

**REPORT TITLE: Kirklees SEND Sufficiency for Kirklees 2025-2028**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children's Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29/08/2025</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b> (if applicable)	<b>Cllr Viv Kendrick Cllr Jane Rylah</b>
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	<b>No No, the strategy is being provided for information only</b>
<p><b>Purpose of Report</b>          For information only.          This paper is being provided to Children's Scrutiny Panel to provide assurance of the work being undertaken to ensure sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Kirklees.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b>          The Children's Scrutiny Panel is asked to support the aims and objectives described in the attached SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees 2025-2028.</p> <p><b>Reasons for Recommendations</b>          The SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees 2025-2028 fulfils our duty to describe the current provision for SEND and identifies the areas for strategic development.</p> <p>The recommendations provided in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees 2025-2028 supports the outcomes described in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), supporting the best start outcome and inequalities and inclusion priority.</p>	
<p><b>Resource Implications:</b>          Securing additional places may require capital investment to implement some of the recommendations in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees 2025-2028. Should this be the case, a process would be required as part of the Capital Plan process.</p> <p>Investing in our local SEND provision could reduce costs to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).</p>	
<b>Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Tom Brailsford - Executive Director Children and Families on 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? N/A</b>	N/A
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?</b>	N/A

**Electoral wards affected:** The strategy applies to the whole of Kirklees.

**Ward councillors consulted:** N/A

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** No person identifiable information is included in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees 2025-2028.

## 1. Executive Summary

All local authorities have a legal duty to understand local needs and demands in terms of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

This strategy is to help us to make sure we have the enough of the right type of learning places in Kirklees so that all children and young people can learn and thrive. It shows that we understand the needs of the local population and how those needs are changing into the future. This strategy and the data in Appendix 1 demonstrates that understanding. The strategy sets out the amount of the different types of learning provision we have currently and what we need to develop more of, as well as what we might need less of in the future.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

The Children's Scrutiny Panel is asked to support the aims and objectives described in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees 2025-2028.

The strategy looks at our longer-term intentions, as well as our more immediate needs for provision. It tells us where we need to invest more money in creating new places or provisions. This may include working with Alternative Provision, building new schools and/or adapting existing schools for a different purpose. It helps us to explain to providers (e.g. schools and health services) where we need to make changes to current provision to meet current and future need. It will help us to make sure we plan in advance and that our provision is sustainable and that we get the best value for money.

This strategy sits alongside;

- **Our Kirklees Futures** which describes our overall strategy for learning in Kirklees
- **SEND - The Big Plan and The Big Plan 2** which describes our approach to transforming our SEND system
- **Kirklees SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy** which describes how the different partners work together in Kirklees to plan and deliver services
- **Securing High Quality Learning Places** which details the forecast demand and analysis of cohorts in our whole school system

## 3. Implications for the Council

### 3.1.1 Council Plan

The SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees 2025-2028 contributes to the Council's shared outcomes.

The recommendations outlined in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees supports the outcomes described in the Joint, Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), supporting the best start outcome and inequalities and inclusion priority.

### **3.2 Financial Implications**

Support for children and young people with SEND represents significant finance and resource pressures for Kirklees council. This strategy helps to guide our SEND Transformation Programme to improve value for money and efficiency of services.

### **3.3 Legal Implications**

N/A

### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

The strategy support children and young people being educated locally in Kirklees/closer to their home, reducing the need for travel outside of the borough. This will have a positive impact on climate change and air quality.

### **3.5 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

N/A

## **4. Consultation**

Partners and stakeholders were consulted in the drafting of the strategy via the SEND Transformation & Commissioning Group.

## **5. Engagement**

We have engaged with Schools and Educational settings via the Schools Forum and the Education, Learning and Partnership Board (ELPB).

## **6. Options**

N/A

### **6.1 Options considered**

N/A

## **7. Next steps and timelines**

Continue to implement the recommendations contained within the strategy.

The strategy will be updated on an annual basis to include new data, as it becomes available. A SEND Sufficiency Review Group has been established which will meet regularly throughout the year to review and update the strategy.

## **8. Contact officer**

Stewart Horn

Head of Children's Integrated Commissioning

Children & Families

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## **9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Flightpath has included:

- SEND Transformation Programme Board

- Children's Senior Leadership Team
- Children's Portfolio Holders
- Education and Learning Partnership Board
- Ambition Board (note, due to meeting being cancelled, members of the Ambition Board had a copy of the strategy distributed to them via email).
- Health and Wellbeing Board

**10. Appendices**

SEND Sufficiency Data and Strategy for Kirklees 2025-2028

**11. Service Director responsible**

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director – Learning and Early Support, Children and Families  
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