

SEND JSNA

Health and Well Being Board –
February 2019

Robust Data

The availability of robust data is recognised locally and nationally as limited in relation to SEND data and to disability data.

Recommendation: Review opportunities to improve data collection/sharing and analysis to enable more informed commissioning. To include exploring opportunities to enable linkage between health, education and social care to allow cross referencing where a child has an EHCP/SEND need; also to enable assessment of level/ complexity of need.

Recommendation: consider adoption of a robust whole system approach to coding using a recognised tool to enable understanding of the level of complexity of SEND need.

Primary Prevention

There are a number of factors that are relevant to the Birmingham population (e.g. deprivation and low birth weight) that may be contributing to the levels of SEND in children and young people in the city.

Recommendation:

Support a primary prevention approach to SEND, by identifying and supporting evidence based interventions which address SEND related risk factors, being delivered through other City-wide Strategies and work programmes (including Birmingham and Solihull United Maternity and Newborn Partnership and Local Sustainable Transformation Partnerships).

Early identification and appropriate intervention

Early identification in relation to SEND is important (SEND code of practice, 2015) but challenging in the under 5s.

Recommendation:

Work with partners in education, health and care across the early years system to identify mechanisms to increase uptake of the universal 2-2.5 year health visiting assessment and the early years educational entitlement offer.

Recommendation:

Enhance the commissioning/contracting process, where needed across the system, to improve access/reach to those children, young people and families most in need.

Recommendation:

Maintain efforts around work with SENAR and education, health and care partners to ensure that Children and Young People's SEND needs are robustly and accurately identified in line with best practice.

High Prevalence of Birmingham School Pupils with EHCPs

Birmingham has a higher proportion of children with EHCPs than the national average. There is a perceived lack of confidence among parents on receiving support for SEND needs without an EHCP.

Recommendation:

Review current practice to ensure robust, transparent process is in place, in line with best practice, around EHCP assessment process. Programme of work already underway as part of SEND Written Statement Of Action.

Recommendation:

Explore the potential, through joint working with parents/carers and organisational partners, to identify what would be needed to build confidence amongst parents and other professionals that SEND related needs (education, health and care) can be appropriately met, through the local offer- with or without the need for an EHCP.

High proportion of children in special schools in Birmingham

There is a higher than average proportion of children attending special schools compared to the national average.

Recommendation: Through review, already underway, help to more accurately understand the SEND needs of children in Birmingham, including complexity of need, in order to inform the need for specialist SEND provision.

Recommendation: Explore potential to provide a 'more attractive offer' for children with EHCPs as part of mainstream school provision, with a view to meeting childrens' needs more effectively, where appropriate and closer to home.

Low Educational Attainment for Children with EHCPs

Pupils with EHCPs in Birmingham do worse than the England average, when compared with other pupils with EHCPs.

Recommendation:

Consideration of jointly commissioned, wrap around service/care for mainstream and special schools, linking with existing provision to help support schools. This would be with a view to reducing absenteeism and exclusions among children with SEND (building on work already underway to reduce school exclusions).

Strategic Partnership Working

Recommendation:

The Health and Wellbeing Board strengthens strategic partnership working and ensures robust governance arrangements are in place to monitor and promote the health and wellbeing of children with SEND