

Thurrock Local Area Partnership Special Educational Needs, Disability and Alternative Provision Strategy 2024-27



Our aspirations for our children and young people with SEND and their families

- We want to work in partnership with our families and other professionals to ensure the child/young person remain at the heart of what we are collectively trying to achieve
- We want to work with our families, we look to identify what will make a difference to the child/young person's life
- We understand that early intervention is the key to what we are trying to deliver using a whole system approach
- We want our children and young people to experience smooth and effective transitions at key points from early years right through to moving into adulthood
- We want to offer a range of supported internships and apprenticeships to support transition into adulthood

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategic Vision

The Local Area Partnership's (LAP) strategic vision is that all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and those attending alternative provision across the Local Area can access high quality support in their early years, school, college and preparation for adulthood, this will enable them to be happy and active members of the communities in which they live and have healthy, fulfilling lives.

Inclusion in Thurrock

Thurrock has a strong commitment to an inclusive system of education, health and care support, which actively works to enable children and young people to access and have full participation in any aspects in community life. This is following the Salamanca Statement and Framework for action on Special Education Needs (1994), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is embedded in the Equality Act 2010.

Thurrock SEND /AP Key Strategic Priorities

Developed through a process of co-production with parents / carers, children & young people and stakeholders to fulfil our shared vision for SEND/AP, placing the child/young person at the heart of the system.



1. Ensure the early identification of and early support for children with SEND.



2. Ensure that children, young people and families are at the heart of an effective SEND /AP system.



3. Ensure children, young people and their families are happy and feel well supported, promoting a whole system approach.



4. Ensure an effective and responsive approach to assessing and meeting children, young people and families' needs.



5. Ensure our commissioned services support every child and young person to make good progress.



6. Ensure young people are well prepared for adulthood to enable them to engage in local communities.



Thurrock SEND/AP Priorities 2024-2027

Background

The LAP includes elected members, Integrated Care Board, Inspire Youth Hub, Finance, Performance, Quality and Business Intelligence, Executive Director of Children's Services, Children and Adults Social Care, NHS, NELFT, Thurrock SEND Family Forum, schools and colleges representatives, Alternative Provision providers, Education, Health & Social Care.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is a broad term and covers a range of needs including behavioral, emotional and social difficulties, autism spectrum disorders and specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. The Department for Education's definition in England encompasses all children or young people from birth up to the age of 25 who have "significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions" (Department for Education and Department for Health).

We know that Children with SEND/AP face more disadvantage and risks over and above the experience of their counterparts who do not have SEND. Children with SEND are at greater risk of poor educational and social outcomes and therefore are an important group to consider when working to reduce inequalities and ensure that all children achieve their full potential in life. The challenges Children with SEND face can be multi-faceted, which means they often require coordinated and multi-dimensional responses.

Priority Area 1

Ensure that children and families are at the heart of an effective SEND/AP system, co-producing and working in partnership to ensure that the child/young person remains at the heart of the decision-making process.



Continue to drive the work within the LAP engagement & participation strategy for children and young people to ensure they are fully engaged in all aspects of SEND developments, including the joint commissioning framework focusing on the experience of the child/young person.



Continue to ensure that comprehensive feedback is obtained from children and young people regarding the services they are currently accessing and that this directly drives future service developments.



Continue to develop a broad representation of child and young person's views on all areas of Local Area support, through targeted activities with different age groups and with service users reviewing the Local Offer.



Further develop the partnership approach when working with the Thurrock SEND Family Forum and support its development through a range of new engagement activities to ensure they have a voice in ongoing developments.



Use the comprehensive feedback gathered through engagement activities, the Local Offer engagement portal and meetings with parents and young people on the EHCP and annual review process, ensuring parents, children and young people are listened to and valued. Thus, allowing further development of programmes to meet child/young people's needs.



Ensure all EHCPs are of high quality and person centered, and reflect the voice of the child or young person



Key Priority Area 2

Ensure the early identification and early support for children with SEND/AP



Further develop and increase the outreach services for SEND and AP so that more children's needs can be met in mainstream provision through better supported, well informed education workforce.



Work with cross borough partners to map, improve and simplify the neurodevelopment pathway so that children and young people have clear pathways that are understood by parents/carers and professionals.



Continue to support the identification and support for children with speech and language development delay through the Family Hubs.



Ensure the Balanced System Approach supports children and families in Thurrock to have equitable access to therapy services and services are delivered where they are most needed.



Priority Area 3

Ensure children, young people and families are happy and feel well supported promoting a whole system approach.

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Continue to quality assure the Local Offer to ensure it accurately reflects and supports services available to children, young people and their families.

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Review the SENDIASS service annually to ensure they meet the requirements of the children and young people and their families.

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Improve the short breaks and outreach service so that it meets the needs of children, young people and their families.

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Increase parental confidence in mainstream schools across the LA. Work with schools to develop a consistent approach to a high ordinarily available offer through developing more high-quality outreach and staff training.

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Ensure all stakeholders know what services are available and how to access them

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Engage with the Balanced System approach which aims to have a better understanding of therapy needs, reduce variation of services and improve experiences and positive outcomes

Priority Area 4

Ensure an effective and responsive approach to assessing and meeting children and families' needs.



Further develop the EHM Portal with parents and carers and young people.



Continue to support early identification and support for the needs of Children and Young People who may have SEND, through a better-informed education and childcare workforce as a result of targeted and universal Continuing Professional Development.



Support more children to have their SEND needs met without the need of an EHCP through ensuring mainstream settings have the knowledge and confidence to meet a variety of SEND needs.



Develop parents' confidence to understand that mainstream settings can meet a wide range of SEND needs across all key stages, embedding the ordinarily available offer.



Develop more effective health, social care and education transitions for all children with SEND.



Priority Area 5

Ensure our commissioned services support every child and young person to make good progress.



Use the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment(JSNA 2024) to understand the current and future predicted need of SEND /AP resources and placements.



Building on the work around our Capital Programme of development of high needs placements based on the JSNA to ensure appropriate local placements are available to meet needs



Monitor and identify best practice through our quality assurance framework for in and out of borough specialist placements that ensures all settings are providing a high-quality service to children and young people.



Strengthen Children's Commissioning Service

Priority Area 6

Ensure young people are well prepared for adulthood to enable them to engage in their local communities.



Create more opportunities for Young People with SEND to have work experience with understanding employers who are willing to support Young People with SEND needs



Improve processes and opportunities in preparation for adulthood, develop high quality Post-16 provision working in partnership with training providers implementing innovative solutions for provision to be OFSTED rated good or above, developed in consultation with young people and focused on developing independence, budgeting, communication, and relationship skills. Ensure that young people are prepared for the world of work and independent living.



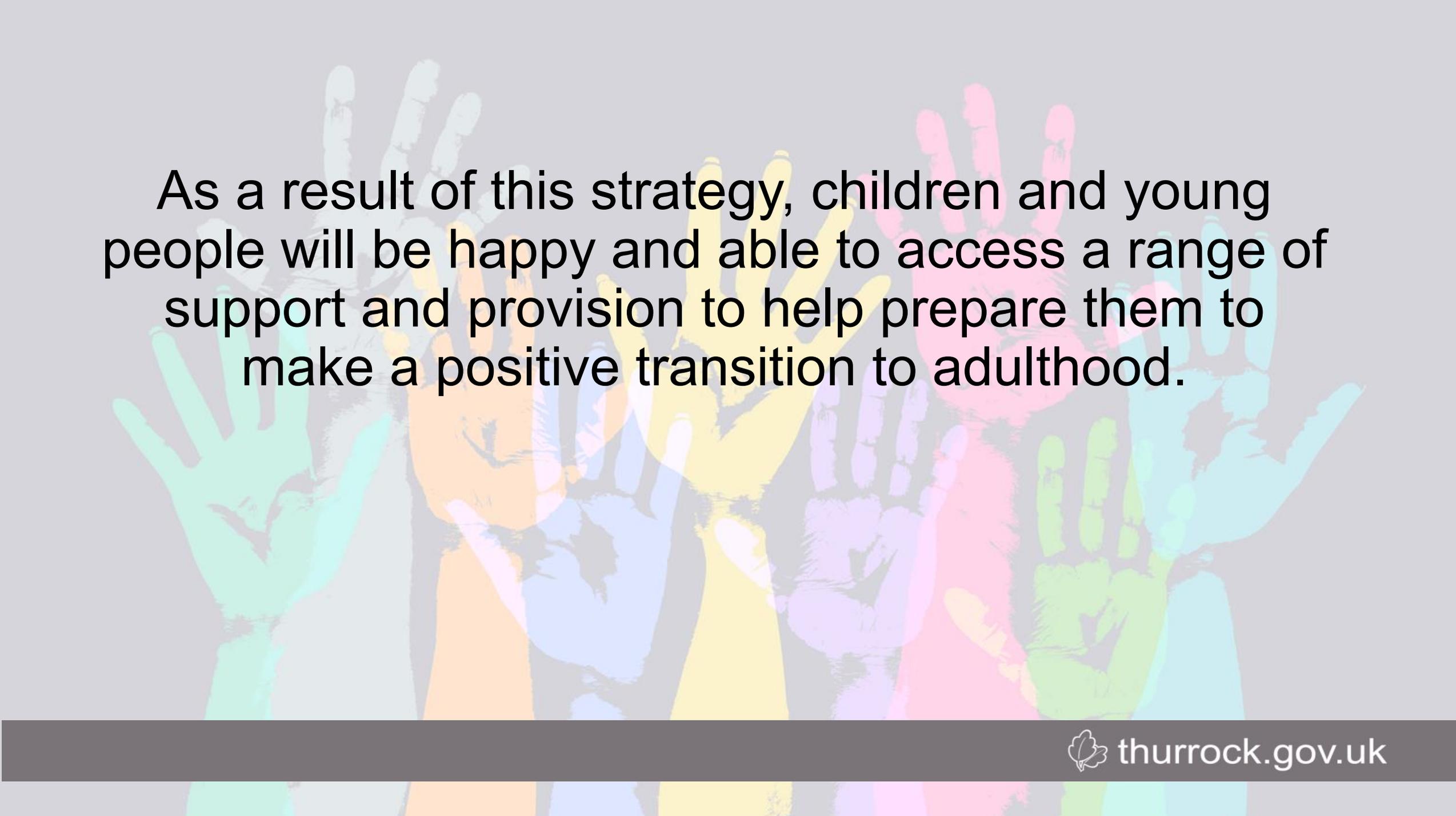
Ensure the service is focusing on the voice of young people enabling them to have choice and control. We aim to ensure that young people are happy, excited and ambitious about their futures.



Use data to develop apprenticeship and supported internship offers that is reflective of young people's ambitions, ambitious in its outcomes for the young people, instrumental in decreasing NEET figures in Thurrock and providing a sound foundation for the career progression of young people.



Develop comprehensive arrangements with the Disabled Children's Team, the Transition Team and the Personal Advisors to ensure that the Transition Planning includes all elements of Preparing for Adulthood and leads to clear measurable improvements to outcomes for young people undergoing transition to adult services.



As a result of this strategy, children and young people will be happy and able to access a range of support and provision to help prepare them to make a positive transition to adulthood.

