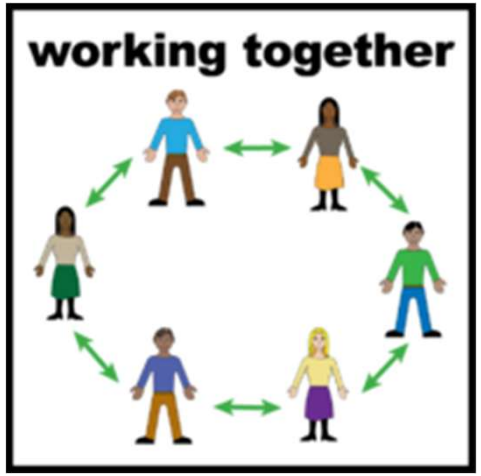




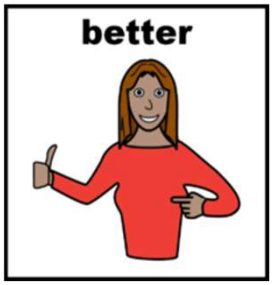
Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership

Our plan for better services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

An easy-read guide

What is this about?





This guide tells you about our plan to make services in Leeds better. The plan is called ‘the Leeds Local Area Partnership SEND & Alternative Provision Strategic Plan’.



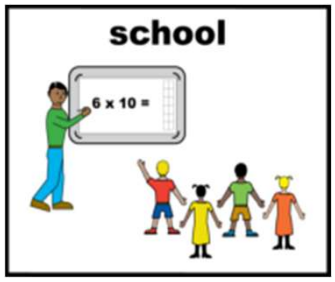


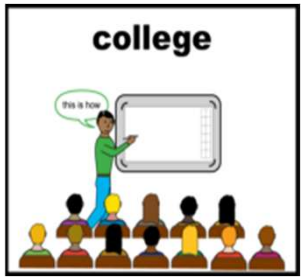
We need to make services better for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Who are we?









We are the Leeds area SEND and AP Partnership.
We are a group of services that work together.
Services like:

- Leeds City Council services
- NHS health services
- Leeds schools, nurseries, and colleges
- Groups that share the voices of children and young people, parents, and carers.

Why did we write this plan?







In May 2026, inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission came to Leeds. They checked our services for children and young people with SEND.

They looked at things we do well. They looked at things we can do better. They said some things are not good. We need a plan to make them better.

Things that need to be better:





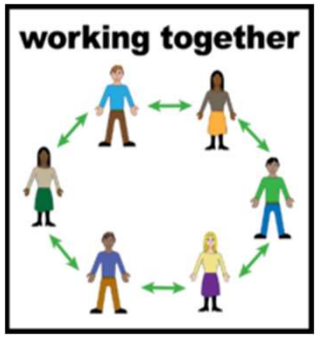
Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans). Children and young people who need these plans wait too long.

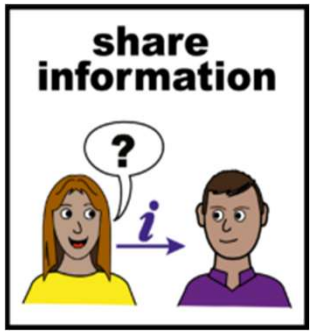




Neurodevelopmental assessments. These check if you have autism or ADHD. Children and young people who need these assessments wait too long.

More things that need to be better:





Services need to work together better. Different services need better ways to share information.





Some of our schools can give support with health needs. Other schools do not give this support. This is not fair. We need to make all schools give the same good support.

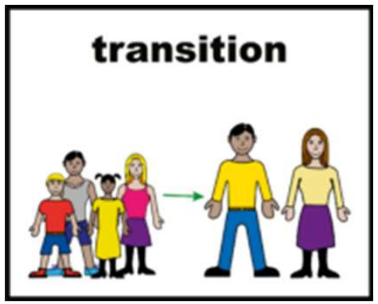
More things that need to be better:





Young people need more support to get ready for adult life.

They need more options for training and getting into work.



They also need better help when they move from children's services to adults' services (this is called 'transition').

More things that need to be better:



We need to check more on alternative provision. This is a type of learning for children who cannot go to mainstream school. This might be because they are ill or they have been excluded from school.



We need better ways to check alternative provision. We need to make sure it helps learners reach their goals.

More things that need to be better:





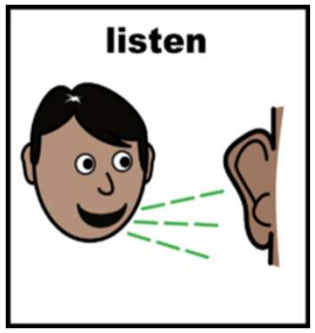
Families need better communications from us. If they are waiting for services, they need us to stay in touch.





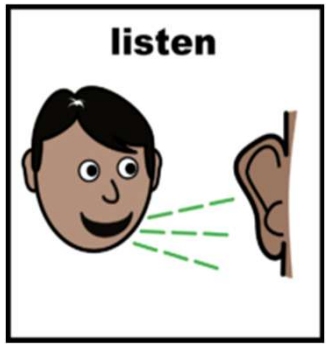
They also need better information about local services and activities.

Our plan to make things better:





Our plan has seven main actions to make services better. To help us decide on the actions, we listened to people's views.





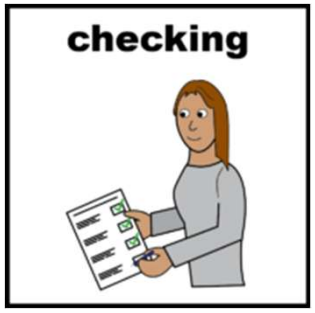
We listened to children and young people with SEND and their families. We also listened to people who work with children and young people with SEND.

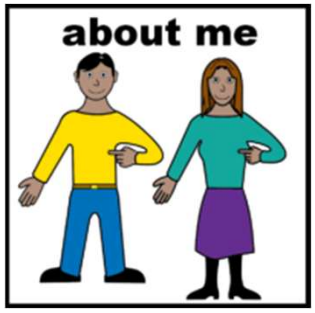
Actions in our plan: better EHC plans



We will get more people to work on EHC plans.

This means we will do EHC plans more quickly. We will not keep children waiting too long.





We will also check these plans more. We will check that children and young people always have their views included.

Actions in our plan: waiting for assessments:





We will contact families waiting for assessments more often. We will contact families waiting the longest time, first.



We will make sure families can get help from local services while they wait.

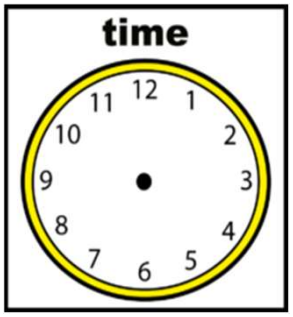
Actions in our plan: work together better





Our leaders will work together more. They will join up services more. They will make sure services can share important information.



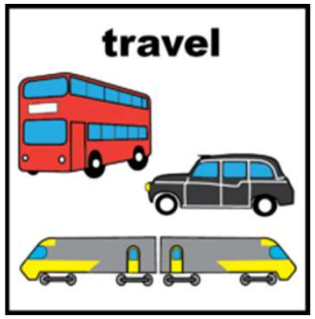


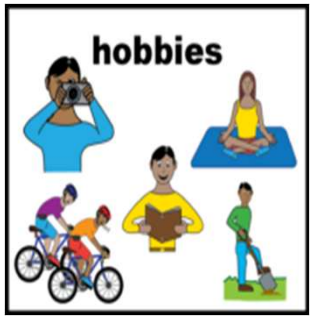
Joined-up services can use money, staff, and time better.

Actions in our plan: get ready for adult life





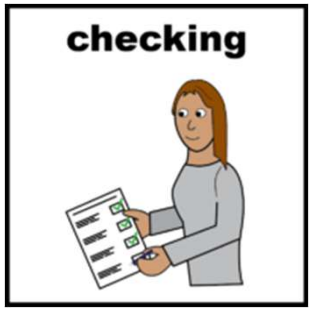




We will work to make more options for young people to:

- Keep learning or training
- Get into work
- Travel on their own
- Do fun activities and hobbies
- Find information about their options.

Actions in our plan: health at school





We will make better ways to check on health support in Leeds schools.



We will check all Leeds schools give the same good support.

Actions in our plan: alternative provision



We will make better ways to check on alternative provision for Leeds children and young people.



We will check that alternative provision gives learners good support to reach their goals.

Actions in our plan: better information



We will make it easier for families to find information about services and activities.



We will make it easier for families to have a say about our services. When we listen to families, we understand their needs better. We can change services to meet their needs.

How will we check our work?



We have set targets and goals for our work, like:

- Waiting times get shorter
- More young people get into training or work.





We will check if we reach our targets. We will also write reports about work we have done. We will share reports and make them easy to understand.

How will we check our work?



A new group will also check our work. It is called the SEND and AP Improvement Board. The Leeds Parent Carer Forum are in this group. They will check if things get better for families.



Inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission will also come back to Leeds. They will check if things are better.

How can you have a say about this?





If you want to have a say about our plan, you can:

- Share your voice with the Leeds SEND Youth Council or the Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Share your views about local SEND services here
- Take part in things like surveys that give you a voice. We share details here.

Thank you for reading!



Thank you for reading this guide.

Thank you to the Leeds SEND Youth Council who helped us with this guide.



You can tell us what you think about this guide. Can we make it better? You can tell us here.