**Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and Inclusion**

**Strategic Partnership Board**

London Borough of Southwark

Terms of Reference May 2024

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and Inclusion Strategic Partnership Board is to oversee the effectiveness of, and drive improvement in, the integrated multi-agency approach to improving outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents and carers; delivering an inclusive and equitable SEND system and reducing the need for high cost provision that does not secure the best possible outcomes for our children and use of shared resources.

**Rationale**

The Children’s and Families Act 2014 (the Act) and the 2014 SEND Code of Practice introduced significant reforms to the SEND system. Including extending the age range for statutory support from birth to 25 years of age; and the introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that ensure children’s needs are planned for and met holistically. In the years following the changes there has been a sharp rise in demand nationally, with a 100% increase since 2016 and the number of children with EHCPs doubling from 256,000 to 517,000 in that 7-year period. 29.

The pressures to fund children’s support needs is recognised as in crisis nationally, with local authority high needs budgets standing at a £2.4bn deficit across English local authorities. This is expected to rise to £3.6bn if unaddressed over the coming years. Southwark’s budget deficit stood at £23m in 2022 and is forecast to rise to £76m by 2027 without mitigating action to transform and modernise the partnership system.

Delivering an effective local area partnership system that is sustainable and continually improving requires a strong and transparent partnership approach to mutual support and challenge; oversight and shared commitment to driving quality improvements for all children with SEND.

**Scope**

The local area partnership is all those agencies across education, health and care with a responsibility for strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Southwark.

**Responsibilities**

The primary responsibility of the Board is to transform the local area system to continuously improve outcomes for children with SEND.

The Board is specifically responsible for:

* Ensuring children, young people and carers are listened to and engaged in the design and delivery of strategies, services and the support provided to them.
* Delivering a system that places parents and carers at the centre of the team supporting their child, and their views and unique knowledge at the heart of decision-making.
* Delivering and overseeing a comprehensive framework of needs analysis and impact on outcomes; and a multi-agency approach to quality assurance that is informed by data and the views and experience of children, young people and parents.
* Ensuring that the whole local partnership system works together and with families to understand and respond to children’s needs in a coherent way, with each partner contributing to robust assessments, plans and funding arrangements, and monitoring the impact of their services and support.
* The development of a continually improving local system that builds confidence and trust in parents and carers that their children’s holistic needs will be identified early and can be met effectively and locally.
* Mobilising and providing a high quality and graduated system of support that is responsive to individual needs and maximises young people’s independence and preparation for adulthood.
* Joint commissioning of provision to meet identified need and future demand.
* A high quality and integrated system of assessment, review and provision that is timely and delivered by well trained and well supported professionals.
* Developing a partnership SEND leadership and workforce who work effectively together, share resources and core values and use evidence to inform their work.
* Holding itself and each other to account for meaningful individual and organisational engagement with children and young people with SEND and their families.
* Ownership of the SEND Strategy and the delivery of associated improvement plans, including the development of effective and sustainable Alternative Provision
* The coordinated delivery of the Safety Valve Budget Deficit recovery programme and preparation for SEND Inspection

**Duties of all Board Members**

All Board Members will commit to:

* Provide leadership and direction, make decisions to steer the progress and delivery of the priorities of the SEND partnership, helping to identify and unblock barriers to delivery of services and improvement plans.
* Individual and organisational participation in the development of proposals to transform SEND support and services, providing support and challenge and championing the SEND agenda, priorities and principle for driving integrated support
* Ensure the aims of the SEND partnership are embedded in single agency business and transformation plans
* Ensure resources are implemented and directed as necessary to achieve the aims of the SEND partnership
* Full attendance at all meetings. Deputising is not encouraged but if Board members cannot attend, they must nominate an appropriate deputy to attend on their behalf
* Complete any assigned actions by the agreed deadline

**Accountability**

The Board will include co-opted members from Southwark Independent Voice and our community of children and young people with SEND.

All reports and records of meetings will be published to the Local Offer Website and freely accessible to the public

The Board will report to the Health & Wellbeing Board on a 6-monthly basis. The report will include:

* Updates on the progress of the delivery of the SEND Strategy
* Updates on the impact of the partnership on improving outcomes for children with SEND and their parents and carers
* Any issues for escalation impacting on the ability of the partnership to deliver the improvement programme.

**Review**

The Board and these Terms of Reference shall be subject to annual review or as necessary subject to the direction of the Board membership.

**Meetings**

* The Board will meet bi-monthly
* Meetings will take place at rotating partnership venues
* Administrative support for the Board will be provided by the Local Authority
* Agendas and associated papers will be sent 5 working days in advance of the meeting.

**Membership**

The Board membership will be:

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| **Name** | **Role** | **Agency** |
| Nicky Rolfe | Chair | Southwark Independent Voice |
| Yassim Jama | Vice-Chair | Southwark Independent Voice |
| Alasdair Smith (Co-Chair) | Director of Children’s Services | London Borough of Southwark |
| Martin Wilkinson (Co-Chair) | Chief Operating Officer, Partnership Southwark | South East London Integrated Care System |
| Councillor Evelyn Akoto | Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing | London Borough of Southwark |
| Councillor Jasmine Ali | Lead Member for Children’s Services | London Borough of Southwark |
| Lloyd Barclay | Team Manager | Southwark Independent Advice Service |
| Mario Bartee | Southwark CAMHS SEN Lead | South London & Maudsley |
| Jenny Brennan | Assistant Director – Early Help & Youth Justice | London Borough of Southwark |
| Anna Chiva | Assistant Director – SEND | London Borough of Southwark |
| Michael Crowe | Strategic Programme Lead | London Borough of Southwark |
| Helen Edwards | Head of Safeguarding, SEND, MCA Governance and Assurance | South East London Integrated Care System |
| Neil Gordon-Orr | Assistant Director - Education Access and Statutory Services | London Borough of Southwark |
| Rachael Horner | Lead Commissioner – SEND | London Borough of Southwark |
| Danna Johnson | Strategic Hub Lead – Early Years Sector Representative | Peckham & Nunhead Children & Family Centres |
| Russel Jones | Assistant Director – Integrated Commissioning | South East London ICS – London Borough of Southwark |
| Genette Laws | Director of Commissioning | South East London ICS – London Borough of Southwark |
| Steph Lea | Headteacher – Special Secondary School Representative | Spa Education Trust |
| Sangeeta Leahy | Director of Public Health | London Borough of Southwark |
| Catherine May | Headteacher | St Saviour’s & St Olave’s Secondary School |
| Loretta McGurry | Head of Nursing | Evelina Children’s Community Services |
| Lindsay McLelland | Head of Therapies and Joint Head of Speech & Language Therapy | Evelina London Children’s Hospital |
| Tendai Murowe | Assistant Director – Quality Assurance & Practice Development | London Borough of Southwark |
| Bridget Nichola | Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disability in Southwark | South East London Integrated Care System |
| Lisa Noel | Headteacher – Special Primary School Representative | Beormund Primary School |
| Pauline O’Hare | Director of Adult’s Services | London Borough of Southwark |
| Simon Rayner | Assistant Director – Learning Disabilities & All Age Disability | London Borough of Southwark |
| Sarah Redman | Principal Advisor – SEND | London Borough of Southwark |
| Helen Woolgar | Assistant Director – Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting | London Borough of Southwark |