



The Cornwall SEND Strategy 2021-2023

Our plan for children and young people in Cornwall who are aged 0-25 and have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

SEND

April 2021

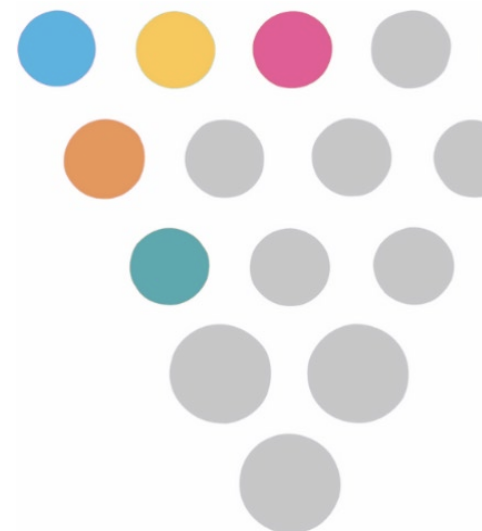


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Introduction

We want to make what happens with and for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in Cornwall better. This strategy is about what we are going to do for the two years starting from April 2021.

‘We’ refers to people working in education, health and social care who work with families and young people.

What is SEND?

The law says that a person who has a special educational need (SEN)¹ may find it harder to learn than other people their age. A person with SEN may need extra support to go to school or college. A person with SEN may need extra or different support to learn.

The law says that a person who has a disability² may have serious problems with their physical or mental health that makes it harder to do things daily compared to other people. This problem will be a disability if it lasts more than one year. For some people, having a disability can lead to having SEN.

What is the SEND Board?

The SEND Board is a group of people, including young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), parents, schools, council and health services. The SEND Board agrees this plan and makes sure we carry it out.

What do we want for all children and young people with SEND?

We want all children and young people to be able to take part in education with other people their age. All children and young people should be able to learn, have fun and feel part of their local community. We want all children and young people to achieve the things they want to do, make progress from their individual starting points and to take part in activities outside of education. All young people and their families should feel prepared for adulthood, with choices about their future, as much independence as possible and control of the support they need.

¹ [Children and Families Act 2014](#)

² [Equality Act 2010](#)

What are our goals?

We want all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to have goals and be able to work towards reaching them. We want to help children and young people with SEND to achieve their goals.

We want to make sure that children and young people with SEND have a good education. We want all children and young people in Cornwall to do at least as well as other children nationally. We want all children and young people to have the option to take part in education as close to their home as possible.

We also want to enable all children to make their views known to adults so that they can influence the care and support they receive, and ensure it meets their needs. We want all children and young people to be as healthy as they can be.

Who will we work with to meet our goals?

We will work closely with:

- children and young people with SEND
- parents and carers of children and young people with SEND
- people who buy and provide health services
- early years settings, schools, colleges and further education providers
- Cornwall Council employees, including education, health and social care.

What have we done before?

Before April 2021 we were working to:

- Develop arrangements for the youngest children with SEND
- Improve the support we give, and our understanding of, children and young people's communication and interaction needs
- Identify children and young people with SEND and improve how well they do in education
- Pull together systems and approaches to help young people prepare for adulthood.

We made some progress in these areas of work. There have been improvements which can be built upon. However, the feedback from people in Cornwall and our own judgements show that there has not been sufficient change across all four areas from when we started. This is mainly because lots of change is needed and also people had to spend time working on other things because of Covid-19.

We have made good progress on the activities for the youngest children with SEND so this no longer needs to be an area of specific focus in this strategy. However, they are still important, and activities continue.

What activities are the most important for us to work together on?

We change and update these activities every year. This helps to make sure we are working on what is important and what can make a difference to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.

1. Communications

We understand that different people in Cornwall need to know where they can get help, find out about systems, and share their feedback and ideas so new arrangements in Cornwall are the best they can be.

We will work together across education, health and social care to share information with you which uses less jargon, is easier to understand and that you can readily find. We will increase the range of ways that we communicate with children, young people and their families using different media which are more appealing to a wider audience. Working in partnership with our children and young people, we will actively listen to their voice about the SEND information they receive and how they feel about the services they receive.

Our Local Offer will be improved so that it is a more useful resource that a wide range of different people use as a first resource when searching for services and information about SEND. We will also let you know how what you have said has led to change in Cornwall.

2. Identification of need which is met at the earliest possible stage

It is important that we notice when a child or young person has a special educational need and/or disability. We can then make sure that the child or young person has the right support in place in order for them to make progress and achieve.

We will work together across education, health, social care and the voluntary sector to make sure that children and young people with SEND are identified at the earliest possible stage, have clear goals and have their needs supported. We will link with other developments in Cornwall like the Best Start in Life to make the best use of the resources available. This will give children and young people the best chance to achieve their potential.

3. Post-16

Preparing for adulthood needs to be an important part of all SEND activity from birth onwards. Families and everyone working with them need to work together to increase opportunities for employment, the highest possible level of independence, inclusion in the community and the best possible health.

We will work together across all services to increase aspirations for our children and young people with SEND and ensure that arrangements across education, health and care for young people as they move into adulthood join up, are widely understood and improve because we understand how well they are working.

Schools and other education settings have committed to work with Cornwall Council to ensure that there is a high-quality education offer across Cornwall that leads to a range of positive outcomes.

4. Speech language and communication needs and social emotional and mental health needs

National research shows that many children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) have unidentified speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)³. These needs include problems understanding language (making sense of what people say), using language (words and sentences), and knowing how to join a conversation in the right kind of way (social communication). Having language needs also affect how well children and young people access their education and how well they learn.

We are going to use education and health information to identify where in Cornwall SLCN are highest. We are going to put in place training and support for everyone working with the children and young people. One focus of training will be the interplay between SLCN and SEMH needs so that education, health and social care staff have the information and skills they need to support children and young people better. We are going to help the people who work in schools and settings in different ways so that they can identify SLCN and take action as soon as possible so children and young people can get the most out of their education and have lower levels of SEMH needs.

³ ibid

Who checks if what we plan happens?

The **Young People's SEND Network**⁴ is a group of young people in Cornwall with a range of SEN. The Young People's SEND Network talks to us about our plans and makes sure we listen to what young people with SEND want. Young people tell us what works and what doesn't work.

The **SEND Performance and Engagement Group** is a group of people, including parents and carers, health services and people from the council that deliver and arrange education, health and social care services. The group works together on the plans, helping each other to carry out their tasks and make sure things continue. This group of people meets every month.

The **SEND Board** is a group of people, including young people with SEND and parents, schools, council services and health services. The SEND Board will check we are working on the most important things for children and young people with SEND. The Board will judge how we are making a difference.

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⁴ Young People's SEND Network [link no longer available]