



December 2022

PROGRAMME UPDATE

Keeping stakeholders, parents and carers informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme.

1. Vision, Road Map and Accelerated Action Plan (APP)

Following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) revisit of SEND in Dudley in early 2022, inspectors confirmed that the local area had made sufficient progress in eight of the fourteen areas of significant concern identified at the May 2019 inspection.

We were subsequently required to submit an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) for the remaining six areas.

This was approved by the Department for Education (DfE) and National Health Service England (NHSE) in July 2022.

Since reinspection in January partners across the local authority (LA) and health have worked alongside parents, carers and young people to identify what further action is needed to make the required impact. Co-production has been strengthened and parent carers are involved in all workstreams shaping the direction of SEND across the area.

At the end of November, the DfE and NHSE undertook a six-month review of progress. Inspectors identified that *"the local area is beginning to make sustainable improvements to SEND services and to the lives of children and young people."*

Their findings were published in a letter which detailed some of the positive actions that have been put in place since the reinspection in January. The letter stated that they were encouraged that:

- we have a multi-professional approach to identifying SEND needs which includes the PCF.
- we have a SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy and action plan in place, along with initiatives to analyse performance data, enabling us to understand gaps in provision.
- parents are now starting to feel engaged and included in conversations around work, developments and feedback being provided to the local area.
- the introduction of family conversations at an early stage is positive.
- we have introduced new education and healthcare needs assessment process and review documentation along with a structured conversation template to support early discussions with families.



- we have developed a 'Raising Attainment Plan' and have reorganised our school improvement team into localities.
- we are developing a Post 19 Provision for People with Disabilities Plan.

However, we know there is still more work to do, and we will continue to work together to drive improvement and demonstrate impact.

The DFE will visit the local area again during June 23 and will continue to will continue to closely monitor the APP. The next visit will focus on receiving updates on:

- How effectively the leads for the six workstreams identify overlaps and synergies between their areas of work so that the impact of their work is strengthened.
- How the SENCo toolkit has been strengthened and evidence of the difference made by early identification of needs.
- The evidence of impact of the joint commissioning work being undertaken.
- How family conversations undertaken as part of the EHC needs assessment process have had a positive impact in reducing parental dissatisfaction.
- The impact of changes to improve the quality of new EHC Plans identified through feedback from parents and carers.
- How the reorganisation of teams and RAG rating of schools has been felt by children.
- How the implementation of the Post-19 Provision for People with Disabilities Plan improves access to local provision for young people with the most complex needs.

The APP can be viewed in the SEND Key Documents section, alongside the APP approval letter and feedback from the DFE via our Local offer at: <https://dudleyci.co.uk/send-revisit-accelerated-progress-plan>

Alongside our APP, we have developed a system-wide improvement programme. We continue to work openly, and transparently with parents, carers and partners to ensure good provision of services for all children and young people with SEND.