

Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Board
27/11/2024

Report Title:	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Profile: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
Lead Board Member(s):	
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Executive Summary:

This chapter of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) provides an analysis of the needs of children and young people aged 0 to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Nottingham City. It outlines the current landscape, highlights unmet needs, and identifies priorities for service enhancement. The SEND Code of Practice emphasises the importance of JSNAs in guiding local authorities and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) in commissioning for SEND, aligning with Nottingham’s goals to provide accessible, quality services to SEND children and young people.

Key Findings and Gaps in Nottingham and Nationally

Children and young people with SEND in Nottingham face a range of challenges, influenced by socioeconomic conditions, health disparities, and service limitations. This population reflects both unique local issues and broader trends across England:

1. Demographic and Socioeconomic Disparities

Ethnic disproportionality exists in SEND identification both nationally and locally. In Nottingham, children with SEND are overrepresented in areas with higher poverty levels, similar to national patterns. For example, 36.7% of children with SEND in Nottingham receive free school meals, higher than the national average of 23.8%, with an even higher proportion (51.4%) among those with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) Data from the January 2023 School Census shows that 16% of Nottingham’s school-aged children have SEND, close to the national figure of 17.3%, but with

lower EHCP rates in Nottingham (2.2%) compared to the national rate of 4.3% Whilst this rate is lower, it reflects local policy as Nottingham enable mainstream schools to access High Needs funding without the need for a statutory EHCP, meaning that more children with SEND needs are able to access suitable provision in mainstream schools without EHCP assessment.

2. Service Capacity

Nottingham's 0-24 population is projected to grow by 6.2% by 2028, which could place additional strain on SEND services. Currently, Nottingham has gaps in specialised services, such as speech and language therapy, neurodevelopmental pathways, and specialist school placements, compounded by long waiting times that impact timely access to care.

3. Health Inequalities

National research highlights poorer health outcomes for people with learning disabilities, a trend reflected locally and an identified gap in meeting the full spectrum of health needs for this population. In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire we have achieved 80% against our target denominator set by NHSE for 2023/24, being 76% of people to receive an annual health check by the end of March 2024 with 5470 health checks completed.

4. Educational Outcomes and Preparation for Adulthood

While educational outcomes for SEND pupils in Nottingham align with or slightly exceed those in the East Midlands in key areas, the city lags behind national levels at Key Stage 4, where only 19.7% of SEND pupils achieve grades 5+ in both English and maths, compared to 27.3% nationally. Additionally, 88% of 16-17-year-olds with EHCPs are engaged in education or training in Nottingham, slightly below the national rate of 91.4%.

5. Data Collection and Monitoring Needs

Nottingham faces challenges in data capture and reporting across health, education, and social care services. To address this, Nottingham is enhancing its multi-agency data dashboard to monitor SEND outcomes, support needs, and disparities, better informing future strategic decisions. Additionally, there is a plan to collaborate with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to explore participation in the ICB's dashboard, which would grant access to shared data and further improve co-production across services.

To address these identified needs, the report presents several actionable Strategic Recommendations:

1. Enhance Data Collection and Sharing: Strengthen multi-agency data capture and sharing to provide a holistic view of the SEND landscape, ensuring that outcomes can be effectively monitored, gaps identified, and service effectiveness measured.

2. Improve Service Capacity: Improve the effective delivery of resources to address the rising demand for specialist SEND services in Nottingham, with a particular focus on speech and language therapy, autism pathways, and additional placements within specialist schools.

3. Improve Health Access: Improve accessibility to health services by reducing barriers, especially in routine health checks, and expanding respite care options to better support families with SEND children.

4. Support Transition Planning: Enhance transition pathways to adulthood, prioritising employment readiness and independent living skills to ensure that SEND young people are prepared for a successful transition to adult life.

By adopting these recommendations, all partners can foster an inclusive environment that improves access, service quality, and outcomes for all children and young people with SEND, enabling them to reach their full potential.

Recommendation(s): The Board is asked to:

- 1) To endorse the JSNA chapter on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- 2) To support the work of all partners to ensure implementation of identified recommendations.

**The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Aims and Priorities:**

Aim 1: To increase healthy life expectancy in Nottingham through addressing the wider determinants of health and enabling people to make healthy decisions:

- **The recommendations focus on improving health outcomes for children with SEND, addressing specific health barriers they face.**

Aim 2: To reduce health inequalities by having a proportionately greater focus where change is most needed
The proposed actions aim to target resources and support to the most

How the recommendation(s) contribute to meeting the Aims and Priorities:
The recommendations outlined in this report will enhance the accessibility and quality of SEND services, which directly address health inequalities and improve overall health outcomes for children and families affected by SEND. By focusing on specific priorities, such as training for professionals and improving local offers, the recommendations align with the Board's strategic objectives and will help foster an inclusive and supportive environment for all children.

vulnerable children with SEND in Nottingham.	
Priority 1: Smoking and Tobacco Control	
Priority 2: Eating and Moving for Good Health	
Priority 3: Severe Multiple Disadvantage	
Priority 4: Financial Wellbeing	

How mental health and wellbeing is being championed in line with the Board’s aspiration to give equal value to mental and physical health:
The SEND JSNA profile promotes an integrated approach to service delivery that values both mental and physical health. The recommendations include initiatives to improve access to mental health services and timely interventions for children with SEND, supporting their overall wellbeing and development.

Activity includes;

- ‘You Know Your Mind’ project for Children in Care is being mobilised across the city. This will enable young people who are in care who have emotional health needs and are in care, to have accesses to a personalised budget, to support their emotional health and wellbeing.
- A joint commissioning service model, to meet the health needs of the youth justice cohort has been developed and will be mobilised.
- Mental Health Support Teams are working in 3 special schools and developing their SEND offer within mainstream education settings. SEND support is also an area the WSA lead is looking to develop should the post be extended.

List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)	<input type="checkbox"/> JSNA document <input type="checkbox"/> National guidelines on SEND provision.
Published documents referred to in this report	<input type="checkbox"/> SEND Code of Practice. <input type="checkbox"/> Nottingham City SEND Sufficiency Strategy. <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy documents.