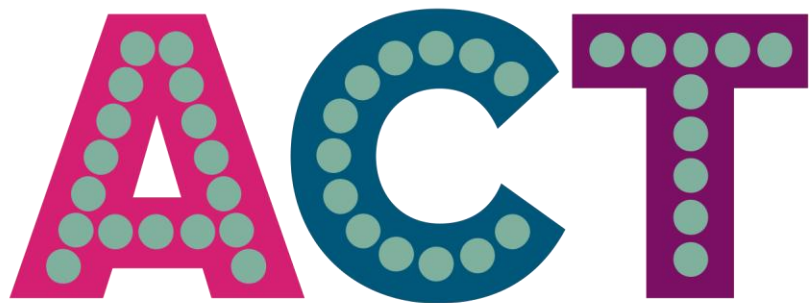




- Ambitious
- Caring
- Together

Wokingham Borough Area SEND Inspection

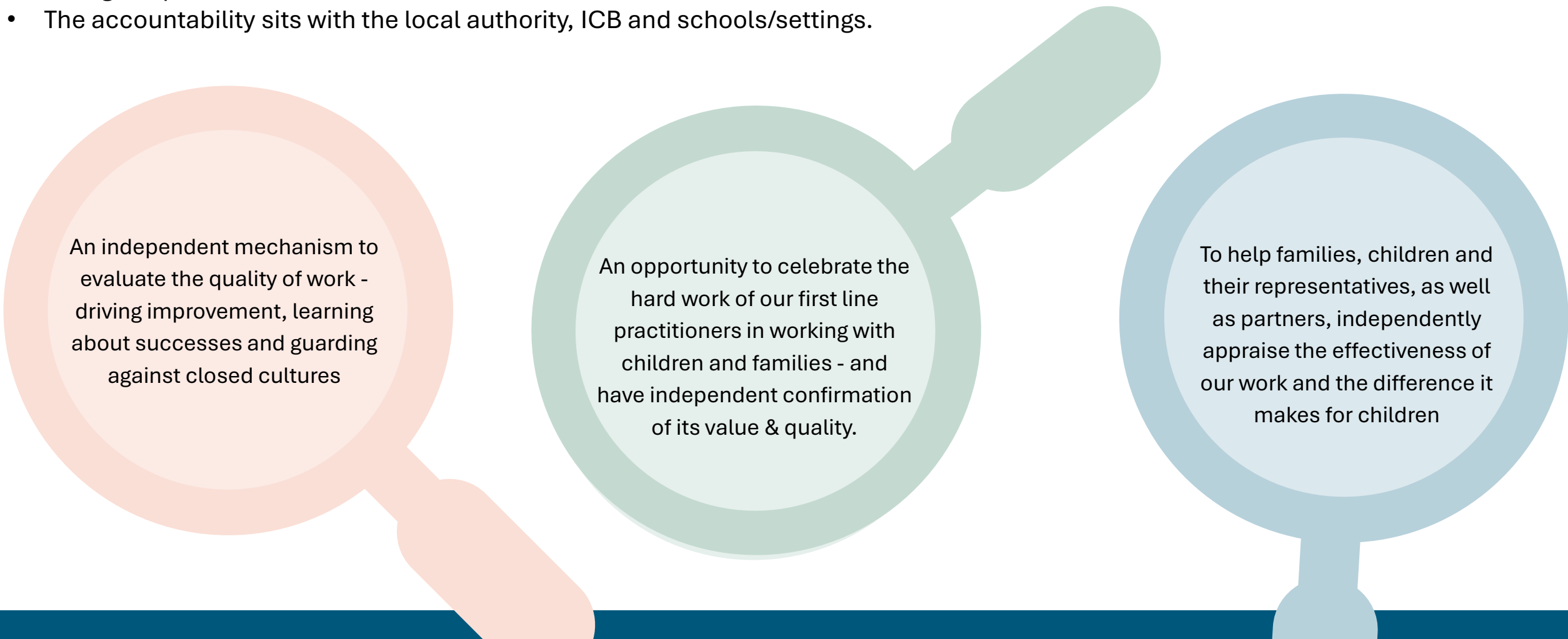
Outcome & progress update

09 June 2026

www.wokingham.gov.uk

Local Area SEND Inspection Process

- Area SEND Inspection covers all services supporting children with SEND support needs, from universal to statutory, including: Health (HV's, GP's, hospital, community paed's, Therapies, CAMHS etc) + early years, schools, settings, AP, FE, early help and social care.
- The inspection is of a wide-ranging system –but the scrutiny is of services, commissioning, delivery and the experiences of Children Young People and their families
- The accountability sits with the local authority, ICB and schools/settings.



An independent mechanism to evaluate the quality of work - driving improvement, learning about successes and guarding against closed cultures

An opportunity to celebrate the hard work of our first line practitioners in working with children and families - and have independent confirmation of its value & quality.

To help families, children and their representatives, as well as partners, independently appraise the effectiveness of our work and the difference it makes for children

What was involved?

Week 1 w/c 12th Jan



- **Monday:** notification of inspection in the morning.
- **Tuesday:** child-level data and the start of our “Annex A” documentation submitted by 11.00. Inspection survey distributed. Inspectors also provided us with 6 cases that they wanted to review in detail over week 2 and 3 (tracked cases).
- **Wednesday - Thursday:** parental consent sought for the 6 cases. Multi-agency audits and supporting case details collated for each case, at pace.
- **Friday:** remainder of Annex A documents submitted by 17.00, along with multi-agency audits of the 6 cases chosen for “tracking”.

Week 2 w/c 19th Jan



- **Monday - Wednesday:** Inspectors reviewed Annex A. A schedule was organised, including visits to 5 providers. Internal pre-meets started to help us prepare for meetings with inspectors.
- **Thursday:** Off-site meetings held by inspectors with Parent Carer Forum, SENDIASS, and a group of our young people, plus calls with families involved with the 6 tracked cases organised. “Context Meeting” with leaders also held to set scene.
- **Friday:** Multi-agency tracking meetings started, reviewing the 6 cases with the practitioners involved with the child. Random selection of EHCPs also requested for review.

Week 3 w/c 26th Jan



- **Monday:** SEF Meeting held with leaders, plus Commissioning Meeting and further “Tracking Meetings” with practitioners.
- **Tuesday:** Focused sampling and meetings (EOTAS/EHE, DSR, AP, Universal Health Services, Therapies, CWD and SALT) – plus visits to providers start (Special School and Mainstream School)
- **Wednesday:** More Focused Sampling/meetings (Assessment Pathways, Early Help, CAMHS, Fair Access Protocol). More Provider Visits (AP, Early Years). EHCP Sampling continues.
- **Thursday:** More Focused Sampling/meetings (NEETs, Residential Special Schools, Continuing Care, Attendance, Wheelchair/ Equipment services) plus final provider visit made to FE College.
- **Friday:** final feedback

Who did inspectors visit, meet and hear from?

Children & Young People

- Meeting with a group of **6** children and young people involved with co production
- Calls with children and young people involved with the 6 “tracked cases” (**x1**)
- Survey responses from children and young people (**28**)

Parents & Carers

- Meeting with SEND Voices Wokingham
- Calls with parents involved with the 6 “tracked cases” (**x3**)
- Survey responses from parents and carers (**514**)

Leaders & Partners

- Context meeting with Partnership leaders
- Meeting with SENDIASS
- Meeting with Commissioning Leads
- Meeting with Wokingham Borough Education Partnership
- Meeting with AP Strategic Leads
- Meeting with Designated Clinical Officer

Tracked Cases

37 practitioners spoken to across 6 tracked case meetings.

Inspectors met with representatives from across CYPIT, OT, SEND, Children’s nursing, Further Education, Educational Welfare, Schools, Social Care and Alternative Provision

Provider Visits

6 visits to local settings, including:

- 1 x Early Years setting
- 1 x Primary School
- 1 x Secondary School
- 1 x FE College
- 1 x Alternative Provision Setting
- 1 x Special school

Focused Sampling and meetings with Practitioners

17 meetings involving approximately **104** practitioners to sample work with children, covering

- | | |
|--|---|
| - Dynamic Support Register (5) | - CAMHS (6) |
| - EOTAS and EHE (4) | - Community Paediatrics (5) |
| - Alternative Provision (5) | - GPs (2) |
| - Universal Health Services (8) | - Continuing healthcare (7) |
| - Occupational Therapy (8) | - NEET Team (7) |
| - Children with Disabilities Social Work (5) | - Attendance (6) |
| - SALT (6) | - Wheelchair and equipment services (8) |
| - Assessment/diagnostic pathways (7) | - Transitions (11) |
| - Early Help (4) | |

Wokingham Borough ASEND Inspection Outcome

1 Positive experiences and Outcomes

The local area partnership's arrangements typically lead to **positive experiences and outcomes** for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.

The next full area SEND inspection will be within **5 years**.

Local area partnership updates and publish its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in the report.

2 Inconsistent experiences and outcomes

The local area partnership's arrangements lead to **inconsistent experiences and outcomes** for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.

The next full area SEND inspection will take place within approximately **3 years**.

Local area partnership updates and publishes its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in the report.

3 Widespread/Systemic Failings

There are **widespread and/or systemic failings** leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently.

A monitoring inspection will be carried out within approximately **18 months**.

The next full area SEND inspection will take place within approximately **3 years**

Local area partnership has to submit a priority action plan to address the identified areas for priority action.

What's it like to be a child or young person with SEND in this area?

Experiences are variable

Some children feel welcomed, understood and supported by trusted adults, but many do not feel listened to or fully involved in decisions about their support.

Social care input valued but not always early enough

Many who access short breaks, early help or other support from social care experience warm, relationship-based practice - but support can come too late, once needs have escalated.

Families' experiences are unequal

Those who can advocate strongly are often more successful in securing support, creating inequity for families who find the system harder to navigate.

Indications of impact emerging

Significant Investment by the Local Authority & the work of dedicated professionals was recognised. The permanent SEND team is having an impact, with some newer well-written EHC plans helping to secure better-matched provision. But delays, outdated plans and gaps in provision still create instability - some experience part-time timetables, fragmented education, or time out of school.

Health support too slow for many

While some benefit from coordinated clinics and well organised 0 to 19 public health nursing, there are long waits for OT, autism and ADHD assessments, wheelchairs, and specialist mental health services, which leave some children and families struggling without timely help.

What did inspectors consider the partnership is doing well?



Many committed professionals demonstrating determination to improve outcomes for children and young people



The Parent Carer Forum felt valued by the more stable leadership in the SEND team



The DSR demonstrated effective coordinated planning and care.



The 0 to 19 service works jointly across teams - promoting early identification and school readiness.



The early years hub is providing timely and high-quality support, including drop-ins & swift educational psychology advice



The schools-led partnership - through the Wokingham Borough Education Partnership - brings leaders together, identifying local SEND priorities.



Revised ordinarily available provision guidance and targeted training are strengthening workforce knowledge. The SENCO network and EPs help develop expertise across settings.



The Multi-Agency Inclusion Clinic (MAIC) is showing increasingly effective practice



Most transitions between children's and adults' social care are effective



Those with SEND in Wokingham generally achieve well academically (PINS acknowledged)



Support for NEETs is strengthening through skills assessments, mentoring and coordinated work



Reduced early help waiting times and early help coordinators enable quicker access to community-based support

Where does the partnership need to improve?



The PCF highlighted barriers such as health governance, + difficulties accessing neurodevelopmental pathways & short breaks



Leaders need a shared, data-informed view of local need. The Risk Register needs to be supported by the numbers of children affected.



Extensive delays in wheelchair services & poor data quality leave children in pain and at risk of injury



Oversight of those with SEND in residential and out of area provision is not fully multi-agency/holistic



Long delays for autism, ADHD, OT and physiotherapy mean that children are not receiving assessment at the right time



The CAMHS service for children with Learning Disabilities is also affected by long delays



Some practitioners are unaware of the local offer



A legacy of lack of investment and increasing demand means that sufficiency pressures remain on the system.



The partnership lacks systems to oversee school attendance, use of AP and part-time timetables. Current monitoring is child by child



Families feel that some mainstream schools still misinterpret needs as behaviour. Inconsistent application of reasonable adjustments.



Although a plan is in place, Short Breaks capacity remains insufficient, leading to uneven access for families



Families do not consistently receive sufficiently timely & personalised information about transition to adult services

Wokingham Borough ASEND Inspection Outcome

Priority Actions



The ICB must urgently develop and implement a sustainable recovery plan for wheelchair services so that children and young people receive timely assessment, repairs and provision. These plans need clear performance measures, robust data, and time-bound actions to address the significant risks to children's health, mobility and access to education and community life.



The local area partnership must develop and maintain a robust, data-informed JSNA that accurately reflects the current and emerging needs of children and young people with SEND in Wokingham. This must be used consistently to inform strategic planning, commissioning decisions and oversight across education, health and social care.



The local area partnership must deliver a recovery plan to rapidly improve the quality and accuracy of EHC plans, ensuring clear, current and evidence-based provision that fully aligns with health contributions. Quality-assurance processes across all agencies must be strengthened so EHC plans reflect children and young people's assessed needs and are implemented effectively.

Wokingham Borough ASEND Inspection Outcome

6 Areas for Improvement



The partnership should improve joint commissioning, data-sharing and multi-agency governance so that services work together effectively to plan, deliver and assure high-quality provision for children and young people with SEND in Wokingham. This includes strengthening oversight across education, health and social care to ensure provision is equitable, sustainable and aligned to need.



The partnership should ensure that the recovery plan for the equipment service is fully implemented, monitored and embedded so that children and young people receive timely, needs led assessment and intervention.



The partnership should ensure that its sufficiency strategies, including for AP, and for short breaks, are securely enacted and embedded so that there is a sufficient range of high-quality provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.



Leaders across the partnership should improve communication to professionals, parents and carers and children and young people, especially about the local offer, so that available services, their strategies, actions and impact are better understood.



The Partnership needs to review the identification of children with LD who are eligible for an annual health check and health action plan to ensure they are registered on their GP records as eligible. This should be promoted by the Partnership and include clear communication to families on the benefits of the annual review.



The partnership should ensure that recovery plans for occupational therapy, neurodevelopmental pathways, respiratory physiotherapy and CAMHS LD are fully implemented, monitored and embedded so that children and young people receive timely, needs-led assessment and intervention.

What happens next

Final Report Published

Although the report would normally have been published 30 days after the inspection (i.e. mid March) this publication date had to be delayed because of the Local Elections.

Publish date **18th May 2026**.

Priority Action Plan Drafted

A Priority Action Plan now needs to be sent to DfE and NHSE within **35 working days** of the final report being published.

Date: 29th June 2026

Priority Action Plan Published

Following feedback from DfE/NHSE, we will need to publish our plan as a section within an updated strategic plan, within **50 days** of receiving the final report being published

Date: 20th July 2026

Progress Update

- I. Children identified during the inspection as in need of an updated wheelchair have been subject to multi-agency review to understand their clinical need.
- II. The ICB have put additional resource into key health contracts where concerns were highlighted.
- III. A Priority Action Improvement Programme has been established- Partnership representation with Parent Carer Forum (DCS Chair) that has met weekly since January 2026.
- IV. NHS Recovery Plans now in place – progress being tracked & overseen.
- V. Activity undertaken to populate key actions, owners, timescales and outcome measures (what success looks like), identify key data / qualitative measures, joint agency QA processes.
- VI. Recruitment of Independent Chair to oversee SEND Area Improvement Board confirmed.
- VII. Independent review of concerns identified in respect of wheelchair provision in the process of being commissioned.

Request: our work is currently in progress. How can we share this with families for an opportunity to discuss and sense check before we share with DfE/NHSE advisors for sign off?

SEND System Reform - Context

Government reform aims to create an **inclusive SEND system** where needs are identified early and support is high-quality and consistent, with a focus on:

- **Inclusive mainstream education**
- **Specialist support for those who need it**
- **Efficient, effective local delivery**

The **Local SEND Reform Plan** acts as the **core delivery and accountability framework** for local partnerships to:

- Provide a **baseline**, clear metrics and a way to track transformation progress.
- Support local areas (LAs, health, early years, MATs, schools, FE) to build an **inclusive, sustainable SEND system**.
- Ensure needs are identified early and met locally, fairly and effectively.
- **Build on existing work** and tailor delivery to local context.
- Enable local authorities to **unlock investment funding** and access support for historic and accruing deficits.

“A description of what the local system will look like in the next 3 years in line with the national vision set out in the Schools White Paper and set within the context of where you are starting from as a local system”

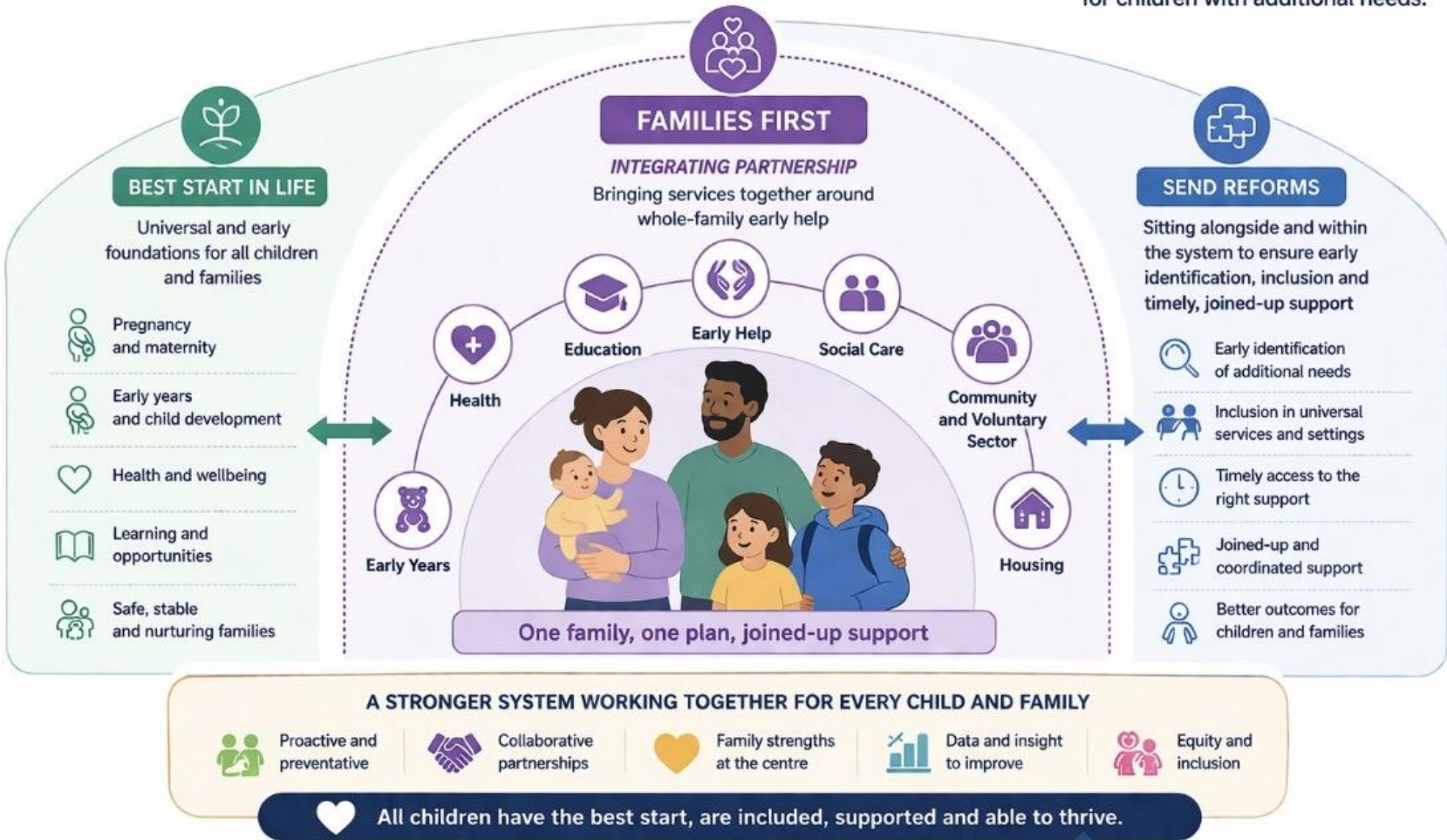
DfE The Local SEND Reform Plan – Exposition of requirements

Children's Change and Reform Journey – Best Start in Life, Families First and SEND Reforms

Best Start in Life provides the universal and early foundations.

Families First is the *integrating partnership* that brings services together around whole-family early help.

SEND Reforms sit alongside and within this system, ensuring early identification, inclusion and timely, joined-up support for children with additional needs.



SEND System Reform



Thank you for listening

Receive Draft Plan Submission Feedback

Formal feedback session with DfE advisor received **1 June 2026**.

Work will continue to refine draft & socialise proposed models ahead of feedback.

Implement Feedback

Playback feedback across the Partnership

Arrange workshops / further codesign sessions as required

Update Plan

Sign Off

Identify forums for sight / commentary / final revisions into revised updated Plan

Submission to be sent **19 June 2026** (at the latest)