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Surrey Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Partnership Strategy

2019 - 2022



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Introduction



SEND stands for **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**.

Having **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities** means a child or young person needs some extra help to work well in pre school, school or college.



A **Partnership** is where different people and groups work together.



Surrey County Council works with other people and groups to provide services to children and young people with **SEND** from birth to 25.



Together we form the **SEND Partnership**.

Our strategy



A **strategy** is a plan for how something will be in the future.



We asked people how we should make things better for children and young people with SEND and their families.



People's ideas helped us to write this SEND Partnership strategy which is how we want things to be by 2022.



The strategy explains the ways we plan to make life better for children and young people with SEND and their families.

This is what people told us



Will you listen to my doctors and therapists?



Wouldn't it be great if these things actually happened.



How do I know I can trust you?



Will you listen to me and my family?



How can I find out more?



I want help to be able to learn more and get a job when I'm older.



Why do we have to fight to get what we need?



How do I know there's enough money?



Can you help me sooner?



I want to go to a school that meets my needs.



What the law says we must do



The law about SEND says we have to:



- Give children and young people the right support to meet their needs



- Include families and carers when important decisions are made



- Tell you what support is available

We do this on the Local Offer website:

www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk

The Local Offer website tells you where to find support in Surrey.

You can ask questions on the website.



Telephone: **0300 200 1004**



- Tell you how the people in charge of education, health and social care make decisions about what services are most important



- Give you the information, advice and support that you need

We should also:



- Help staff at **mainstream schools** to understand you and know how to support you best



A **mainstream school** is a school for all children. It is not a **special school**.



A **special school** is especially for children with physical or learning disabilities.

Some children can have their needs met in a mainstream school.



- Give you the choice to go to a mainstream school



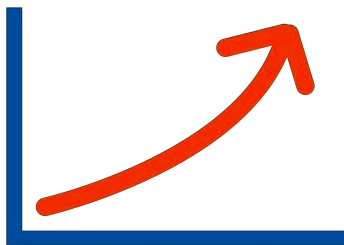
- Help you prepare for life as an adult

SEND in Surrey now



People from a Government organisation called OFSTED come and check that we are doing a good job.

They said:



- We are improving but can still do better



- Children with SEND might not always be able to attend school because of their needs, disabilities or if they are unwell.

But in Surrey too many children with SEND are not in school for a long time



- Families and Carers are worried that they don't always get the right advice and support



An **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** explains what support and help a child or young person needs.

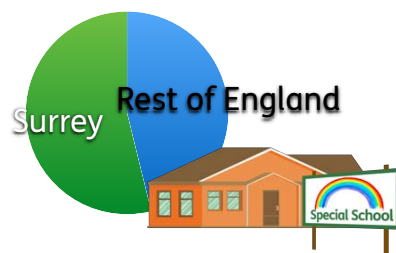


In Surrey:

- The number of children with an **Education, Health and Care Plans** is increasing



- Children and young people with SEND are more likely to be out of school than the average for England



- More children and young people with SEND go to an independent special school than the average for England

What we want to do



We will:

- Find out what your needs are earlier, so you can reach your potential



- Help you to be as independent and happy as possible



- Listen to you and your families and work with you to make the right decisions



- Make sure pre schools, schools, colleges and others can support you to do your best near to your home



- Work out the help you need sooner so we save money

Our plans for 2019 - 2022



- Health professionals, pre schools, schools and social workers will find out what children and young people need sooner.

This is called Early Intervention.



- Communities, pre schools, schools and employers will include and understand children and young people with autism.

So that everyone with autism in Surrey will feel welcome, supported and have a happy life.

This will be called the Autism Strategy.



- Children aged 0-5 and their families will get support from the community as soon as they need it.

This will be called the Early Years Strategy.



- Our staff will improve communication, training and how we make decisions.

We will talk with families about how we do this.



- We will improve:

- The Local Offer website:
www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk

By making sure families know about it and that it is easy to use.



- The team that answers the questions that people ask on the website.

- Special and mainstream schools will be able to help more children and young people from different backgrounds and with different needs.

This will make sure all children and young people who attend school are able to do so everyday.



- We will change how we pay for services, so we give people services that are right for them.





- There will be more places for children with SEND in local mainstream schools and more trained staff to support them.



- There will be more options for children who cannot go to school because of their needs and disabilities.



- We will do more to help young people move from childhood to adult life.



We will do this by working more with:

- People who might give you a job



- Colleges



- Adult care services

How we'll know things are getting better



We will check that things are getting better by:

- Asking families, children and young people



- Asking the people who check our services



- Checking our own work



- Listening to what people say



We will give people information about how well we are doing.

For more information



If you need more information please contact us by:

Telephone: **0300 200 1004**



Email:

contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk



Textphone: **18001 0300 200 1004**



Text: **0786 0053 465**



Post:

**Surrey County Council
Contact Centre
Room 296-298
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DN**



This document was coproduced by Surrey County Council, Surrey Family Voice and Cherry Trees.



We would like to thank the committee and members of East Surrey Mencap for their feedback on the draft versions of this strategy.