

SEN Strategy Update

Update 7: January 2009

The SEN Strategy will improve the range of specialist provision across Norfolk for children and young people. In future all special schools will be called **complex needs schools** and provide for children and young people aged 3-19 years. The Strategy will also increase the number of specialist units in mainstream schools to 59 **specialist resource bases** and each will have an area of specialism.

What is a Specialist Resource Base?



A specialist unit or outreach service hosted by a mainstream school. Each will have one of the following specialisms:

- Autistic spectrum disorders / social communication difficulties
- Behavioural difficulties
- Learning difficulties
- Speech and language communication difficulties
- Dyslexia
- Referrals will go to the local Children's Services Single Area Panel, which will decide on admissions to all specialist resource bases in the area.
- Specialist resource bases will usually be funded for ten full time equivalent places. Places can be flexible in terms of length and purpose.
- A statement of special educational needs is not required in order for a child to receive support from a specialist resource base.

How will Special Schools become Complex Needs Schools?



It is planned that from September 2009, our special schools will be known as complex needs schools. However, this will not mean an immediate change to the age range or range of pupil needs in each school.

- There will be a gradual and carefully managed process to ensure that the already high standard of our special schools is maintained and continues to improve.
- We will continue to work closely with schools over the next 5-10 years. This work will include training and development as well as building projects to enable our schools to fully become complex needs schools.

While it is reasonable to expect to see similarities between our future complex needs schools, it is unlikely that any two schools will be alike. Each school will have areas of specialism and reflect the needs of its pupils.

Coming up

The SEN Strategy will provide a report about complex needs school capacity and future need to County Councillors at the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting on 11 March 2009. To view the full report, please go to: www.norfolk.gov.uk/committees



Click **Papers** next to the meeting you are interested in, then click **Agenda** with the date (noted above) for that meeting. Scroll down the agenda and click on the blue link to our **Strategy for Special Educational Needs** item to view the report. To view appendices click on each blue **Appendix** link. Please feel free to contact us if you would like any further information.

Focus on Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

The SEN Strategy is one of several key pieces of work that contribute to learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) service improvement and provision, others include:

- the disabled children's strategy
- behaviour and attendance partnerships
- pupil referral units (PRUs) and alternative provision of education

To build on the good work already undertaken and to further maximise effective communication and opportunities for joint working on LDD, a Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Programme Board will be set up to oversee developments in this area of work. As agreed by the Children & Young People Partnership Trust Board in December 2008.

Churchill Park Complex Needs School

Planning for the new Churchill Park Complex Needs School in King's Lynn which formally opens in September 09 has taken a significant step forward. Mark Richardson, currently Deputy Headteacher at a special school in Nottinghamshire, has been appointed as Headteacher. Mark will be working closely with Ethel Tipple and Alderman Jackson Schools during the next two terms.



Good News

Congratulations to Eaton Hall Specialist College in Norwich, who have recently achieved an outstanding Ofsted rating.

Have your say

Family Voice Norfolk and Norfolk SEN Network are our main independent parent reference groups with members on our SEN Strategy Project Board. If you are a parent interested in getting involved, you are welcome to contact these groups, as they represent your views.



Family Voice Norfolk

Email: secretary@familyvoice.org.uk
Tel: 07950 302937

Norfolk SEN Network

Tel: 01603 300178 (answer phone on 24 hours)
Post: Norfolk SEN Network, 2a Eastern Crescent,
Thorpe St. Andrew, NR7 0UE.

Norfolk Parent Partnership

Norfolk Parent Partnership provides information and support for parents and carers of children with special educational needs.

Norfolk Parent Partnership

Website: www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk
Email: parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk
Tel: 01603 704070

For further information and feedback, please contact:



The SEN Strategy Team

By phone: 0844 800 8001

By email: senstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk

By post: Room 24, Children's Services, Norfolk County Council, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL.

We'll keep you updated as we have more information. Thank you for your support.