


<b>Cabinet</b>  24 July 2024	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Steve Reddy, Corporate Director of Children's Services	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2023/24	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar (Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning)</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Steve Reddy, Corporate Director of Children and Culture Lisa Fraser, Director of Education
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	N/A
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	N/A
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	Accelerate Education

### Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress and impact of SEND improvement work during 2023/24. The report will show how NHS Northeast London and the Council have been working together with other partners across the local area to deliver on priorities set out in the SEND Strategy and SEND Improvement Plan.

The report includes input from children and young people and parent and carer representatives.

### Recommendations:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the contents of the SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2023/24

### 1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Not applicable.

### 2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 Not applicable.

### **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Tower Hamlets SEND Improvement Board (SIB) Annual Report provides an overview of key achievements in 2023/24 and priorities for improvement in 2024/25 as well as work to address areas of significant weakness as identified by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- 3.2 The report features an introduction from the Chair and Vice Chair of the SIB, as well as reflections on the year from the Chair of the Independent Parent and Carers Forum and the Chair of the 'Our Time' Young Person's Forum. Contextual and performance data is also included.
- 3.3 The report is organised around the five priorities of the SEND Strategy (2020-24), with sections devoted to summarising the difference made on the ground for young people and their families, including examples of *You Said We Did* actions. The report also includes case studies setting out where good practice and collaborative working has made a difference to young people with SEND and their parents.
- 3.4 Areas of significant progress during 2023/24 include:
- Development of SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2029, informed by consultation with children, families and professionals. We will launch the strategy in 2024.
  - Secured Mayoral growth bids including £1,121k for SEN transport and £604k for additional caseworkers in the SEN and Preparing for Adulthood Teams, with £740k committed by the NHS.
  - Our Delivering Better Value grant application was submitted in December 2023 and approved in February 2024.
  - Average EHCP timeliness for 2023 was 48%.
  - Recruited a new full-time Designated Social Care Officer to support improvement of quality and frequency of social care input, strengthening links between social care, health and education.
  - Set up a joint Neurovariance Diagnostic Review Group. This group is responsible for overseeing improvements in neurovariance diagnostic pathways.
  - Developed a new 3–5-year-old treatment offer with up to four parent coaching sessions a week. Invited families with children on the Autism Diagnostic Waiting list to parent coaching sessions.
  - Undertaken our SEND Sufficiency Review. Established a secondary school age Autism resource base and a two-year Autism Pilot with Phoenix Special School involving 20 mainstream schools.
  - Initiated development of a co-produced Inclusion Framework. The framework will provide guidance, training and whole school approached to strengthen schools' universal and SEN Support offer before a statutory assessment is considered.

- 3.5 The annual report also sets out areas for further improvement in 2024/25:
- Launch and implement our new SEND and Inclusion Strategy.
  - Address shortfalls identified by the SEND Sufficiency Review. We will establish up to six specialist Additionally Resourced Provisions within the 2024/25 academic year.
  - Roll out the Inclusion Framework to all schools by the end of the Summer Term 2024.
  - Initiate Delivering Better Value workstreams.
  - Launch our SEND Co-Production Charter.
  - Continue to prioritise EHCP timeliness and quality. Sustain EHCP timeliness above national levels and ensure it continues to improve.
  - The new Neurovariance Diagnostic Review Group will develop a business case for funding and an updated pathway to address this pressure by Summer 2024. It will also develop communication materials.
  - Continue to develop our integrated therapies model for early years and school age children.
  - Work with Bart's Health to develop standards for speech and language therapy provided in schools in the borough.
  - Launch the Transitions Protocol by the end of summer term 2024 with the aim of improving practice and ensuring consistency across service areas.

#### **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The SEND improvement work is directly concerned with equalities and by driving improvement work will improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

#### **5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

- 5.2 There are no other specific statutory implications.

#### **6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report.

## **7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 sets out the duties and responsibilities of local authorities in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in their areas.
- 7.2 In particular, section 27 requires a local authority to keep under review the educational provision and social care provision made in its area for children and young people who have a disability or special educational needs, or for such children and young people outside its area where it has a responsibility for them.
- 7.3 The Public Sector Equality Duty requires local authorities to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.
- 7.4 The matters referred to in this report demonstrate the Council's efforts to comply with the above legislation.

### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- None

#### **Appendices**

- SEND Annual Report 2023-24

#### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

Linsey Bell, SEND Improvement Manager – Youth and Commissioning