

Draft City of York Inclusion and Belonging Special Educational Needs Strategy 2025-2030

Executive Summary

We want to hear what you think about our plan to help children, young people and families in York. We want to know if this plan does enough to meet your needs, if the ideas in it make sense, and if there's anything missing or that could be better.

Our families have told us that this plan is about making sure every child and young person feels like they belong. Sometimes, words like "Special Educational Needs" can make some children and young people feel left out. So, this plan is about helping early, acting quickly when help is needed, and making sure schools and settings, doctors and health care providers, care workers, and community groups all work together to support all children and young people in York.

We want families to feel heard and want to help schools and other places be safe, welcoming, and supportive for everyone.



These are the outcomes we want to achieve for our children and young people:

- I am healthy
- I have a choice, and I am heard
- I am safe
- I achieve my goals
- I am included
- I can overcome challenges and difficulties on my own or with support

These are the standards we will meet

- We commit to being impartial, fair, and equitable, delivering honest and supportive communication to our children, families, and partners.
- We collaborate openly and courageously, offering both support and challenge to ensure York is a place where every child and young person feels a true sense of belonging.
- We are a partnership that improves, reflects and learns to ensure we make a difference.



Our top priorities over the first year are:

Priorities	Top 5 actions
The voice and visibility of children and young people and their families is more important than anything else.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure every child, young person, and their family knows what help they can get so they can choose what's best for them. We want to make sure everyone knows what the York Local offer is. • Check the information we give out to make it easier to understand. Make sure it's clear how to ask for help, who to talk to, how long things will take, and what support is available. Particularly with waiting lists for neurodevelopment diagnosis. • The SEND Hub will be a friendly place where kids, young people, and families can get help, learn new things, and have fun together. • We will ask children young people, and families what they think about the services to make them better. We will also keep families updated on how their ideas are being used. • Every plan made for a child or young person will aim high and always include what the child, young person, and their family want and think.
Children and young people's needs are identified and met at the earliest opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want all schools, settings and places that help children and young people (from babies to 25 years old) and we want to support them to include everyone. • We will bring together all the training for local authority workers, teachers, school staff, health workers and social care workers so we can work better as a team to help children and young people. • We will, make the SEND Hub a real place where families can get this help. • We will look at how we check what help children and young people need making the process for Education Health and Care needs assessments easier for families and settings. • We will build better ways to help children to talk and understand language early on. This will make sure children get the right help, are checked on regularly, and reduce the need more specialist support as they get older

<p>The right support is in the right place at the right time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will check if there are enough special places for children and young people who need extra help in York, from Early years, through to when they are adults. This includes support for children who need help with their feelings and mental health. • We will make sure the people who decide the EHC needs assessment fairly and the same way for everyone and make it easier for settings to use. This will help children and young people to get the right support faster and stop families having to go to a special mediation meeting or a tribunal. • We will work together with health and care teams to create more support for children and young people with sensory processing needs. • We will make sure children who have shorter school days have reasonable adjustments and the support they need. • We will help children and young people go to school more and enjoy learning by getting lots of helpers from different places to work together.
<p>Getting ready to live on their own and be adults helps young people with special needs have the best chances to do well in life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to make it easier for children and young people when they move from one stage to the next, like from school to college or from children's to adult services. We'll use the best ideas to help with this. • We will make sure that people who help children and adults share important information, so everyone gets the right support. • We will help teachers, doctors, health care workers and care workers to think about what happens when you are an adult so they can give better help when they review plans, including EHC plans for children and young people. • Every plan to help children will also think about getting ready for grown-up life and say what health and care support is needed at each step. • We will create more chances for young people to get jobs or internships with support in York.