

# Lambeth Policy Statement on Special Educational Needs and Disability

Revised March 2016

## Introduction

I am very pleased to present this update of Lambeth's Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy Statement that sets out how the Authority will maintain and develop provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disability within the framework of the Children's and Families Act of 2014.

This sets out, within the context of Lambeth's Education and Learning Strategy 2015/18 <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/schools-and-education/lambeth-education/education-and-learning-strategy-2015-18> the principles and responsibilities of all those who are involved in the education provision for Lambeth children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 – 25 years.

This Policy, which includes Lambeth's Pledges that enshrine our commitment to deliver to our children, young people and families the best opportunities in life, should be read in conjunction with our Local Offer on the Young Lambeth website <http://www.younglambeth.org/local-offer/landing-pages/local-offer.html>, and every Lambeth school's SEND Information Report, which is published on each school's website.

## Principles

Lambeth's policy for children and young people with SEND is based upon these principles:

- All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to develop to their full potential.
- Children and young people with SEND will be educated with appropriate support in mainstream schools where this is desirable, practicable and compatible with the wishes of the parent.
- Lambeth's policy on inclusion is central to all aspects of SEND provision, from the identification of needs through to the education provision itself.
- Lambeth remains committed to maintaining a diversity of provision to meet a wide range of special educational needs in the most appropriate setting.
- Lambeth will engender a sense of community and belonging through its inclusion ethos by pursuing a strategy that removes barriers to learning in order for all children and young people to achieve their individual potential by encouraging all sections of the community using a multi-agency approach.
- All provision should be sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of individual children and young people.
- Lambeth will develop provision with collaboration between Health and Social Care and other partner services under the community care legislation and other relevant Acts including the Children and Families Act 2014.
- Lambeth understands that nursery and early years provision offers an important opportunity for the early identification of special educational needs and recognises that

early intervention may prevent greater support being required at later stages in a child's education.

## **Lambeth Pledges**

### **Lambeth supports these principles by making the following Pledges:**

Lambeth is a diverse, vibrant and forward looking Borough. We are committed to doing all we can to make sure everyone in the Borough has access to the very best opportunities in life. An important group of children and young people are those who need some extra support, whether that is at school or in their lives outside of school.

#### **WE WILL:**

1. See families and carers as experts on their own children.
2. Work together with families to develop new policies.
3. Enable families to plan for their child's individual needs.
4. Empower families to have clear and fast routes into professional services where these are needed.
5. Ensure that babies and young children with special needs are identified at the earliest possible point, the various professionals work closely together and that families are given all the information they need and are supported from the outset.
6. Work to ensure that providers train and support all staff in early years services (Children's Centres, Nurseries, health services, support networks) so that they are open to all and deliver fully inclusive and individually designed programmes.
7. Make the transitions from one setting to another (entering school, moving into Secondary education, moving into adulthood) smooth, involving the family at all stages.
8. Ensure that every child or young person who meets the threshold for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) under the Children and Families Act 2014 gets one.
9. Work with schools to provide positive school experiences, where children with special needs are valued members of the school community and where it is recognised that they enrich the experience of all the children in the school.
10. Work with schools to encourage the training of all staff in the needs of children and young people with special needs.
11. Develop an understanding of the needs of children and young people with special needs across the whole school community.
12. Continue to work with schools to ensure that exclusions are very rare and encourage Governing Bodies to review data on all exclusions no matter how long or short for every child with an EHCP.
13. Create resources within the Borough so that few children and young people will need to go to schools outside the Borough. Most children will attend a mainstream school.
14. Never make physical difficulties (speech, vision, hearing or mobility needs) a barrier to full inclusion in school life.
15. Provide information to families so that they can make an informed choice about personal budgets.

16. Work towards creating an environment which welcomes, enables and encourages children and young people with special needs to take a full part in the life of the Borough. Our ambitions include:

- Appropriate housing
- Accessible and affordable: public transport, play spaces, play services, and youth services.
- Access to advice and information for families and their children.
- Help with finding a job, volunteering opportunities and further or higher education.

### **The Local Offer**

Lambeth sets out in its Local Offer the support they expect to be available for local children and young people with SEND. This is published online on the Young Lambeth website at [www.younglambeth.org](http://www.younglambeth.org), and in a number of leaflets which are available at various locations throughout the borough including: schools, children's centres and libraries.

The Local Offer has two main purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it, and
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children with SEND and their parents, young people with SEND, and service providers in its development and review.

All schools in the borough publish their SEND Information Report in which they describe how they deliver the authority's expectations.

### **Lambeth's Expectations**

Lambeth's expectations are:

- That the needs of children and young people are identified and assessed as quickly as possible and matched by appropriate provision,
- That parents, carers and the children and young people themselves are placed at the centre of the process, and
- That all partner agencies including Health and Social Care work together in the total interest of the child, young person and their families, as laid out in the SEND Code of Practice January 2015, and that they will strive to follow Lambeth's inclusion policy which should permeate all aspects of school and LA thinking.

### **Development of 'Resource Bases' and 'Additional Places'.**

In line with the above principles a detailed analysis of pupil data relating to special educational needs has been carried out. The data showed areas of specific need and indicated relative prevalence of different types of SEN and growth trends and predictions by year group. The data also

confirmed the growth in pupils diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and suggested a link between pupils with ASD, those with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and what is perceived as poor behaviour.

From this analysis a number of schools were approached across the borough to host mainstream primary and secondary 'Resource Bases' for pupils with ASD and SLCN. As a result of this work the borough began work with a number of schools to develop Resource Bases.

The following Resource Bases are now up and running;

#### RESOURCE BASES LINKED TO MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

##### Primary

Allen Edwards SLCN

Archbishop Sumner SLCN

Crown Lane ASD

Larkhall ASD

Wyvil - Aurora House ASD\*

Wyvil SLCN

Jubilee HI (Hearing Impairment)

##### Secondary

City Heights ASD

London Nautical ASD

Dunraven SLCN

The Elmgreen School HI

Apart from those already established, these Resource Bases will be grown over time. Each Resource Base will have a maximum of 3 children per year, until their capacity of 15 children is reached. The children will spend much of their time in the mainstream setting but have additional staffing, support and resources to meet their needs and help them access the mainstream curriculum. The Council has worked with these schools to agree clear Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for these Resource Bases as well as associated funding arrangements.

The Bases will grow over the next few years to full capacity.

\*Wyvil – Aurora House is different in that it will eventually have the capacity for at least 50 pupils.

#### **Extension of The Michael Tippett School**

The need for additional capacity for post 19 pupils with profound and complex needs has been identified. A site has been identified at the Weir Road Estate to host this provision and a new Michael Tippett College should be in place for September 2016.

#### **Vanguard Free School**

The Council is also working to provide a secondary 75 place ASD school in partnership with National Autistic Society (The Vanguard School). A site has been identified for children to begin entry from January 2018.

### **Local Authority Legal Responsibilities**

Local Authorities (LAs) must identify and assess the special educational needs and disability of children and young people for whom they are responsible. LAs become responsible for a child or young person in their area when they become aware that the child or young person has or may have SEN. They then must ensure that those children and young people receive a level of support which will help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.

The LA has a direct duty to carry out an EHC needs assessment and then issue an EHC plan, and this cannot be ultimately delegated to parents, the young person, a school or college.

An LA must carry out an EHC needs assessment if a child or young person needs, or probably needs, more support than their school or other setting can give them.

Once special educational provision has been specified in an EHC plan, the LA has a legal duty to provide it.

A LA must publish a Local Offer (LO) containing information about all the services and support it expects to be available for children and young people with SEND for whom they are responsible. This must include any schools, colleges or services that the LA uses for children or young people outside the LA's area.

The LO should not be just a directory of services or series of links. It must say clearly what the LA expects to be available in terms of:

- What schools/colleges and other settings will provide from the funding they receive for SEN.
- What schools/ colleges and other settings in its area will provide from the funding they receive to support those with a disability.
- Educational, health and care provision.
- Training provision.
- Transport arrangements between home and school/college/early years settings.
- Support for preparing for adulthood and independent living.

### **School Governor Legal Responsibilities**

The Local Authority expects that the governing body of each maintained school and academy trust within Lambeth will meet their legal responsibilities with respect to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their provision as stated in 3.5.1 to 3.5.5 of the SEND Code of Practice January 2015.

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