SEND Operational Group/ SEND Improvement Board – Front Sheet

Suffolk Local Area Partnership Meeting: 20th October 2026 **Title of Item:** SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy **Item Author:** Gemma Morgan – Head of SEND Funding and Provider Services, Jamie Mills - Senior Commissioner (Norfolk and Suffolk ICB) and Harriet Wakeling – AD Strategic Partnerships and Children's Service Delivery **Item Date:** 20th October 2026	Current RAG Status Previous RAG Status (if applicable)

Purpose and description of item:

- To present the final Suffolk SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy for review and approval by the SEND Improvement Board. The strategy establishes a shared framework for how education, health, care and wider partners will work together to understand need, align resources, jointly plan services and improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

- The Suffolk SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy has been developed through an extensive co-production process involving children and young people, parent carers, education providers, health partners, voluntary sector organisations, commissioners and Suffolk County Council services. The strategy has been informed by Local Government Association-facilitated workshops, stakeholder engagement sessions, children and young people's voice, family experiences, data analysis, the SEND Needs Assessment, SEND Sufficiency Strategy and wider SEND Reform Programme activity.

- The strategy sets out a shared vision, principles and priorities for joint commissioning across the Local Area Partnership and provides the foundations for a more coordinated, needs-led and outcomes-focused approach to planning, commissioning and delivering services for children and young people with SEND. It also proposes the establishment of a Joint Commissioning Subgroup to oversee implementation and delivery.

This item is linked to the following strategic priority(s) (Delete as appropriate):

- Suffolk Local Area Inclusion Plan (LAIP)
- Local Area Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF)
- SEND Scorecard
- SEND Strategy (2024-2029)
- SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- SEND Sufficiency Strategy

What impact will this make to the lives of children and young people? The strategy aims to improve the experiences and outcomes of children, young people and	**What metrics will be used to evidence impact on children and young people? How is this impact being measured (use quantifiable data):**

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<td>families by strengthening collaboration between education, health and care partners and ensuring services are planned around need rather than organisational boundaries. Expected benefits include:

• Earlier identification of need and more timely access to support.

• More joined-up pathways and services across education, health and care.

• Improved access to therapies, emotional wellbeing support and preparation for adulthood opportunities.

• Greater consistency, transparency and equity of support regardless of where children and young people live.

• Increased involvement of children, young people and families in shaping decisions which affect them.

• Reduced burden on families to navigate multiple services and coordinate support themselves.

• Improved long-term outcomes through a more sustainable and preventative approach to commissioning services</td>
<td>Impact will be monitored through the delivery of the Joint Commissioning Action Plan and oversight from the Joint Commissioning Subgroup. Measures will be refined through implementation planning but are expected to include:

• Improved experiences reported by children, young people and families.

• Evidence of increased co-production and stakeholder participation.

• Improved access to support and reduced delays in key service pathways.

• Outcome measures linked to therapies, emotional wellbeing and preparation for adulthood.

• Greater consistency and equity of provision across Suffolk.

• Delivery of agreed commissioning priorities and actions.

• Quality, performance and outcome information reported through Local Area Partnership governance arrangements.

• Evidence of improved partnership working, shared accountability and joint decision-making.</td>
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<td>How and when will this item be reviewed? (if applicable):

• Regular reviews at the soon to be established SEND Joint commissioning Subgroup.

Lead Officer and service responsible for review and quality check:

• Gemma Morgan – Head of SEND Funding and Provider Services, Jamie Mills - Senior Commissioner (Norfolk and Suffolk ICB)
Harriet Wakeling – AD Strategic Partnerships and Children’s Service Delivery</td>
<td>What do you want the board to do? (Delete as appropriate)

SEND Operational Group: (10th September)

• For approval

• For sign off

SEND Improvement Board: (20th October)

Approve and endorse the Suffolk SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2026-2031 and support progression to implementation through the establishment of the Joint Commissioning Subgroup</td>
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Will this item be reviewed at another Board/Subgroup: Yes - a new SEND Joint Commissioning subgroup will be formed to oversee the delivery of the strategy and measure the impact of the delivery. The subgroup will be jointly chaired by SCC and the ICB.	and development of the associated Joint Commissioning Action Plan.