

## Harrow Special Educational Needs and/or Disability- SEND

# **(SEND) Reforms in Harrow – Working in partnership with our Health Partners**

**Special educational needs legislation is being reformed by the Government with new approaches coming into place from September 2014.**

The Government has recognised that we need to improve the way in which public services such as education, health and social care work together in preparing for the new Special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) Reforms.

This new legislation encourages the Local Authority (LA) to start to **build partnerships, and a joint understanding of the needs of children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities.**

We want to improve the outcomes of 0-25 year olds with SEN and/or disability and users experience of accessing support in this area.

**As Health Partners our aim will be for;**

### **The Local Authority (LA) and Health partners to work closer together**

The NHS Mandate (1) sets out the objectives for the NHS and says that:

“One area where there is a particular need for improvement, working in partnership across different services, is in supporting children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities. NHS England’s objective is to ensure that they have access to the services identified in their agreed care plan, and that parents of children who could benefit have the option of a personal budget based on a single (coordinated) assessment across health, social care and education.”

The new Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice 0 to 25 years (2) provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures including;

- Local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) must ensure that procedures are in place to agree a plan of action to secure provision in line with commissioners statutory responsibilities to meet a child or young person’s health need.

- Joint commissioning work will be presented as part of the local offer, and will capture the range of health services available relevant to children and young people with a disability.
- Health practitioners have a duty to bring 0-5 year old children who may have SEN or disability to the attention of the local authority so they can consider whether an assessment is necessary, and work with parents on this.

## **Health practitioners and clinicians must contribute to the co-ordinated Education, Health and Care (EHC) Assessment**

- Health practitioners and clinicians will contribute to the co-ordinated Education, Health and Care (EHC) Assessment.
- Health practitioners and clinicians will ensure health care provision specified in the EHC plan is made available in line with their commissioned role.

## **Health partners to contribute to the Local Offer**

- Health practitioners and clinicians will contribute to the Local Offer including ensuring relevant contracts with providers reflect the needs of the local population.
- The Local Offer will include information about health care provision for children and young people with SEN.

## **Joint commissioning arrangements to be developed between the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's)**

- In every local authority area there will be Joint Commissioning Arrangements between the Local Authority and relevant Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- There will be arrangements with NHS England for disabled children and young people and those with SEN who require specialist services.
- These joint commissioning arrangements will help to integrate educational provision and training provision with health and social care provision in order to promote the wellbeing of children and young people with SEN or disabilities.

## **Local Authority and Health Partners Working Together in the Future**

- The LA and Health partners recognise that there is a lot of work to do in establishing closer working arrangements
- We will ensure that children and young people with SEN and disabilities and their families work with us on this
- As partners we will work together to commission and deliver services
- We will also look at how we ensure that there are providers out there that are able to meet the needs of the local community
- We will look at pooling budgets to secure improved service delivery and efficiency.

- We will develop the option of personal budgets where it has been identified in the EHC plan

Find out more information as our website develops at

[www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer)

or contact us at; [LocalOffer@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:LocalOffer@harrow.gov.uk)

- (1) A mandate from the government to NHS England (April 2014-March 2015)\_Chapter 4.13 Ensuring that people have a positive experience of care
- (2) Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years Statutory guidance for organisations who work with and support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities July 2014