

Our West Sussex Education and Skills Strategy to support the inclusion of all children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

2019 – 2024

What is our vision for children and young people?

Our vision is that all children and young people (0 -25 years) in West Sussex will, irrespective of their learning needs, achieve the skills and confidence they require to make a positive contribution to the community in which they live. They will be supported and nurtured through a local educational system that responds to their diverse circumstances and prepares them for adulthood.

Children and young people and their families will:

- Be supported to participate fully in local educational provision
- Feel welcomed, included and have a sense of belonging
- Feel cared for and supported in their health and wellbeing
- Feel valued and able to influence and shape local services and provision

Our SEND and Inclusion Strategy

This strategy builds on our SEND strategy for 2016-2019 and the outcomes of our 2018 Ofsted/ CQC SEND Local Area inspection.

Our strategy has been co-produced during the spring term 2019 with a wide representation of stakeholders. These include parent carers and young people as well as education providers and other professionals from across social care, health and education to ensure it relates to other local authority strategies. Together, we (where “we” is all stakeholders) have identified the following priorities for all our work.

Priority: Knowing our children and families well (an inclusive, person centred approach)

Children and young people and their families will:

- Have their needs identified as early as possible
- Feel a sense of belonging and be valued within local inclusive environments
- Be confident partners in the planning of their provision, including at times of transition
- Understand and have confidence in our West Sussex SEND Offer

Priority: Meeting the needs of our children and young people through our education provision (SEND Offer)

West Sussex will have:

- Education settings that have a skilled workforce who are confident, resilient and able to meet the educational, social and emotional needs of all children and young people
- A range of high quality provision where success is celebrated and shared
- An educational offer based on the principles of personalisation, co-production and the graduated approach which is delivered consistently across all settings

Priority: Working together towards solutions (collective responsibility)

All of us involved in supporting the needs of our West Sussex children and young people will:

- Experience services, systems and processes which support settings to meet needs and be able to independently access the information they need
- Think creatively to develop solutions that meet the needs of children and young people with SEND in their local area
- Have quality assurance in place to ensure consistent and high quality inclusive provision and practice
- Use data and intelligence to plan together to meet current and projected needs of our West Sussex children and young people

What will we do?

We will:

- Provide tools, training and support for settings to further develop inclusive practice
- Provide a self-help guide to enable settings to identify a child's need as early as possible and put into place appropriate provision, and know when and where to access more specialist support
- Provide a guide for families to explain the local educational offer for children and young people with SEND in West Sussex
- Develop shared expectations for universal provision and the graduated approach in settings
- Provide Local Authority support to build upon best inclusion and SEND leadership practice
- Celebrate inclusive practice through an annual event
- Develop shared transition guidance for movement between settings
- Quality assure SEND provision in all settings
- Review and develop specialist SEND provision with a focus on geographical areas
- Develop and provide a data dashboard and information to support multi-agency planning and quality assurance
- Work with all partners to strengthen our multi-agency approach to identify and support the needs of children and young people

How will we know if we are making a difference?

We will publish accessible action plans and performance indicators against which we can measure our success. These will be updated termly and published on The Local Offer. This will enable us to hold each other to account for our joint work and SEND and Inclusion Strategy progress including dependencies across other local authority strategies, e.g. Pathways to Adulthood. A SEND and Inclusion Strategy Board, with parent carer and education setting representation, will formally oversee the delivery of the strategy and report to WSCC cabinet board members. Regular focus groups will also be held with children and young people.

How can I get involved?

An up-to-date view on our current SEND and Inclusion Strategy activities and information on how you can get involved will be found on the West Sussex Local Offer www.local-offer.org