

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Board Meeting	20 May 2026
Title of Report or Presentation	Local SEND Reform Plan
Executive Summary Section	
South Tyneside is experiencing sustained and increasing pressure across the SEND system, driven by rising demand and increasing complexity of need. The partnership has undertaken a detailed self-assessment, confirming that while strong foundations are in place, delivery remains variable and further system change is required to improve consistency, outcomes and sustainability. The Local SEND Reform Plan provides a clear and structured response to these challenges. It sets out a three-year programme of reform focused on strengthening inclusion, improving access to early support, and embedding more coordinated, partnership-led delivery. The plan also provides the basis for securing financial stability through access to the High Needs Stability Grant, which is conditional on approval by the Department for Education. Subject to endorsement, the plan will be submitted to the Department for Education in line with national timescales. Following submission, the partnership will continue to refine delivery plans, embed Year 1 activity and prepare for implementation at pace. Ongoing monitoring and reporting will be provided through established governance arrangements, with regular updates to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Corporate Transformation Board.	

Health and Wellbeing Board Action Request		
[Double click on box]	Type	Reasoning
☐	Decision Needed	If a decision is needed or additional funding is sought, please indicate whether a funding stream has been identified:
☒	Endorsement Needed	If an endorsement of a way forward is needed, please provide details: The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to: - Note the findings of the Local Area SEND Partnership maturity assessment - Endorse the priorities and direction set out in the Local SEND Reform Plan - Support continued system-wide alignment to ensure delivery of reform across education, health and care
☐	Information Sharing Only	

Health and Wellbeing Board Theme	
[Double click on box]	Outcome
☒	Giving Every Child and Young Person the Best Start
☒	Financial Security to Lead Healthy, Fulfilling Lives
☒	Safe and Healthy Places to Live, Learn, and Work

☒	Good Mental Well-Being and Social Connectivity Across the Life Course
☒	Fair Delivery of Service
☒	Public Involvement and Community Engagement

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