

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy 2021-24 for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR)

Position Statement – December 2024

In 2021, we launched our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy 2021-24 for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). This document explained how Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland County Councils and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB) would work together to effectively commission a range of provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). The strategy can be viewed on the [Leicester City Council website](#).

The Joint Commissioning Strategy, underpinned by national legislation and regulatory frameworks, was developed to ensure LLR health, social care and education services meet need and improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

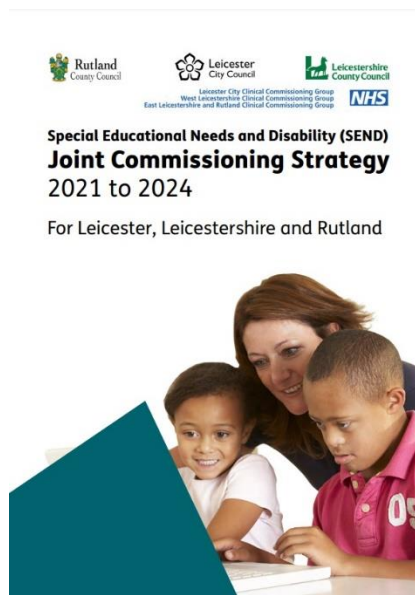
The overarching aim of the LLR Strategy was to ensure LLR commission services cost-effectively to bring maximum impact to as many children and families within our available resource.

The following objectives were agreed:

- *Commission wisely:* We would look at quality as well as cost when commissioning, look at what is coming and plan for this in advance.
- *Commission together:* We would examine our priorities for commissioning, look at opportunities to align work or jointly commission, particularly where we're buying the same or similar provision. We would include children, young people and families in commissioning and make sure they have a voice in our reviews of provision.
- *Target our commissioned activity:* We would offer support or services to those who most need it or where there is greatest likelihood of it preventing an escalation of need.

Since the publication of the LLR SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2021-24, there have been a number of factors that have impacted on our approach and areas of focus, including structural changes to LLR ICB, significant increased demand for SEND services, outcomes of local Ofsted and the CQC inspections, and national programmes of change and delivery related to SEND, such as the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme and Change Programme Partnerships (CPP).

These developments have enabled commissioners in the local area to focus on national programmes of work and initiatives which were complementary to the aims and objectives of the LLR Strategy. Examples (some of which were also actions in the Joint Commissioning Strategy) include the following:



- Work to develop the Dynamic Support Pathway for children with Neurodevelopmental needs
- Better sharing of data between organisations and a clearer understanding of the processes and procedures of each partner organisation
- Development and delivery of a pilot programme for Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC)
- Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

As our LLR SEND partnership moves towards 2025, we are refreshing our Joint Commissioning Strategy to incorporate the recently announced national priorities around strengthening inclusion and leadership, building on the work we have done locally and the learning we have accumulated over the last four years.

Acknowledging the current challenges around waiting lists for diagnosis, our priority for the three years will be to focus on rightsizing universal services to support young people with SEND and their families regardless of diagnosis, and to build inclusive communities and schools which enhance belonging and prioritise lived experience.

Our intention is to launch a refreshed Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) in Spring 2025. Further communication about this refresh will be shared in due course.