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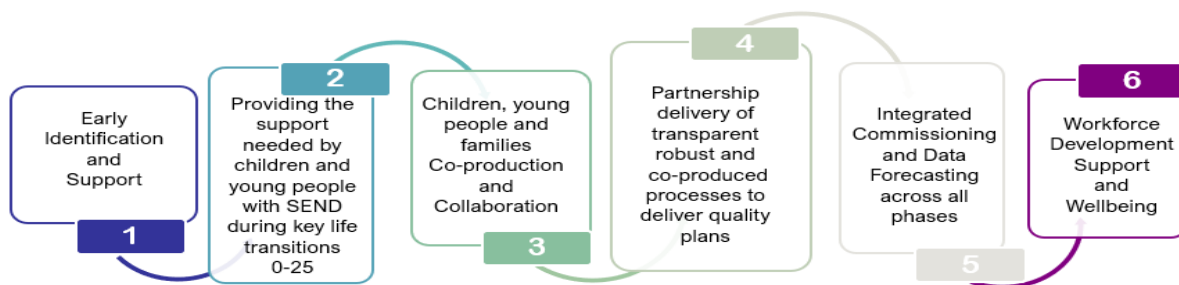
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SEND Strategy 2023 – 2026 Update

Over the last year we have been working with our stakeholders to gather their views on what our priorities should be moving forward. This has been done through working groups, school council visits, SEND Local Area surveys and roadshows. The following are the six priorities:



We are now at the stage of submitting our SEND Local Area Strategy 2023-26 Cabinet report which will be heard at Cabinet on Wednesday 28th June 2023. We want to thank you all for your contributions and we are excited to share what we have accomplished thus far. We will continue to work together to implement this strategy; to turn our collective ambitions for children and young people in Croydon into a measurable reality that makes a lasting difference to their outcomes.

If you feel we have missed something and would like to provide further feedback, please contact us at SENDtransformation@croydon.gov.uk.

SEND Youth Voice

Croydon's SEND Transformation team have collaborated with Croydon's Youth Engagement team to create a safe space for students with SEND, which will be a key driver in promoting the voice of children and young people with SEND (0-25). Our goal is to form a SEND Youth Voice Forum, with elected members, who will serve as key members of our SEND Governance and as members of Croydon's Youth Assembly (CYA).

We are offering **youth voice sessions** to students with SEND (**with or without an EHCP**) in their schools or colleges. This will be a series of four up to 60-minute workshops aimed at empowering and upskilling students to organise youth-led projects in the community and at their schools.

Students who attend these training sessions will be eligible to join the SEND Youth Voice Forum, which will be a prominent subgroup of Croydon's Youth Assembly (CYA).



SEND YOUTH VOICE FORUM WE NEED YOU...

We are reaching out to all children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) to come together to influence what happens in Croydon.

Working together to improve the services available to you, your friends and your families.

If you are interested in being part of the SEND Youth Voice Forum, please send us an email with your name, age, email address and school or college to SENDtransformation@croydon.gov.uk.



Please remember to share the overview of the programme and expression of interest leaflet.



SEND Youth Voice Forum Programme



Youth Voice Forum Expression of Interest

Speech and Language Therapy Mini-tender - Allen Speech & Language Ltd.

A new short-term service

We wanted to let you know that a new speech and language service has been commissioned on a six-month contract to provide extra capacity to meet the needs of children.

The provider is called Allen Speech & Language Ltd. and they will provide several speech and language therapists to deliver some interventions with children.

Issues of concern raised by parent/carers and some colleagues

This note sets out to acknowledge the disappointment that some families and schools may have that their child/ren are not benefitting from this service. The aim of this commission is to increase capacity in the short term and see how the model of a new private provider works to meet need.

Reason this short-term service is being provided

All the stakeholders understand there are long term plans to commission a major new contract for therapies in relation to SEND. This short-term arrangement is a trial using a new provider and increases capacity whilst the replacement contract is prepared.

Developing the new long-term contract

Whilst a great deal of engagement and consultation has been provided by stakeholders previously, this still needs work to develop the contract. Some examples of work that needs to be completed and signed off includes: an Equalities Impact Assessment, a specification and approvals needs to be agreed by both the ICB and the council. Once completed tendering, a selection process, appointment and mobilisation all need to be completed in a few short months.

As the stages develop there will be opportunities to engage and comment on the design of the service. The current timeline for the mobilisation of the new main contract is targeting a date in January 2024.

SEND Secondary Transfer – Preference Form Deadline

All parents of children in Year 5 should have received a letter from Croydon SEND 0-11 team advising them of the secondary transfer process. All parents need to complete this form and send it back to secondary.transfers2024@croydon.gov.uk before **30th September 2023**. If you have not received a copy of this form, please contact your coordinator or school SENCO.



Secondary Transfer
Preference Form

Annual Educational Professionals Conference hosted by Bensham Manor School - An Excellent Networking Opportunity



BENSHAM MANOR School

Annual Educational Professionals
CONFERENCE

23rd June 2023 | Time: 9:15am to 4:30pm

FARLEIGH MANOR GOLF CLUB Old Farleigh Road, Warmingham CR6 9PE

EXCELLENT NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY
CPD ENHANCEMENT • GREAT MOTIVATIONAL SEMINARS

£125 PER PERSON

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
BUFFET LUNCH

Keynote speakers:



Dr Pooky Knightsmith
Mental health &
special education needs



Paul Cabb
Autism specialist

Also talks from:



Tara Millan-Brophy
Speech & language specialist
(effective reading instruction in SEN)



Clare Vinson
Occupational therapist
(OT sensory needs)

Sponsored by:



and many more

Bookings & enquiries:

Email: conference@benshammanor.com

Call: 020 8684 0116

Conference manager: Mrs Nikita Rajagopal

HENRY in Croydon



Please see links to the NEW HENRY referral form and HENRY Croydon leaflet.



HENRY Referral Form



HENRY Croydon Leaflet

The Henry programme is for parents/carers of children aged 0 to 7 and is free to join.

Everyone wants the best for their children but with so much conflicting advice it can be hard to know what to do for the best as a parent, especially in the early years.

Research shows that the key ingredients to ensuring babies and young children have a healthy start in life are:

- Parenting confidence
- Physical activity for little ones
- What children and families eat
- Family lifestyle habits
- Enjoying life as a family

The programme covers five themes across 8 weeks and provides everything you need to help get your little one off to a great start.

For further information, please visit:

www.henry.org.uk/croydon

[Facebook.com/HENRYinCroydon](https://www.facebook.com/HENRYinCroydon)

Programmes are running online and face to face in local venues. For more information, please contact us on:

020 8156 6400 or email croydon@henry.org.uk

Or you can scan the QR code to complete the enquiry form.



CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk


croydonvoluntaryaction


CROYDON BME FORUM


Croydon Health Services
NHS Trust


Croydon Best Start


health resource centre
croydon


HOME START
Croydon

Mental Health Offer for Children, Young People in Croydon

'A for Autism – A guide for Practitioners, Parents and People Who Care'

Practitioners are required to take ownership for their professional development in terms of remaining flexible in exploring new ways of learning about autism. A willingness to visit the autistic person's world, developing empathy and relatedness. Treating individual clients with autism non-judgmentally, being aware of the 'self', i.e. body language, facial expressions, tone of voice and remaining neutral. We expect our own Croydon Drop In practitioners to provide a person-centred service provision, centred around the needs and wishes of clients with autism.



A for Autism

Go Further Go Higher

Delivered by Croydon Drop In, the service aims to provide emotional wellbeing support to young people aged 16 to 25, who are moving between secondary education into apprenticeships or tertiary education and are struggling with transitioning. The service has been successful with securing a placement with London Zoo for a young person that turned into an offer of employment.

Contact Sonia Garnett for more information soniagarnett@croydondropin.org.uk.



Go Further Go Higher

NHS Key Worker Programme

This programme is for children and young people with autism and/or learning disabilities who are experiencing substantial difficulties and may be at risk of hospital admission. The service aims to de-escalate crisis and help local health, education and social care teams to put in place the right support at the right time.

Contact Connie Ikhifa for more information Connie.Ikhifa@swlondon.nhs.uk.



NHS Key Worker
Programme

NHS Dynamic Support Register (DSR)

The DSR is only for people who have been diagnosed with a learning disability and/or Autism. It holds information about the person and the reasons why they might need additional support to remain safe in the community to avoid hospital admission. Information held on the DSR helps services to work more closely together to manage the person's support effectively.

Contact **Connie Ikhifa** for more information Connie.Ikhifa@swlondon.nhs.uk.



Dynamic Support
Register Guidance



Dynamic Support
Register Information



Dynamic Support
Register Consent

EARLY SUPPORT AND PARENTAL PROGRAMMES

With an increase in the demand for mental health support in Croydon, we must be proactive while we wait for assessments and diagnoses for those in crisis. Here you will find some useful contacts to which you can refer those in need.

Early Help referrals – Universal support and access to parenting programmes:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/professionals-working-children-and-young-people/early-help-family-solutions-referrals>

CHARITY/VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUPPORT (self-referrals accepted)

Brandon Centre: <https://brandon-centre.org.uk/>

Mental health support for children and young people and parental support.

Mind in Croydon: <https://www.mindincroydon.org.uk/>

Mental Health support, including support workers to access community activities.

Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com/>

Online mental wellbeing community (App available).

Young Minds: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Supports parents and children and young people to navigate options for their mental health support. Helpline for parents.

Childline: <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Information, support, advice and helpline on a range of topics.

SignHealth: <https://signhealth.org.uk/>

Physical and mental health support for deaf people.

Centre of Change: <https://centreofchange.org.uk/>

Mentoring, counselling and tutoring.

Palace for Life: <https://www.palaceforlife.org/>

Charity linked to Crystal Palace FC with activities to support health and wellbeing of CYP that are hard to reach or have additional needs.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT (self-referrals accepted)

Croydon Drop In (age 11-25): <http://croydondropin.org.uk>

Free support and counselling for young people and families. Community outreach services such as TalkBus, Safe Space, Help is at Hand (phone service crisis support for parents and families). There is a 'Sensory Space' for people who prefer to have their sessions there (bookable in advance).

Off The Record (age 14-25): <https://www.talkofftherecord.org/croydon/>

Counselling, support helplines, online services, young carers, refugees, bereavement, BME, school and college support.

Croydon Talking Therapies (age 17 to adult): <https://croydontalkingtherapies.nhs.uk/>

Counselling, CBT and online or face to face support for people 17+ facing low mood, anxiety, stress etc. Self-referrals accepted.

CAMHS SERVICES (Tier 1-4)

<https://slam.nhs.uk/croydon-camhs> (professional referrals only)

SEND Journey – The importance of Early Identification and Co-production!

This family have been on a journey as parents of two children with special educational needs and disabilities. Having a child with complex needs made it much more difficult to find help, support and services. It has taken years to figure out what works, but with each child, the journey becomes easier.

The family took the initiative and conducted extensive research to ensure that they are receiving the appropriate services, including accessing private SALT and EP assessments. Their son has complex physical and learning needs and received support in a mainstream setting until his needs became too complex for the school to manage. The school had been amazing up until this point and tried to put as much support in place as possible, using different strategies and gaining access to specialist support, but it just wasn't the right provision for him and a decision was made for him to transfer to a specialist provision that offered the wraparound support he required.

Their daughter displayed some of the same characteristics as her brother at a young age. She is an intelligent and inquisitive student but communication is her greatest challenge. With their parental radars raised, they approached several services for support and it was recommended that further assessment be performed, resulting in an early diagnosis of ASD and receptive language disorder.

With this diagnosis and the experience of finding an appropriate placement for their son, the family wanted to ensure that the right decision was made for their daughter. Their preferred school was a mainstream primary school but due to her ASD diagnosis, it was unable to meet her needs. This disappointed the family because they believed the school would benefit her academically. Their alternative preference was for her to be placed in an out-of-borough independent specialist placement which would take her away from her Croydon community.

With an EHC Needs Assessment underway, the family were assigned an EHCP Coordinator with whom they had already established a relationship due to her also being their son's Coordinator. They organised co-production meetings where they were able to have open and honest discussions, with their daughter always at the centre of the conversation. It was here that a recommendation was made to consider a mainstream school with additional support to meet their daughter's needs as set out in her EHCP. The family had their reservations but were open to the offer and reverted from going down the Tribunal route at this stage.

With an agreement in place, the EHCP Coordinator was instrumental in supporting their daughter's transition into the mainstream setting, which included ensuring that services collaborated to put provision in place. Using a Team Around the Child approach to ensure that the school, therapist and family were all working collaboratively and on the same page.

With a successful transition, she settled well but not without challenges. As mentioned, academically she was a capable student able to write amazing stories and poems which is something she loves to do. She is very popular with the younger students and has acted as the Head Girl.

Some of her challenges were around social communication i.e. maintaining friendships and working under pressure, especially with her difficulties with expressive language skills. One of her fears was around taking exams under strict timescales. The school were very proactive and were able to support her by making small changes. With support from the teachers, they were able to reduce stress around exams allowing her to successfully complete an exam within the timeframe allocated. She also has a fear of making mistakes or breaking rules and again the school were able to encourage her to participate in activities that she was not comfortable with so that she could build resilience and independence in preparation for her transition into secondary school.

As part of the secondary transfer process, researching schools was a challenge and, after speaking with several mainstream secondary schools, the family were told that they were unable to meet her special educational needs and highlighted the barriers. This was disappointing but did not deter the family, nor did it deter their daughter. There was an option to take part in the 11+ exam, a personal choice of hers. Like some parents, the parents felt that the information around the process was not easily accessible especially for a family that have never been through the process and required support. The parents approached a grammar school who were very welcoming when approached and were able to share information to support her with her exams. As a result, she was able to take the 11+ exams and passed with flying colors and has now been offered a place at the grammar school as her secondary school placement.

Special thanks to Saskia Van Vliet for all her help throughout their daughter's academic journey. Having a good relationship with their Coordinator, school and professionals made this experience easier and made a big difference to the family. The attention given to the family was greatly appreciated; the collaborative effort, early identification, and ongoing communication as well as keeping the child at the centre of all conversations are the reasons, they are in the position they are now, and they are grateful to everyone who helped.

Friendships

*Friendship doesn't always come from above,
It flies down to you just like a dove.*

*It can come from a hug; it can come from a smile,
And usually, it lasts for quite a while.*

*It's like an umbrella to shelter you from the rain,
And it's also the plaster for when you are in pain.*

*They are trustworthy and reliable,
Honest and kind.*

*And if you make a mistake,
They will not mind.*

*A friend is a friend that plays with you every day,
3 cheers for a friend, HIP HIP HOORAY!*



During the pandemic, their daughter began to write beautiful poems about subjects she enjoys and wanted to share one of her poems with us!

Get in Touch

SEND Local Offer

Services, advice, information and what's on in and around Croydon.

<https://localoffer.croydon.gov.uk/>

Croydon SEND Transformation

sendtransformation@croydon.gov.uk

