

Experts at Hand

A message for Manchester parents and carers

Formerly known as the Local Inclusion Support Offer (LISO). The support remains the same, with a new shared name and a clearer way of describing it.

Children and young people thrive when the adults around them have the knowledge, confidence and support they need. That's the idea behind **Experts at Hand**. Across Manchester, schools can access specialist advice, training and support from professionals including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and our Specialist School Outreach Practitioners to help identify needs earlier, strengthen inclusive practice and support children and young people more effectively.

What message are schools hearing?

Schools are being encouraged to:

- Build staff knowledge, confidence and expertise in SEND and inclusion.
- Seek specialist advice early when concerns arise.
- Work closely with families and listen to children and young people's experiences.
- Meet a wider range of needs within mainstream settings wherever possible.
- Focus on improving outcomes, wellbeing, belonging, participation and achievement for every child and young person.

What does this mean for families?

At the heart of Experts at Hand is Manchester's shared mission:

"To ensure every child and young person with SEND can thrive in their local community by providing timely access to specialist expertise, building inclusive practice and strengthening the confidence, capability and capacity of the mainstream workforce."

This mission reflects the direction of the national SEND reform programme, which aims to make support available earlier, closer to where children and young people learn, and through a workforce that feels confident in meeting a wider range of needs. Experts at Hand brings together training, advice and specialist support to help schools put these principles into practice every day.

For families, the ambition is simple: children and young people should receive the right support, at the right time, in the right place, so they can thrive in their local community alongside their peers.

