

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES SEND ADVISORY SERVICE



SEND Advisory Service

The SEND Advisory Service (SAS) is made up of four teams:

- Schools SEND Advisory Team
- Early Years SEND Advisory Team
- Sensory Team
- SEND Key Working Team

All teams aim to provide training, support, guidance and appropriate challenge to educational settings in relation to provision required for meeting the needs of children/young people with SEND. Support for families is also provided through training workshops, information and advice sessions and individual support.

Schools SEND Advisory Team

The School's SEND Advisory Team collaborates with schools and post-16 settings to plan, implement, and evaluate support for children and young people with SEND across the Borough. They work holistically with settings and support individual referrals. Advisors are linked to specific

settings and support children and young people based on their primary needs through Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP). They provide in-house and cross-borough training based on evidence-based research and practices.

Referrals are made by schools via the Stronger Families Hub.

Early Years SEND Advisory Team

The Early Years (EY) SEND advisors team supports PVI settings, children's centres, and childminders in early identification and intervention for children aged 0-5 with special educational needs or disabilities. Early identification is crucial for ensuring good outcomes and helping children reach their full potential. The advisors work closely with EY practitioners to create inclusive settings, identifying children's needs early to achieve the best outcomes. They provide strategies and model approaches as needed. They promote the use of My Support Plan (MSP) and Team

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around the Child (TAC) meetings for a person-centred approach. They also help settings use tools like the Speech and Language Assessment Tool and Wellcomm, and progress tools such as Developmental Journals.

Referrals are made by PVI settings via the Stronger Families Hub.

Sensory Team

The sensory team supports children and young people (birth to 25 years) with hearing, visual, or multi-sensory impairments. They help schools make necessary adjustments to include these children and ensure they can access the National Curriculum. Advisory Teachers offer individual support based on assessments and provide expert advice for assessments. The team offers services such as:

- Assessing sensory impairments
- Providing specialist equipment
- Teaching Braille
- Offering habilitation services

Referrals are made by

professionals via the Stronger Families Hub

SEND Key Working Team

SEND key workers support families and children/young people (CYP) with SEND aged 0-25. Their main goals are early intervention and a coordinated, needs-led approach to empower parents. Key working functions include:

- Partnering with families
- Providing emotional and practical support
- Coordinating practitioners and services
- Acting as the single point of contact
- Facilitating multi-agency meetings and joint assessments
- Sharing information and signposting
- Empowering and advocating for CYP and their families

Referrals can be made by professionals with consent or parents and carers can self-refer by completing the referral form on the Stronger Families Hub.

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Funding Streams for Educational Settings

Early Support Funding

Supports schools to deliver interventions and provide support to ensure children/young people achieve their outcomes.

Early Years Inclusion Funding

Supports PVI to children with lower level or emerging SEND to support early identification and intervention.