

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 16 th November 2021	Decision Taker:
Report title:		SEND in Southwark	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Yvonne Ely, Assistant Director SEND	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. For committee to note the report as requested.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Nina Dohel, Director of Education, submitted a briefing note to committee on 29th September 2021. This gave some background to SEND in Southwark and current areas of focus.

2.2 The commission has asked for more detail on:

- Overview of SEND processes and complexity of SEND in Southwark
- The provision that is available for children with SEND
- How children are referred to the NHS Community Paediatric teams and how the Local Offer works

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Overview of SEND processes and complexity of SEND in Southwark

- Please find as Appendix 1 the latest SEND dataset. This report shows the numbers in Southwark of all children with SEND, both at the school based stage (SEND support) and those with an Education, health and care plan (EHCP), where they are placed and prevalence of need. It also shows how well our children and young people achieve with SEND.
- In terms of identification of need, assessment and those with EHCPs, the dataset shows that Southwark is slightly above the London average for children and young people with an EHCP. (National percentage is 3.3%, all London 3.6%, Southwark 3.7%) Our identification rates are slightly above all London.
- Our processes for the identification of SEND are well documented. An outline of these is available on the Southwark Local Offer. Please view: www.localoffer.southwark.gov.uk. The Local offer has all the information

on SEND across the Local Area and is split into sections so that parents, carers, young people and professionals can find information as required. Every LA area is required to have a fully comprehensive Local Offer under the Children and Families Act 2014.

3.2 The provision available for children with SEND and the Local Offer

- The majority of provision for children and young people with SEND is made in mainstream nurseries, schools, colleges and settings. All schools publish a SEND information report on their school website that explains the provision that they make for children with SEND.
- All the provision available in Southwark is detailed on the Southwark Local Offer (www.localoffer.southwark.gov.uk)
- For children and young people with an EHCP, placements are made in special schools and colleges as well as mainstream schools. All the 8 Southwark special schools are listed on the Local Offer. All the Southwark special schools are judged good or outstanding by OfSTED. In addition, out borough schools are used when required both maintained and independent/non maintained.
- The provision of specialist places in Southwark is something we continue to expand as numbers rise. Spa Camberwell special free school opened in September 2020 and is able to accommodate up to 120 children and young people with autism when full. Park College is a post 19 specialist college for young people with autism that opened in September 2020. Further provision expansion is planned and is detailed in the SEND draft strategy about to be released for consultation.

3.3 How children are referred to the NHS Community Paediatric teams

- Evelina London's Children's Community Services provides a comprehensive range of services including:
 - Universal services – health visiting, family nurse partnership, school nursing, nutrition and dietetics, and the newborn hearing screening programme.
 - Specialist services - community paediatrics, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetics, complex needs nursing, sickle cell and audiology.
 - Statutory services - looked after children, child protection, safeguarding, and adoption and fostering.
- A large proportion of services are delivered from Sunshine House Child Development Centre in Southwark but they also provide services in schools, community buildings, in families' homes, and occasionally in hospital. Through group sessions and individual appointments, both face-to-face and virtual.
- Health services have a very well developed and comprehensive system for referrals from Maternity services, Health Visitors and Specialist Hospitals into local community services provided by Evelina London.

- Children are identified and referred to Sunshine House by health services such as GP's, Health Visitors, early year's and education providers where there is a likelihood that a child has needs which may impact on their development and progress.
- The Health Visiting workforce has annual access to training in ASD and Neurodisability training from community paediatricians.
 - Assessment in the early years is led by children's community health services based at Sunshine House. An audit of 2020 referrals to community paediatrics at Sunshine House demonstrated timeliness and early identification by health for children who have SEND, it showed:
 - Referral rate had increased by 40% from 2018 data (average 37 per week, increase from average 26.5 per week in 2018 audit)
 - Average days to triage had improved from 19 days to 10 days (compared to 2018 data)
 - Most children referred continue to be in 2-4 year age group
 - Most referrals came from schools (up from 26% to 40% compared to 2018 audit)
 - Health Visitors use tools to identify where a child might not be meeting expected developmental milestones at the mandated health review checks.
 - Evelina London's school nursing service has developed a new questionnaire for children moving to secondary school to better identify physical and emotional health needs. This has been piloted in a secondary school in Southwark. They have also delivered "we all have mental health" training in school assemblies in response to growing numbers of emotional health and wellbeing needs.
 - Post-covid, school nurses have recently undertaken a review of their referrals to understand trends in need so the service can respond accordingly.
 - The Community Paediatric service sees children and young people across the age-range up to 18 years of age. We have a dedicated Clinic to offer assessment to CYP undergoing the EHCP needs-assessment process, so that all CYP undergoing this process have the opportunity for assessment with a Developmental Paediatrician. This service has continued to run offering virtual assessments, with face-to-face assessment where needed. Multi-disciplinary medical review clinics are run in Special Schools in the borough to offer ease of access for children attending those schools.

4. Policy framework implications

- 4.1 All functions of the LA and health partners in assessing and providing for children and young people 0-25 with SEND is governed by the Children and

Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2015

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark LA: a summary of SEN data
Appendix 2	Insert title of document
Appendix 3	Insert title of document
Appendix 4	Insert title of document