

## **Children & Young People with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**

### **Our Vision**

Our ambition for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is the same as for all children and young people – that they achieve well in their early years, at school and in college and lead happy and fulfilled lives.

To achieve our ambition we will create a 0-25 SEND system that:-

- Enables children and young people to have the best possible start in life and achieve their potential;
- Supports children, young people and their parents to have high aspirations for the future, raising aspirations by not only thinking about what is possible now but thinking creatively about what could be possible in their life;
- Ensures that children and young people and their parents are actively involved in planning and decision making, both at an individual and strategic level, and have more choice and control over the support they receive;
- Provides joined up education, health and social care services, working together to enable children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes;
- Ensures children and young people are effectively supported to prepare for adulthood, including employment, independent living, good health and participation in community life.

This vision is reflected in the Kirklees Joint Strategy for SEND.

### **Our approach**

In Kirklees a **child and family centred approach** will be integral to all planning for children and young people with SEND, to ensure best outcomes for our children and young people. The following definition and set of principles have been adopted across services and signed off by the Children's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

#### **A child and family centred approach**

In Kirklees, we recognise the contribution that a child and family centred approach has on improving outcomes in relation to:

##### **For the child/young person:**

- developmental gains
- enhanced skill development
- better psychological adjustment

##### **For the parent/carer:**

- increased knowledge of child development
- increased participation
- increased feelings of competency
- enhanced sense of control

Service providers using a child and family centred approach recognise that:

- A child/young person with special educational needs achieves best within a supportive family and community context and is affected (both positively and negatively) by the stress and coping abilities of family members.
- The purpose of any work that agencies do with families who have children/young people with SEND is to enhance the quality of life for the child/young person and the family. This includes support to ensure additional needs are met and that children and young people are kept safe.
- In order to best understand the support needs, professionals need to use a **person centred approach** to support children and young people and their parents/carers to:
  - work out what is important for the child/young person and their parents in order to prioritise the child/young person's needs
  - work out what their aspirations and goals are in order to achieve the best outcomes for the child/young person
  - make informed decisions regarding future actions and next steps.
- Professionals support parents and children and young people by:
  - listening carefully to what they say
  - working in partnership with them using a **person centred** and **strength based** approach to decide on priorities and which supports them to come up with their own solutions wherever possible and includes preparation for adulthood
  - providing the right information in the right way in a timely fashion, including that relating to future options

The focus on the family means that they are fully involved in whatever decisions are made and their knowledge and understanding of their child is respected and reflected in any such decisions. Equally the views of children and young people are respected and considered in relation to any decisions being made, and given due weight according to their age, maturity and capability.

### **Key principles underpinning our work with children, young people and families:**

1. **Valued uniqueness:** the uniqueness of children, young people and families is valued and provided for
2. **Staying safe:** services proactively work together with families to ensure children and young people are kept safe and free from harm
3. **Planning partnerships:** a coordinated assessment, planning and review process in partnership with children, young people and families
4. **Key working:** service delivery is holistic, co-ordinated, seamless and supported by keyworking
5. **Birth to adulthood:** continuity of care is maintained through different stages of a child's life and through preparation for adulthood
6. **Learning and development:** children and young people's learning and development is monitored and promoted
7. **Informed choices:** children, young people and families are able to make informed choices
8. **Ordinary lives:** wherever possible, children, young people and families are able to live 'ordinary lives'
9. **Participation:** children, young people and their families are involved in shaping, developing and evaluating the services they use
10. **Working together:** multi agency working practices and systems are integrated
11. **Workforce development:** Children, young people and families can be confident that the people working with them have the appropriate training, skills, knowledge and experience