



# Special Educational Needs and Disability and Alternative Provision Strategy 2025-2029



# Wirral Local Area SEND Partnership

Wirral's Local Area SEND Partnership (LASP) is pleased to share with you the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Strategy for 2025-29. This document sets out who your local area SEND partnership are and what our plans are to improve services, provision and outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Wirral over the next four years.



We want all our children and young people with SEND and those attending alternative provision to be valued, visible and included in their local community. Providing them with the opportunity to achieve their aspirations.



**Elizabeth Hartley**  
Director,  
Children, Families  
and Education





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## A fresh start and a 'more ambitious intent'

For too long families have had to struggle to get the support and provision they need to ensure that their children and young people can thrive and achieve their full potential. There have been long-standing and deep-rooted causes to some of the issues that have affected families in Wirral. We know that many children, young people and families have been let down. We are sorry for this and are committed to making the local area system work better for everyone.

This new SEND and AP Strategy for Wirral comes at an exciting time for our partnership. In Spring of 2024, the current Local Area SEND Partnership Board (LASPB) was set up. The LASPB has brought sharper focus to governance, performance monitoring and accountability that was previously missing. This has already yielded real results with significant investment being made by Wirral Council and Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), for example, in rebuilding Wirral Council's SEND Statutory Assessment and Referral Team (SENDSTART) and building capacity in Speech and Language Therapy Services.

The LASPB recognises that for many families these changes are too new to be felt yet. This strategy is designed to set out the local area partnership's ongoing commitment to improvement.

It describes how our partnership will continue to embed and deliver on the recovery plans we have put in place in 2024; delivery of identified areas of improvement and priority actions highlighted by the Ofsted and CQC inspection; and how Wirral will move forward with a commitment to improving the lived experience of children and young people with SEND across the borough.

As a partnership we are ambitious for and committed to improving the opportunities, outcomes and life chances of children and young people in Wirral with SEND. We recognise that this strategy starts from a challenging place in terms of Wirral's past and that we are unlikely to be able to realise our full vision over the next four years. However, we are confident we will make real strides in the right direction and welcome you to share our journey with your feedback and insights so that we can continually improve.

Thank you for taking the time to read our strategy for 2025-2029.



# The Local Area SEND Partnership

## who we are and how we work

Your LASP is made up of representatives from organisations across Wirral that have a responsibility in law or who provide support and services for children and young people with SEND, including those who may need to access alternative provision, and their families. This section explains who they are and who the LASPB reports to.

The organisations and groups that make up your local area partnership are:

- Wirral Council
- Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
- Wirral's Parent Carer Forum:  
Parent Carer Participation Wirral (PCPW)
- Wirral Association of Secondary School Heads
- Wirral Primary Heads Association
- Wirral Special School Heads Association
- Wirral Community Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust and Wirral University Teaching Hospital representative
- Wirral Metropolitan College (on behalf of post 16 providers)
- Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Wirral SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

In addition, there are representatives from other sectors and stakeholders such as the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinators (SENCO) representative**; the early years providers representative and a general practice doctor representing primary health care.

Crucial to the success of the local partnership is the political representation that we also have on our board. These representatives include the **Leader of Wirral Council**, the **Chair of Wirral Council's Children, Young People and Education Committee** and the **Chair of Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Board**.

As a partnership we report regularly into both the **Health and Wellbeing Board and the Council's Children, Young People and Education Committee**. While as a partnership we are accountable to those other groups we report to, we believe that most of all we are accountable to you, the children, young people and families of Wirral. All our details, reports, attendance, terms of reference, and many other documents relating to the partnership can be found on Wirral's Local Offer website: [www.sendlowirral.co.uk](http://www.sendlowirral.co.uk)

# Our values: how we will work to deliver improvement

As a partnership, we believe that how we will make improvements to services and provision is as important as the outcomes we are trying to achieve. Having a strong set of guiding values that can be shared with children, young people and families will allow us to deliver outcomes and do it in a way that delivers **with**, not **to**, people.

The values we will work to and demonstrate our commitment to:



## Being person centred

Placing the person at the heart of everything we do.



## Delivering quality

Being outstanding in everything we do.



## Working together

Co-producing and collaborating for the best possible outcomes.



## Advocacy

Giving people the equal opportunity to have their voice heard.



## Integrity

Doing the right things for the right reasons.

It is important that members and organisations are able to demonstrate their principles in action. Our values should be felt through your day-to-day interactions with staff and services.

We accept that these values have often not been felt or experienced by families. So, for that reason we will share with you how we are checking that we are living our values. We will look at and monitor:

- › Details of staff training
- › Quality assurance audit reports
- › Child, young person and family feedback
- › Information on complaints
- › Performance reports
- › Survey results

As a partnership we will receive termly reports on how we are doing. As always, these will be available to you on Wirral's Local Offer website: [www.sendlowirral.co.uk](http://www.sendlowirral.co.uk)





We combined this feedback with feedback received from families during 2024, and from other key stakeholders including Ofsted and CQC, to make our vision statement of what good looks like in Wirral:

**All children and young people with SEND have the right to achieve their aspirations, to maximise their potential and lead a full life.**

**This will be done by communities and services working together to provide support and guidance that is based on the voice of the child, young person and family.**



# Our outcome measures: what this strategy is going to improve

Building on our collective vision, the **Local Area SEND Partnership** has identified six outcome measures. We will use these outcome measures to judge our improvement and level of success over the next four years.



## **My Voice**

I am involved in decisions that affect my life, and my views are taken seriously.



## **My Health and Wellbeing**

I have the best possible health and wellbeing.



## **My Support Needs**

I am well supported and make progress.



## **My Development**

I have opportunities to learn.



## **My Education and Communities**

I can join in with local activities and have the chance to make friends.



## **My Future**

I feel ready for adult life.





We took this feedback and looked at it alongside our service performance data, our analysis of local needs and feedback from the 2025 Local Area SEND Inspection. We used all this information to agree the areas of work we will be focussed on between 2025 and 2029. These areas are sometimes called ‘**strategic priorities**’. The next four pages will tell you what we are going to focus on in this strategy and how you will feel the difference we are making.

## Priority 1

**We will deliver the priority improvements that were identified in Wirral’s 2025 Local Area SEND Inspection.**

As a result, by the end of this strategy:

- You will increasingly feel that Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are being co-produced with families, children and young people, that they are more person-centred, reflecting needs and provision more accurately.
- You will increasingly see EHCPs being delivered within 20 weeks.
- You will have the opportunity to attend an annual review meeting of your EHCP and receive an updated EHCP within 12 weeks where required.
- You will experience a shorter wait to access health services such as speech and language therapy or mental health support.
- The services you have contact with will always provide you with alternative support and advice if your child doesn’t meet a threshold to access the service.





## Priority 2

**We will improve the communication culture across the local area partnership so that parent carers, children and young people with SEND are better informed and better able to have their voice heard with their views at the heart of all their individual plans.**

As a result, by the end of this strategy:

- You will start to notice more SEND-focussed communications and increasing opportunities to engage with services and shape the way we do things.
- You will experience how our workforce invests in more person-centred planning and how they have a better understanding of SEND needs and how they can impact on family life and in education providers.
- You will notice staff across the partnership increasingly working together better to signpost and support you.
- You will start to notice that you are able to meaningfully participate in your own plan.

## Priority 3

**We will ensure that children and young people with SEND are well prepared for adulthood and feel able to achieve their aspirations, being visible, productive and independent members of their local community.**

As a result, by the end of this strategy:

- You will see preparation for adulthood outcomes become the focus of annual reviews and EHCPs from year 9 onwards.
- You will have the support of a lead worker for young people transitioning from children's to adult services.
- Quality assured Learning Disability health checks for eligible 14 year olds will be consistently available to ensure that young people have access to the right health advice and support.
- You or your child will have a transition passport that will enable support and understanding of needs to move across services and provision.
- You will experience improved access to emotional health and wellbeing support for young people through Branch, Wirral's online mental health and wellbeing hub.
- Young people will find themselves able to access a broader range of provision and supported internment and employment opportunities.





## Priority 4

**We will ensure that SEND needs are identified and assessed early, and that access to services and support is based on needs and not diagnosis.**

As a result, by the end of this strategy:

- You will see an increase in the number of children and young people supported in mainstream education, reducing the need for alternative provision.
- Experience a clearer process for determining the need for provision for medically excluded children and young people. This means you will always be clear who is responsible for your child's provision and Wirral will have far fewer children with SEND out of education.
- Notice the use of more comprehensive profiling tools to identify needs and provide support early for children and young people with neurodiverse brains.
- Be aware of what is 'normally available provision' within mainstream schools, resource bases and maintained special schools, giving families a clear understanding of the type of provision best able to meet their child's education needs.
- A clear graduated approach to identify and meet needs will be in place and be understood by services, education providers and families alike.

# When things will start to feel different

It is unfortunate but true that it will take us time to do all the things we need and want to do to improve provision and services for children and young people with SEND and their families. Step by step, we are going to see change happen throughout the life of this strategy.

## By the end of 2025

- Focus on preparation for adulthood outcomes will be driving EHCP reviews from year 9 onwards.
- More of our Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments that become EHCPs will be issued within 20 weeks.
- The neurodevelopmental profiling tool will be in place to better identify needs.
- You will be able to more easily see how services work together so that you always know where to go for support.
- You will be able to see what provision and support is typically available across schools.
- Our renewed focus on ensuring provision for all pupils who may be medically excluded from education providers will mean you will know who is providing the support your child needs.

## By the end of 2026

- No family will be left waiting for a diagnosis or access to a service without support.
- Transition passports will be in place for children moving between primary and secondary schools.
- For those eligible a lead worker will support young people who transition from Children's to Adult's Social Care Services.
- You will always be provided with advice and/or signposted to support where your child doesn't meet the threshold for a service.
- The range and number of supported employment and internships will better meet the local area needs.
- Most newly issued EHCPs will be good or better and all EHCPs will have been reviewed within the previous 12 months.

## By the end of 2027

- All children and young people with an EHCP will have access to a transition passport.
- Co-production of individual plans and co-design of services will be the lived experience of children and young people with SEND.



## Our governance and accountability: how the partnership and families will track and monitor progress

Over the course of this strategy, the LASP expects the priority actions to be delivered in line with the roadmap in the section above. In our monthly reports we review a wide range of key performance indicators so that we can step in and make decisions where we don't see the level of performance expected. All of these can be seen in the LASP Performance Report which is shared every month on SENDLO: [www.sendlowirral.co.uk](http://www.sendlowirral.co.uk)

Performance indicators are compiled, checked and monitored by our Strategic Performance Group. This group reports on these key measures every month to the **Local Area SEND Partnership Board**. As with all the work of the SEND Partnership Board these papers will be publicly available for families and stakeholders on SENDLO, Wirral's Local Offer website.





### My Voice

I am involved in decisions that affect my life, and my views are taken seriously.

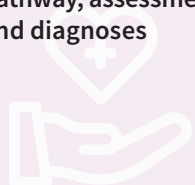
- › Involvement in consultation and co-design
- › Complaints
- › Young Person Survey feedback
- › Audits and case reviews



### My Health and Wellbeing

I have the best possible health and wellbeing.

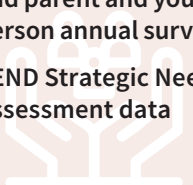
- › Branch referrals and access to services
- › Family, child and young person feedback
- › Patient experience data
- › Data from health visitors and school nurses
- › Data from health therapy services
- › Data from the neurodevelopmental pathway, assessments and diagnoses



### My Support Needs

I am well supported and make progress.

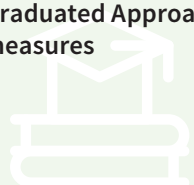
- › Post-natal and early years health screening
- › Early years development and progress and achievement data
- › Timeliness of advice from health and educational professionals
- › EHCP performance data
- › Social care data
- › Satisfaction surveys and parent and young person annual survey
- › SEND Strategic Needs Assessment data



### My Development

I have opportunities to learn.

- › Alternative Provision outcomes data
- › Persistent absence
- › Children missing from education
- › Part-time timetable data
- › Education performance data, progress, attainment and outcomes
- › Breadth of supported internships
- › Graduated Approach measures



### My Education and Communities

I can join in with local activities and have the chance to make friends.

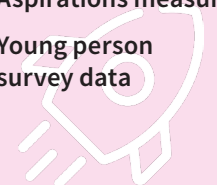
- › SENDLO number of hits for community activity
- › Satisfaction rate for SENDLO
- › Young person and parent carer feedback and annual survey
- › School and communities
- › SEND Sufficiency performance indicators



### My Future

I feel ready for adult life.

- › Not in education, employment or training (NEET) measures
- › % of 16-24s in education, employment or training
- › Year 9 preparation for adulthood focused reviews
- › Apprenticeships; breadth of supported internships
- › Transition to adulthood
- › Aspirations measures
- › Young person survey data



You can get this information in large print, braille, audio or in another language by emailing [sendlo@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:sendlo@wirral.gov.uk)

**wirral.gov.uk**  
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