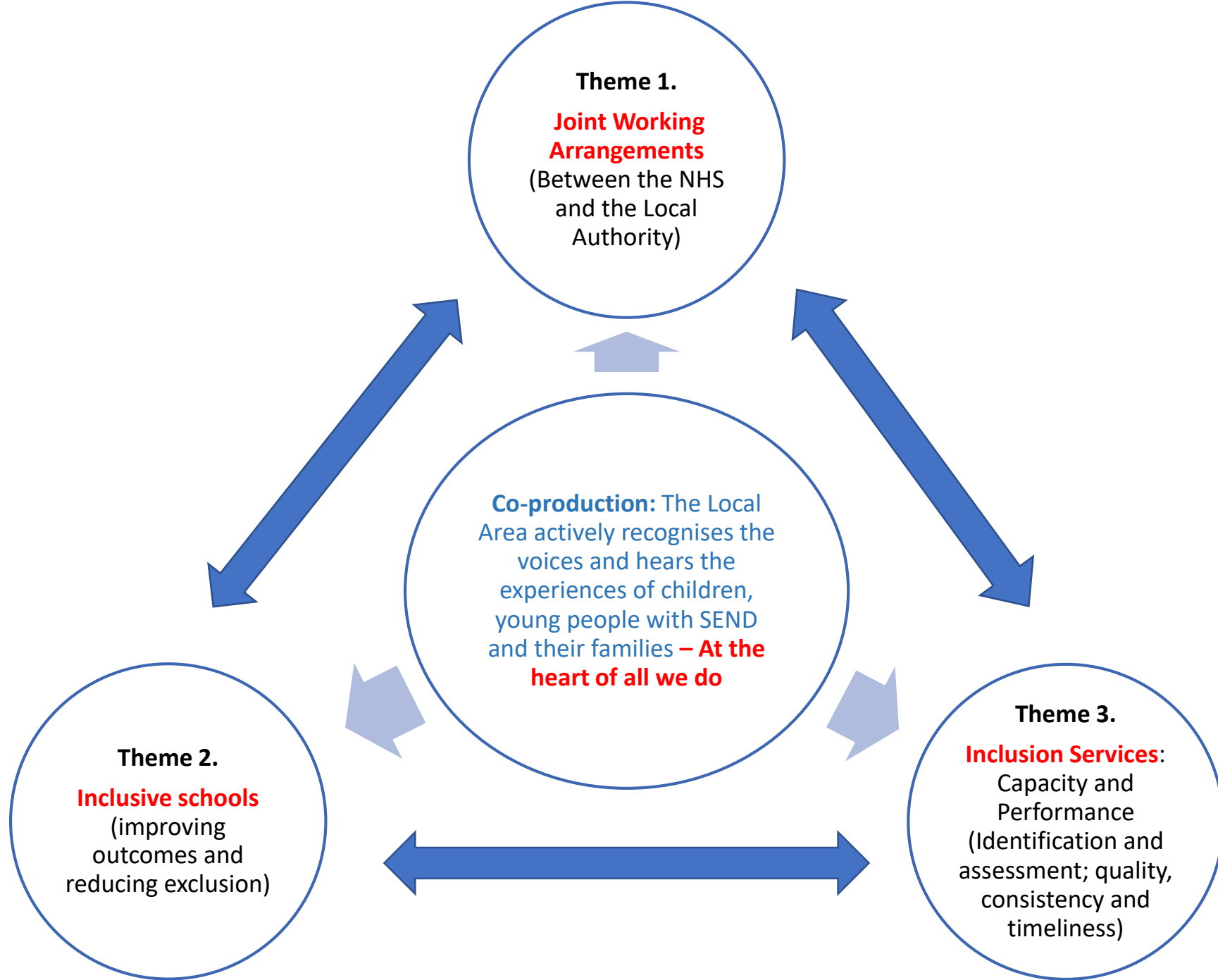
## The effectiveness of the local area 2

- ✓ The parents and carers forum has established effective relationships with area leaders.
- ✓ The local offer, known as 'Somerset choices', has a range of comprehensive and useful information for parents and professionals.
- ✓ Some schools in the area are highly committed to the reforms and make excellent provision for children and young people with SEND
- ✓ Special schools, including pupil referral units and schools with enhanced provision, provide a strong service for the children and young people and their families who access them.
- ✓ The seven-day-a-week 'Enhanced Outreach Team', with an on-call children and adolescents mental health service (CAMHS) operational manager, is effective.
- ✓ Leaders have worked effectively to improve the area's approach to preparing children and young people with SEND for adulthood.
- ✓ Strategic leaders responsible for Children who are Looked After (CLA) are benefitting from greater joined-up working.
- ✓ Social Care provision [for SEND] across the area is well received.
- ✓ Some frontline staff make a real difference for children and young people with SEND and their families.

The local area is required to produce a Written Statement of Action to Ofsted/CQC – the following are the nine statements to address the areas of significant weakness :

1. We all need to work more closely with children and young people with SEND and their families to understand and learn from their experiences as we develop strategies to improve the area. Inspectors recognised that there are many strengths in this area, but we are not consistent in our practice.
2. We need to improve leadership capacity across services in Somerset to provide effective support to children with SEND.
3. We need to continue to strengthen and embed partnership working across Education, the NHS, Public Health and Social Care.
4. By improving joint commissioning arrangements between Somerset County Council and the NHS, we can improve leaders' abilities to ensure they meet area needs, as well as improving outcomes and achieving cost efficiencies.
5. Our pathway for children with autistic spectrum disorder needs substantial development to address the poor service too many families are receiving.
6. We need to extend inclusive practice in schools across the local area and in turn reduce exclusion rates which currently mean too many children and young people are not accessing education.
7. We need to improve the outcomes for all children with SEND, through ensuring effective identification of needs and the right support to make the difference for children.
8. The multi-professional assessments and planning required for Education, Health and Care Plans needs to be carried out more swiftly.
9. The quality of professional input for Education, Health and Care Plans needs to be at a consistently high level.





# Progress on the Written Statement of Action (WSoA)

- Senior Officers meeting with DFE held
- Improvement Board established jointly chaired by SCC and CCG Chief Exec Officers
- Parental Survey – organised by SPCF – 750+ responses, in addition responses received from other parental groups and individuals
- Meeting with ‘The Unstoppables’ – Child and Young Person voice
- Staff briefing – over 1,400 views across the Local Area
- Governors & Trustee Survey – 151 responses
- Schools (47 Secondary; 34 Primaries; 13 Specials; 2 MATS)
- Meetings with Senior Leaders in both organisations
- Meetings with Clinicians
- Overall 200+ meetings have taken place to date and continue

