

SEND Strategy Delivery Plan 2025 – 2029

The following document forms the basis for the delivery of Darlington's Send Strategy 2025-2029. The strategy and the delivery plan have been co-produced and are based on an inclusive approach across five key themes.



Themes are illustrated throughout the delivery plan using a colour key at the top of each Action Area. The 17 Action Areas have:

- Clear commitments to things **We Will** work towards
- An **Impact** statement of what this will achieve
- A list of **Tasks** that will help us achieve our commitments
- **Evidence of Outcomes** that will show we have completed the tasks
- **Start** and **Finishing** dates
- **A Lead** who is responsible for making sure tasks happen
- **Other resources** we know will support in making tasks happen

1 – Inclusive Opportunities to be active

We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the inclusive opportunities to be active in Darlington. • Support community organisations and facilities to be more inclusive of children and young people with SEND. • Work with local clubs and organisations to support children and young people with SEND to be included in activities and opportunities across Darlington. 	
Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young people will report having a good range of inclusive activities/clubs/groups to access • Children will be more active 	

1	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
1.2	Bench marking/mapping exercise to be completed to identify gaps & ensure promotion of availability	Baseline of provision established	May 2025	Sept 2025	Tony Murphy Assistant Director Education and Inclusion (DBC)	
1.3	Survey providers to establish any training needs	Baseline of training requirements established	Oct 2025	Dec 2025		
1.4	Analysis and recommendations published exploring potential incentives for both participation and provision	Gaps identified and plan established to fill. Training Offer developed	Jan 2026	March 2026		

1.5	Promote opportunities to children & families through Local offer	Increased footfall on local offer. Survey of Local offer users – immediate feedback/comments facility	April 2026	Ongoing		
1.6	Develop Training offer to providers (including how to partner with parents)	Provider confidence survey	Sept 2026	Ongoing		
1.7	Hopetown Darlington recognises the need to ensure that the site and as many activities and learning opportunities as possible are accessible through market research and consultation with users and non – users, including Darlington Parent Carer Forum we will seek to update our information on the learning and physical needs of our target audiences.	Increased access to Hopetown Darlington for families and young people with SEND	Sep 2025	Ongoing	Development Director Hopetown Darlington	

2 – Access to Health Services

<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively manage waiting lists for health appointments especially access to mental health services. Leaders in health should continue to take action to reduce waiting times across some health services, including neuro-developmental pathways as well as therapies that include occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. In the intervening waiting period, the partnership should continue to mitigate the impact for children and young people. 	
<p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is access to advice/support for children, young people and their families that are waiting for an assessment and or interventions associated with OT/Speech language communication and Autism/ADHD (neurodiverse needs). Targeted work undertaken to improve access to the outlined services and reduce waiting times to be in line with national waiting time standards. 	

2		Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
2.1	a.	<p>Occupational Therapy</p> <p>Review capacity and demand for Occupational Therapy.</p>	<p>Clear waiting well offer in place for all Children and Young People awaiting assessment/intervention.</p> <p>Service demand and capacity aligned to deliver services within the national 18 weeks waiting standard</p>	May 2025	April 2026	Jo Heaney (NENC ICB)	Sandra Sleeman
2.2	a.	<p>Neurodevelopmental Pathway</p> <p>Increase workforce capacity and increase the number of assessments</p>		March 2025	April 2026	Lynne Massam NENC ICB	Iain Marley

		for Autism and or ADHD as set out in the Darlington Neurodevelopmental Improvement Plan (October 2024)	Increased numbers of providers completing specialist assessments Reduction in numbers of children waiting 2+ years for assessments				
	b.	Remain focussed on the child's voice, through the development of a task and finish group and ensuring young people are involved in decision making.	Youth Group established Youth voice incorporated into referral pathway and assessment process.	March 2025	April 2026	Iain Marley NENC ICB	Young People's Involvement & Opp Worker (DBC)
	c.	Embed the graduated response through the development of a workforce development and training plan.	Earlier identification of needs and support offered with or without a diagnosis	March 2025	April 2026	Lynne Massam NENC ICB	SEND and Inclusion Advisory Lead (DBC) Workforce Development Manager (DBC)
2.3	a.	Speech and Language Therapy Continue with the trajectory of reducing the average waits for assessments to within 126 days (18 weeks) national ambition.	Reduction in waiting times. Children and Young People receive therapeutic support earlier.			Lynne Massam NENC ICB	
	b.	Mobilisation of the new Tees Valley Speech and Language Therapies Service	All elements of the new service specification embedded.	April 2025	March 2026	Jo Heaney NENC ICB	Lynne Massam NENC ICB

	c.	Exploration/Agreement of jointly commissioned opportunities as part of the Tees Valley wide specification through education support earlier identification and right support at the right time.	Speech and language needs met through education with consultative support in place and pathways to specialist therapies.	September 2026	September 2027	Lynne Massam NENC ICB	Lead Commissioning and Contracts Manager – Children (DBC)
2.4	a.	Mental Health Develop strategic governance for Children and Young People MH and I-Thrive across Tees Valley and ensure connections with Darlington as 1 of the 5 LA areas	A New Tees Valley -I Thrive group is established with clear terms of reference, agreed membership.	April 2025	April -May 2025	Kimm Lawson Strategic Head of Commissioning – Tees Valley NENC ICB	Lynne Massam Commissioning NENC ICB
	b.	Operationalise the Darlington Mental Health Support Team through education settings following completion of academic training.	Full coverage for mainstream school Improved earlier outcomes for children	Continued from 2024	September 2026	Lynne Massam NENC ICB	
	c.	Continue to effectively manage waiting lists as part of an I-thrive System of Care and	Maintained access rates for numbers of children seeking mental health support Time between referral and first contact and referral and second contact (treatment) is monitored and is within 126 days (18 weeks)			Lynne Massam NENC ICB	
	d.	Procurement of a Getting Advice Signposting and Getting Help Service across Tees Valley	New service in place	May 2025	January 2026	Lynne Massam NENC ICB	

3 – Learning Disability Pathway

<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders should continue to strengthen the systems and processes to support children and young people to access support and assessment for a learning disability. The partnership should ensure that these children and young people receive suitable support across education, health and social care that meets their needs well. 	
<p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Learning Disability pathway/process aims to improve the multiagency identification of Learning Disabilities. This is intended to improve access to specialist services where required and increase take up of Annual Health Checks. 	

3	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
3.1	Business case to be approved at board for clinical psychology time to support diagnosis of a Learning Disability	This aims to increase capacity within the system to ensure that learning disabilities are diagnosed at the earliest opportunity to enable access to specialist services when required and Annual Health checks.	April 2025	May 2025	Mark Porter (ICB DCO)	
3.2	Identify how we support Educational Psychology to play a wider role in the early identification of learning disabilities Create a clear process through which information of potential learning disabilities gained through Educational Psychology working practices is gathered and shared in line with the LD-ID	Improved early identification of Learning Disabilities, and to reduce transitions between services for the children and young people.	Sept 2025	April 2026	Mark Porter (ICB DCO)	DPIA Information Sharing agreements

	Framework (Learning Disability Identification Framework)					
3.3	Implementation of a Process to complete LD Diagnosis.	<p>To Improve identification and diagnosis of learning disabilities.</p> <p>Improved access to specialist support services when required, LD AHC's, DSR and CeTR</p>	April 2026	April 2027	Mark Porter (ICB DCO)	

4 – Health and Wellbeing

We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is fully inclusive of Children and Young People with SEND 	
Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying additional vulnerabilities and barriers to accessing support for children with SEND. Need to clarify what is the public health action plan for Children and Young People with SEND and how will we know that there has been a positive impact. 	

4	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
4.1	Deep dives for Darlington Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2029 will include consideration and contributions from SEND young people and families. Development of a performance dashboard	Public health data will routinely form part of SEN Strategic dashboard Integrated into wider work across the local authority	Sep 2025	July 2026	Director of Public Health	Health and Wellbeing Board
4.2	Public Health will work with Beaumont Hill and Marchbank to plan and will implement whole school supervised toothbrushing from September 2025. Staff training will take place in June	Improved oral health rates for young people with SEND	Sep 2025	July 2026	Public Health Officer Darlington Borough Council	

	and parent and carer support sessions in June and September.					
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5 – Inclusion Charter

<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch an inclusion charter across all Darlington education settings that outlines what the local area understands by Inclusion with a joint commitment to shared principles. 	
<p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people will feel included in the education setting they attend. Education settings will work in inclusive ways. Children And Young People & their families will be confident that their children's need can be identified and met in their local mainstream educational setting regardless of where they access education. Settings will consistently be confident in making reasonable adjustments and implementing a graduated response to identifying and meeting need, knowing when how and where to seek external support. 	

5	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
5.1	Education Exploration Partnership developed with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) co-construct an evidence-based solution to address identified challenges. It offers a structured and collaborative approach to data gathering and analysis, identifying potential priorities and solutions.	<p>Academic data</p> <p>AP data</p> <p>EHE data</p> <p>VPP data</p> <p>SEND data</p>	March 2025	June 2025	Head of Education Partnerships	<p>Educational settings</p> <p>EEF</p> <p>PCF</p>

5.2	Inclusion principles shared, agreed and signed up by all educational settings	Charter signed by all settings leaders	Jan 2025	February 2025		Children + Young People
5.3	Engagement with Children and Young People & Families - ownership / co-production	Feedback from Children and Young People & Families	Sep 2025	July 2026		DBC Inclusion Officer
5.4	Available in different accessible formats	Attendance data Suspension & Exclusion Data	Sep 2025	July 2026		Educational Psychology
5.5	Learn from good practice examples re how we really impact/ fully implement this	Good practice shared at all education forms (SENCO Networks, 11-19, ESG, Primary schools Forum as evidenced in minutes/agendas)	Sep 2025	July 2026		

6 – Skills for Independence

We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with education settings to include developing skills for independence as part of their offer. 	
Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Young People, and their parents will report that they are confident in progress being made towards independence 	

6	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
6.1	Curriculum development group to examine independence skills as part of PHSE offer Create clear report/recommendations	Systematic QA of individual plans (education, health and social care) will demonstrate that progress is being made towards PfA outcomes	April 2025	April 2026	Head of Education Partnerships	Parents Children And Young People Education Settings Public Health (PHSE Officer) Social Care (Adults & Children's)

6.2	Multi agency training developed on co-producing age appropriate PfA outcomes and training for obtaining views and aspirations	Systematic QA of individual plans (education, health and social care) will demonstrate that progress is being made towards Preparation for Adulthood outcomes	April 2025	April 2026	Workforce Development Manager	SEND Team Manager (DBC) DCO (ICB) Head of Practice and Quality SEND and Inclusion Advisory Lead
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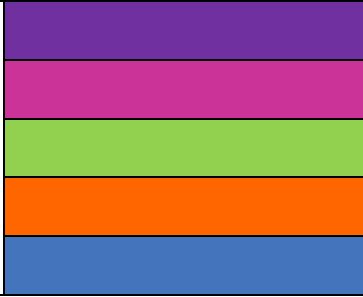
7 – Better attendance in education

We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a multi-agency strategy for Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) to support children, young people, families and education settings. We will work with education settings to address barriers to attendance for children and young people with SEND. 	
Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will enjoy attending, feel safe in their educational setting and have good attendance 	

7	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
7.1	Engaging with Children and Young People & Families to gather info on missed opportunities and learning	Children and Young People & Family voice	May 2025	March 2026	Principle Educational Psychologist	CAMHS 0-19 Team MHST
7.2	Co-produced multi agency graduated response developed utilising evidenced based best practice	Focus Group survey	April 2026	March 2027		LA Attendance Team

7.3	Promote and Educate on EBSA / Triggers with settings; Parents & Carers; and Children and young people	EHE data Focused Attendance data	April 2027	March 2028		Early Help PCF School leads
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8 – Improving Education, Health and Care Plans

<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that “Preparation for Adulthood” is central to all Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and Special Educational Needs Plans (SEN Plan). • Leaders should continue to strengthen the systems and processes to further improve the quality of Children and Young People’s EHC plans, including updates to EHC plans following annual reviews, to ensure that EHC plans reflect the most up-to-date information from education, health and social care. 	
<p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People and their families will be clear on their individual pathways and will be confident about progress and next steps • Continue to improve quality of EHC plans, by ensuring that they are fully representative of children & young people’s education, health & care needs and the provision required to help them achieve positive outcomes in line with their aspirations. The partnership will ensure that EHC plans are comprehensive and incorporate relevant health and care provision in addition to education. 	

8	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
8.1	EHC plans will be based on a single information system	<p>All new EHC plans are fully recorded on the Early Help Module of Liquid Logic.</p> <p>There is a clear plan of how older plans are being managed within the single system.</p>	Jan 2025	Sept 2026	Head of SEND and Inclusion (DBC)	<p>Designated Clinical Officer (ICB)</p> <p>Head of Practice and Quality</p>

		Reviewing EHC plans is supported in the use of the single system.				(Principal Social Worker) (DBC) DBC Systems
8.2	Rolling Programme of EHCP QA with focus on PFA.	QA - audits will demonstrate EHCP's include PFA outcomes on a multi-agency basis linked to aspirations.	May 2025	Ongoing	Head of SEND and Inclusion (DBC)	SEND Team Manager (DBC) SENDCOs Designated Clinical Officer (ICB) Head of Practice and Quality (Principal Social Worker) (DBC) SEND and Inclusion Advisory Lead (DBC)
8.3	Termly multi agency deep dives of EHC plans to monitor timely participation and quality of information from all parties	Termly deep dive events are taking place. Reports are submitted to Darlington SEND LA Partnership Group and Board, at following meeting. Clear development activity happening as a result of deep dives.	Spring 2025	Ongoing on termly basis	Head of SEND and Inclusion (DBC)	SEND Team Manager (DBC) Designated Clinical Officer (ICB) Head of Practice and Quality

						(Principal Social Worker) (DBC)
						SEND and Inclusion Advisory Lead (DBC)
8.4		Develop systematic QA process for SEN Support Plans		May 2025	Sept 2026	Head of Education Partnerships (DBC)
8.5		Implement a rolling programme of QA for SEN Support Plans across all education settings	QA: audits will demonstrate SEN Support plans include PFA outcomes on a multi-agency basis where appropriate linked to aspirations	Sept 2026	Ongoing	SEND and Inclusion Advisory Lead (DBC)
8.6		Link quality assurance models to recorded data and Peoples group models in DBC	Data: Transitions towards adult services are completed well in advance of Children and Young People turning 18	Sept 2026	Ongoing	Designated Clinical Officer (ICB)
						Head of Practice and Quality (DBC)
8.7	a.	Partners and families will be able to directly update information via portals for new assessments. This will facilitate effective compliance with statutory obligations of all partners.	All EHC plan applications and advice use the portal system to update EHC records.	February 2025	September 2025	Head of SEND and Inclusion
	b.	initial test pilot of portals	Work through system issues and solve initial problems	April 2025	July 2025	SEND Team Manager (DBC)
	c.	review of pilot	Adjust how to implement further across system	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Designated Clinical Officer (ICB)

	d.	Open portals across all schools	Portals available across all schools	Sept 2025	July 2026		Head of Practice and Quality (DBC)
	e.	Fully operational with all EHC plans running on new system		Sept 2026	Onwards		
8.8		Review process of annual review to ensure full compliance by all stakeholders in statutory obligations, identify barriers and mitigate against them	Quality multi agency input into EHC plans will be evidenced in termly Deep Dive exercise	Sept 2025	August 2026		SEND and Inclusion Advisory Lead (DBC)

9- Healthy Relationships

We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support schools, education providers and health services to offer education on healthy relationships 	
Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Young people will understand what a healthy relationship looks like and will know where to get help/advice/support if they are worried 	

9	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
9.1	12 schools currently working on the PSHE Quality Mark, 5 schools working on the Health and Wellbeing Toolbox Pilot, focussing on obesity and oral health.	Increased participation in schools in PHSE Quality Mark	May 2025	July 2026	Public Health Officer (DBC)	
9.2	27 schools for 24/25 expected to rise to 30& Families or the Healthy Lifestyle Survey in the next academic year, Consultation on Healthy Lifestyles survey to inform future versions.	Increased participation in Healthy Lifestyles survey to inform future service delivery and commissioning activity.	May 2025	July 2026		

10 – Short Breaks

We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure there is a range of high-quality short break opportunities available for eligible children and young people with SEND 	
Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families will feel supported in their caring responsibilities with good access to respite. Increased social opportunities for Young People Reduced need for emergency foster placement and out of area placements 	

10	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
10.1	Undertake review of the community short breaks framework to maximise the offer for Darlington children and determine the most effective form of contracting arrangements going forward	Wider use of a wider range of short break solutions. Short break stays available for those who meet criteria. Children and Young people are supported	Sep 2025	April 2026	Lead Commissioning and Contract Manager (DBC)	Commissioning Social Care Senior Leads
10.2	Co-working is planned with the YMCA regarding their youth offer in the new designated youth centre.	Families are supported	April 2025	April 2026		
10.3	Ensure all information, and any updates, on short breaks is available on the Local Offer		April 2025	Ongoing		

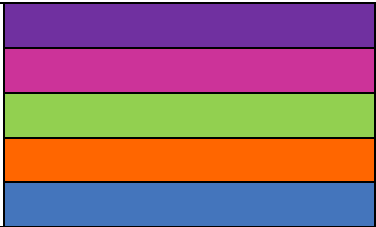
11 – Engagement in strategic decision making

We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular events for parent and carers to discuss SEND issues with local area leaders. • Find a way to expand this to a children and young person's opportunity • Establish a SEND Children and Young People group create opportunities to systematically engage with Children and Young People 	
Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of Parent/carers will have the opportunity to share views and influence strategic decisions on matters of importance to them. • Children + Young People with SEND will be able to share their views and influence strategic decision making 	

11	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
11.1	Work in partnership with the PCF and provide senior leadership support at PCF events if required	Minutes, attendance records, agendas	Jan 2025	Ongoing	PCF	All strategic leads
11.2	Continue to host termly parent/carer engagement meetings Increasing number of attendees inviting participants to set the agenda	Agendas and minutes of Local Area SEND Partnership meetings will show themes identified by parents/carers and Children and Young People are taken forward strategically	July 2025	Ongoing	Head of SEND and Inclusion (DBC)	Workforce Development Manager (DBC)

11.3	Create a sustainable, representative Children and Young People SEND Group who meet on a termly basis as a minimum.	Children And Young People voice will be clearly heard and demonstrably have influenced priorities in all action plans	Sept 2025	April 2026	Participation Officer (DBC)	Young Persons SENDIASS (DBC) YP Health Facilitator (ICB)
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12 – Co-production

<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to, and support, children and young people with SEND to raise their aspirations and achieve their ambitions. • Make sure children and young people with SEND are involved in service development and commissioning activity. • Work as a partner to support individuals and families to greater empowerment. 	
<p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People will be more involved in local decision making that affects them. • Children and Young People will be empowered and will feel empowered to make decisions concerning their lives and the support that they need. • Children and Young People will achieve their co-produced outcomes. • Children and Young People will be ready to move on to their next stage of their lives and be confident in the support to do so. • Those supporting Children and Young People will work together to help them plan for moving on. 	

12	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
12.1	<p>Educations settings, health & social care will share QA processes to ensure that the voice of Children and Young People is captured in their individual plans, outcomes and provision.</p> <p>This is a longer-term programme to establish how across whole inclusion partnership we share this knowledge and information.</p>	<p>QA will demonstrate clear evidence of Children and Young People voice in all plans and outcomes are linked to their aspirations.</p> <p>A growing knowledge of the aspiration of Children and Young People is incorporated into future planning.</p>	April 2026	April 2028	Inclusion Board	<p>Head of SEND and Inclusion (DBC)</p> <p>SEND Team Manager (DBC)</p>

12.2	An agreed co-production charter is created and agreed across the local area Inclusion Partnership	A co-production charter is agreed across the Inclusion Partnership	Sep 2025	Aug 2026		SEND & Inclusion Advisor (DBC)
12.3	Co-production Charter Launched	A co-production charter is agreed across the Inclusion Partnership	Sep 2026	Ongoing		Virtual School Head (DBC)
12.4	Co-production is monitored and information shared as part of the Data Dashboard	The Inclusion Partnership is aware of how co-production is advancing and where action may be needed.	Sept 2027	Ongoing		Social Care Health Children and Young People Parent and Carers
12.5	Ensure there is access to high quality CIAG (Careers Information, Advice and Guidance) available in all Darlington Schools This 2-year programme will be developed by Darlington CIAG Group in conjunction with TVCA	EHCP's will demonstrate that all children will have had CIAG from Y9 onwards	Sept 2025	Sept 2027	Head of Employability and Skills (DBC)	TVCA Education Partners CIAG Group

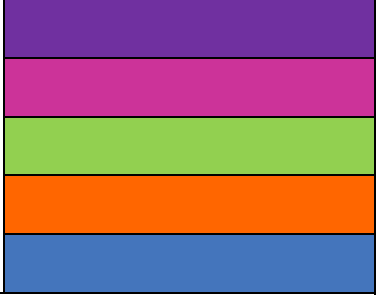
13 – Into Adulthood

We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that there are clear pathways into adulthood that have been co-produced. • Make sure that there are clear pathways into employment and opportunities for all. • Make sure that local housing and independent living opportunities are available for those who meet the relevant criteria. • Work with local 16+ education settings to provide better life skills training. 	
Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways will be clear and understood and available on the Local Offer website. • Increased opportunity for independent living for those who want to move out of parents' home. • Reduced need for commissioned support. • Better outcomes for the person. 	

13	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
13.1	To bring together all work across the partnership on Preparation for Adulthood.	Preparation for Adulthood governance structure in place	Jan 2025	Sept 2025	Joss Harbron	People Group
13.2	Co-produce a single pathway into adulthood across all services and agencies in Darlington. This will include guidance at key stages of a young person's journey from 13/14 - 25.	A single pathway into adulthood is agreed and available to all	Sept 2025	Sept 2026	Assistant Director Adults Social Care (DBC)	ICB Education Partners

13.3	Create and launch a single partnership wide Preparation for Adulthood Strategy – this will include Employment and Occupation, Housing, Money, Friendships & Relationships and Community.	A Preparation for Adulthood strategy is agreed and in place	Sept 2025	Sept 2026		Darlington College PCF Children and Young People
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14 – Local Offer and better information

<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and develop a new Local Offer for Darlington. Making sure it is the main information and communication point for SEND locally • Make sure good quality information and guidance is available for individuals, and their families, as they move from childhood to adulthood. This includes advice on finance; benefits; adults services in the NHS and Darlington BC; getting a job; getting a place to live; and adult rights and independence. 	
<p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Local Officer is seen as a “One Stop Shop” where Children, young people and families, as well as, supporting professionals will have comprehensive information and advice in one place. • Children and young people know where to go and use information and guidance. • The Local Offer will support working together, ensuring accuracy and consistency. • Regular review of available information and advice. • Improve wellbeing by timely and appropriate access to resource and support, including signposting. • The use of the local offer will increase. 	

14	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
14.1	Identify and agree resources, roles and responsibilities for the running and oversight of Darlington Local Offer	A comprehensively upgraded and updated SEND Local Offer for Darlington.	May 2025	September 2025	Tony Murphy Assistant Director	DBC Corporate Communications Team

		<p>The Local Offer is being used across the Local Area Partnership to share information, communication and resources</p> <p>Footfall and use of the Local Offer and the technology it provides.</p>			<p>Education and Inclusion (DBC)</p> <p>Jo Heaney (NENC ICB)</p>	<p>DBC Web Development</p> <p>ICB Information and Communications Team</p>
14.2	<p>Develop the Local Offer as the comprehensive central information resource for all matter SEND and Inclusion</p> <p>Create areas that cover all aspects of SEND and Inclusion in Darlington which are clearly understood by all, especially children, young people and families.</p> <p>Identify Champions for each area within the Local Offer, with clear roles and responsibilities.</p>	<p>A comprehensively upgraded and updated SEND Local Offer for Darlington.</p> <p>Clarity of responsibilities for information, ensuring the information is of quality and up to date.</p>	September 2025	January 2026		<p>Family Information Service (DBC)</p> <p>Parent Carers</p> <p>Children and Young People</p> <p>Lead professionals</p>
14.3	<p>Develop fresh information across all areas within the local offer, giving information, guidance and contacts. This should be using formats that are as user friendly as possible.</p> <p>Ensure that professional guidance is also included within the Local Offer.</p>	<p>Clear quality information, guidance and contacts are available on the Local Offer.</p> <p>Information and advice is available in user friendly formats.</p> <p>Children, young people and family know about and use the Local Offer</p> <p>Increased access / attendance to services</p>	January 2026	May 2026		

		One page per topic Easily accessible format & language.				
14.4	Ensure that all future portals or access points for self-service are contained within the Local Offer (for example EHC plans can be accessed via a link on the local offer)	Greater use of the Local Offer by all	Sept 2025	Ongoing		
14.5	Regular and routine exercises to be undertaken at least annually to ensure information on the local offer remains up to date	Feedback function on local offer will show positive results Information is to update High level of usage Positive feedback from families Universal commissioned services are used as first step to support	Jan 2026	Ongoing		

15 – Safe spaces

<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure community safety works on inclusion of Children and Young People with SEND, including looking at safe spaces in the local community. 	
<p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement with community groups. • Children and Young People will feel safe and enjoy a range of activities in line with their interests. • Safe spaces known and used across Darlington. 	


15	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
15.1	Work with Darlington's Community Safety Partnership (CPS) to ensure the partnership's priority to protect and support vulnerable people is inclusive of families and young people with SEND		May 2025	August 2026	Head of Community Safety (DBC)	Community Safety Partnership (CPS)
15.2	Community Safety will launch in partnership with Darlington Association on Disabilities (DAD) on a Safe Spaces scheme for Darlington Town Centre to include for young people with SEND		May 2025	August 2026	Head of Community Safety (DBC)	Darlington Association on Disability (DAD)

16 – Local Transport

<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local transport providers to make sure public transport is more inclusive and welcoming. 	
<p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Young People will feel safe and welcome on local transport. They will be confident to access public transport as independently as possible. 	

16	Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
16.1	Promotion of the Tees Valley 21 & under £1 single ticket, and the £3 day ticket valid all day on eligible local bus services within the Tees Valley area to support independence and access to education and employment opportunities	Monitoring of public transport usage through the Darlington Transport Plan	May 2025	June 2026	Transport Planning Manager (DBC)	SEND Local Offer
16.2	Explore with TVCA and transport providers how we make local transport more welcoming and inclusive.					PCF Children and Young People DAD
16.3	Assessment and review of independent travel training needs in Darlington	Report and recommendations for independent travel training across Darlington	Sep 2025	April 2026	Head of Skills and Employability (DBC)	Schools Transport Manager (DBC)

17 – Partnership Governance

<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaders should continue to strengthen their governance arrangements to deliver and monitor the implementation and effectiveness of their SEND strategy across the partnership. This includes ensuring that:• the partnership continues to strengthen and further improve the quality of data it uses to accurately identify where there are gaps in provision and commission appropriate services to effectively address those gaps;• the partnership strengthens the information that is currently available to all partners and uses this effectively in order to hold each other accountable for the effective commissioning and delivery of services to improve outcomes for children and young people;• the planned increase in special school places for post-16 students proceeds to timeframe to alleviate capacity issues in special school provision.	
<p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With a full partnership data dashboard in place and being used in conjunction with other intelligence sources we will see a better-informed partnership and leadership able to monitor and demonstrate activity clearly across the partnership. This will in turn support a clearer proactive commissioning process leading to better sufficiency and development of future service.• Children, young people and their families will have a clear picture of activity at a local level.• All partners will be able to access information to support better local understanding and the ability to effectively challenge the partnerships delivery.• Strong Challenge / Strong Support• Additional specialist 6th form capacity	

17		Task	Evidence of Outcomes	Start	Finish	Lead	Other resources
17.1	a.	Data Dashboard – full review and refresh	<p>A revised and operational data dashboard is updated and published on a termly basis.</p> <p>Shared understanding of performance data across Darlington Local Area Partnership.</p>		April 2025	<p>Christine Shields Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation (DBC)</p> <p>Jo Heaney (NENC ICB)</p>	Head of Transformation and Performance (DBC)
	b.	Quality assurance of data dashboard in place	<p>A clear mechanism for quality assuring and agreement of termly published Data Dashboard in place.</p> <p>Any changes to the data dashboard are agreed via Darlington's Local Area Partnership Group and Board.</p>	April 2025	April 2026	<p>Christine Shields Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation (DBC)</p> <p>Jo Heaney (NENC ICB)</p>	Head of Transformation and Performance (DBC)
	c	Power BI dashboard in place	Power BI dashboard in place		April 2026	<p>Christine Shields Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation (DBC)</p> <p>Jo Heaney (NENC ICB)</p>	Head of Transformation and Performance (DBC)

17.2	a	Refreshed and operational SEND JSNA	Darlington JSNA clearly identifies and provides regularly updated information regarding the SEND Community in Darlington	April 2025	April 2026	Lorraine Hughes Director of Public Health (DBC)	Public Health Team (DBC) Head of Transformation and Performance (DBC) Performance and Analysis (NENC ICB)
17.3	a	Data dashboard and intelligence being used by assurance group, implementation group and joint commissioning	Use of a data dashboard is clear within the assurance group, implementation group and joint commissioning		May 2025	Tony Murphy Assistant Director Education and Inclusion (DBC) /Jo Heaney (NENC ICB)	SEND Local Area Partnership Board, SEND Local Area Partnership Group
	b	Publish an easy read data dashboard on Local offer	Easy read data dashboard available and updated on a routine basis.		April 2026	Tony Murphy Assistant Director Education and Inclusion (DBC) /Jo Heaney (NENC ICB)	SEND Local Area Partnership Board, SEND Local Area Partnership Group
17.4	a	Create a new sixth form centre for Beaumont Hill Academy in the former Haughton Children's Centre. This in turn would free up 30 secondary SEND places, following refurbishment of the vacant space, in the main school.	Additional physical capacity for Beaumont Hill Academy and the opening of a stand-alone 6 th form centre for the school.	May 2025	Sept 2025	Tony Murphy Assistant Director Education and Inclusion (DBC)	Education Village Academy Trust (EVAT) Head of Skills and Employability (DBC)

Glossary of Acronyms

ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
CETR	Care Education and Treatment Reviews
DAD	Darlington Association on Disability
DBC	Darlington Borough Council
DCO	Designated Clinical Officer
DPIA	Data Protection Impact Assessment
DSR	Dynamic Support Register
EEF	Education Endowment Foundation
EHC plans	Education, Health and Care plans
EVAT	Education Village Academy Trust
ID	Identification
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Analysis
LD	Learning Disability or Disabilities
LD AHC	Learning Disability Annual Health Check
NENC ICB	North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
OT	Occupational Therapy
PCF	Darlington Parent Carers Forum
PFA	Preparing for Adulthood
Power BI	An information and data management system
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (Schools)
VPP	Vulnerable Pupil Panel