



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy (0-25 years)



in partnership with

Policy: 2020 - 2023

Logos to be added

Our Vision

“ Our vision is that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will be safe and happy, have a good quality of life and opportunities to fulfil their aspirations, develop their independence and make a positive contribution to society. ”

The Nottinghamshire Approach

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) believes in inclusion. Our systems ensure that the majority of children and young people with SEND receive their education in local mainstream settings and access resources without the need for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). To this end, support is delivered in a timely manner by those who know them and understand their specific needs.

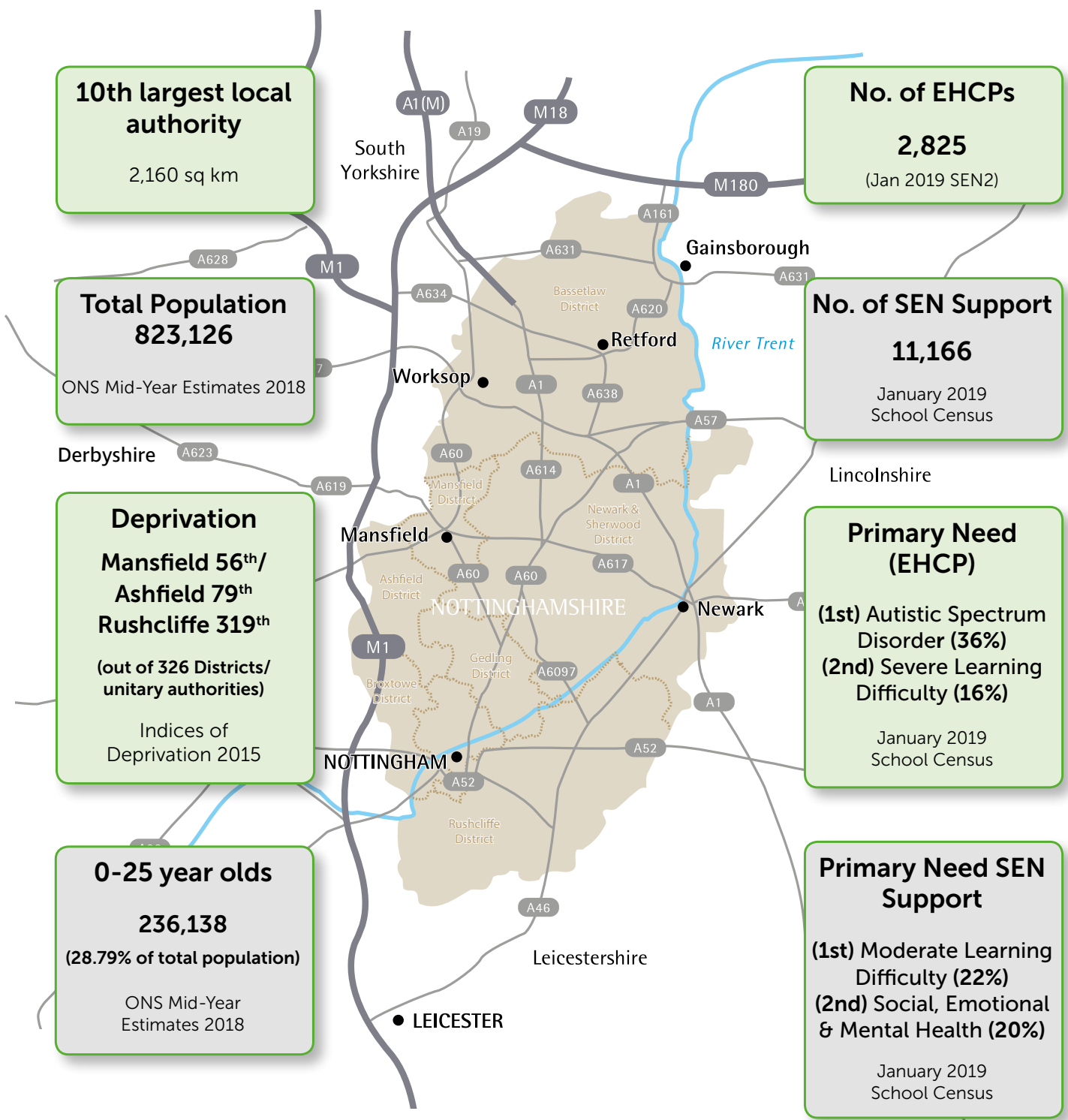
When mainstream settings are unsuitable, we work together with schools and colleges to provide high quality, specialist alternatives. Overall, Nottinghamshire has 11 maintained and academy special schools with a combined pupil population of 1,007.

These provide specialist places, accessible via the statutory EHCP assessment process.

Our commitment to inclusion extends into adulthood. Nottinghamshire's post-16 Further Education (FE) footprint comprises mainstream, specialist and vocational provision which supports successful transition into adult lives of independence, choice and control, and employment, where appropriate.

The Nottinghamshire Context

Nottinghamshire is a large, diverse county with some of the most affluent and deprived wards in the country.



Our Core Values/Principles

Nottinghamshire has a long and proud history of supporting children with SEND.

Our 10 Core Values/Principles are:

1.

Ensuring the child or young person's voice is central to decision making.

2.

Supporting collaborative relationships with key partners and services, including parents and carers, schools and colleges and other educational settings, health and other local authority services.

3.

Working in partnership to ensure co-ordination of services.

4.

Co-producing services with service users.

5.

Committing to improve the attainment of all children and young people, with a particular focus on the achievement and progress of those with SEND.

6.

Ensuring early support and timely intervention, following the identification of need, using a graduated approach to avoid escalation of difficulties.

7.

Maintaining inclusive practices to ensure that children remain connected to their communities.

8.

Preparing children and young people for adulthood at the earliest appropriate stage.

9.

Ensuring that children and young people with SEND attend good and outstanding schools and colleges, including special schools and colleges where appropriate.

10.

Allocating resources using processes that are simple, fair and transparent.

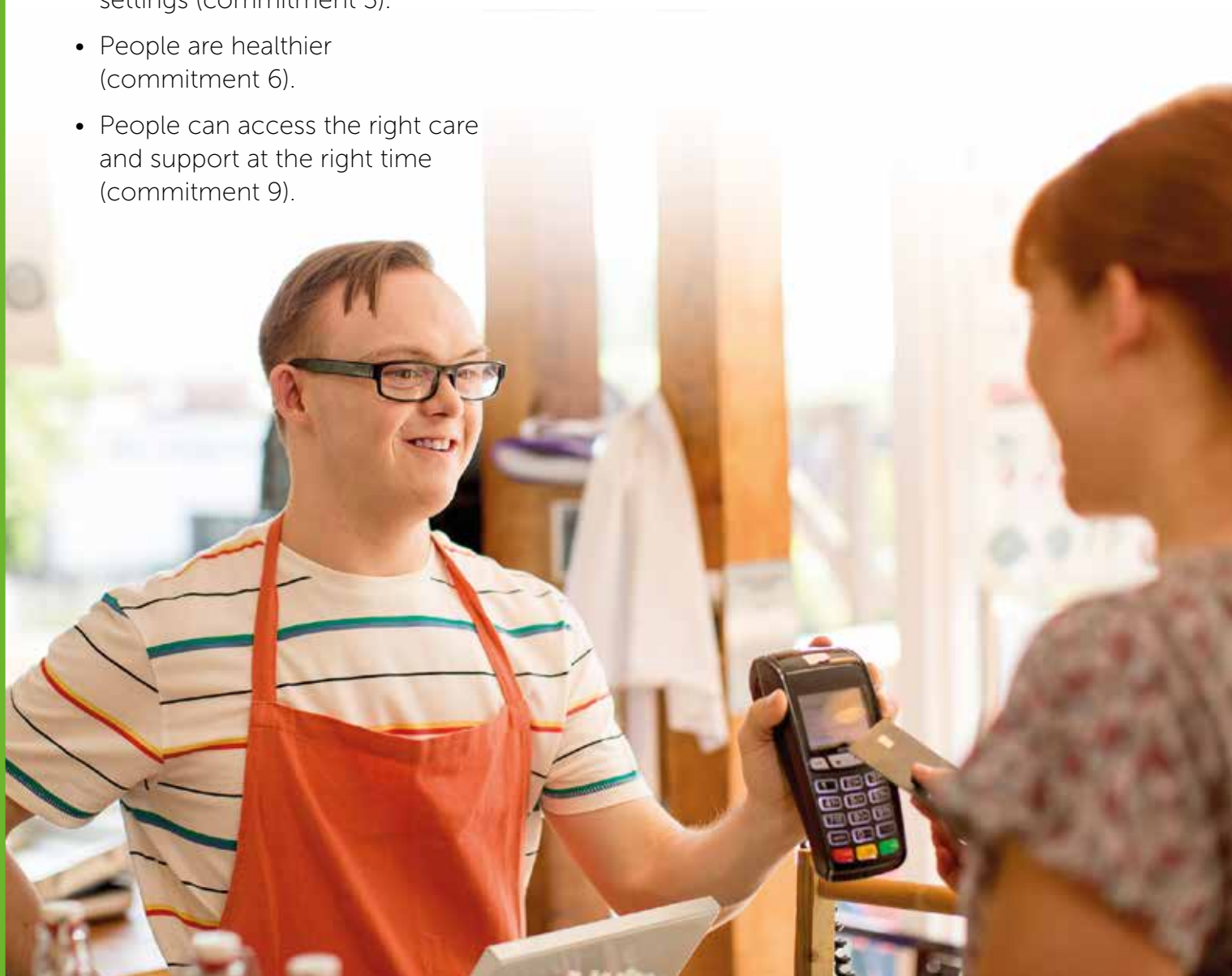
Our values/principles in practice

Adherence to our values/principles will contribute to the commitments set out in the County Council's Plan 2017-2021, 'Your Nottinghamshire Your Future' (**Appendix A**):

- Families prosper and achieve their potential (commitment 1).
- Children are kept safe from harm (commitment 2).
- Children and young people go to good schools and early years settings (commitment 3).
- People are healthier (commitment 6).
- People can access the right care and support at the right time (commitment 9).

We commit to keeping our core values/principles at the centre of all SEND provision and services.

Appendix B (to be developed for April 2020) contains the Nottinghamshire SEND Strategic Action Plan detailing the actions required from different services to fully adhere to our core values/principles.



The Changing SEND Picture

This policy builds on 30 years of learning and best practice developed in response to major legal and cultural changes in the field of SEND.

In recent years, the SEND picture has changed significantly. As a Council we must recognise and address the following issues:

- There are now more children and young people with SEND.
- The SEND needs of some children have become more complex, especially around social, emotional and mental health.
- New legislation stipulates that we must now plan support for some young people with SEND until the age of 25.
- In September 2019, the Government announced the launch of a cross-cutting review of SEND five years on from the Children and Families Act 2014. The aims of the review are to consider how the changes introduced by the Act are supporting children and young people with SEND, and to make sure they are being implemented as well as possible. We will take into account the outcomes of this review to inform the implementation of this Policy.



The High Needs Review (2017-18)

Responding to increasing pressures on Nottinghamshire's SEND provision, the Schools Forum and Local Authority commissioned an independent review of High Needs Block spend. The review, conducted in 2018, made the following recommendations:

- Engagement with parents and carers should be increased.
- The quality of mainstream SEND offers should be improved and made more consistent.
- Decision making should be based more in local areas.
- A more focussed strategy around High Needs Block spend should be developed.

- NCC should reduce reliance on high cost Independent Non-Maintained (INM) placements.
- NCC should make the case to National Government for an increase of Nottinghamshire's share of available funding.

Following the review's recommendations, the Local Authority consulted with parents and key stakeholders. Consultation feedback will inform the future planning for SEND in Nottinghamshire and particularly **where we want to be in 3 years' time**.



Where we want to be in 3 years' time

Considering our core values/principles, current challenges and lessons learned so far, we have identified **12 essential outcomes** for this policy:

1. Decisions we make about the education of children and young people with SEND will be shaped by their thoughts and views.
2. Decision making related to placements and curriculum will be of high quality, so that children and young people are better prepared for adulthood and are able to access educational pathways leading to the outcomes they seek.
3. Decision making will take place as close to children or young people as possible to promote local accountability.
4. Our plans and services for SEND will continue to be designed with children and young people, parents and carers, according to the principles of co-production, as outlined in Nottinghamshire's Co-production Charter.
5. Parents and carers of children and young people with SEND will be confident in the decisions that are made, and in the provision their children and young people receive.
6. Children and young people access appropriate educational provision, with or without an EHC Plan, so that they make continuous and appropriate progress from their personal starting points.
7. Transition arrangements across key stages and between all Children's and Adult services will be seamless and smooth.
8. The range of local SEND provision and educational settings will be broad, so that more children and young peoples' needs can be met closer to home.
9. Our approach to concerning behaviour will be consistent and restorative, so that such behaviour is viewed as an indicator of underlying need.
10. Our approach to social, emotional and mental health concerns will be consistent, so that needs can be met in mainstream settings and fewer children and young people with SEND receive fixed-term or permanent exclusions.
11. Technology and digitalisation will be maximised within the EHCP process, so that timeliness, transparency and effectiveness are improved, and parent and carer confidence is increased.
12. All partners will have timely access to appropriate continuing personal development (CPD), so that there is a high level of knowledge, skill and confidence in the SEND workforce in Nottinghamshire.

We will work with NCC staff, parents, schools and colleges and other partners to ensure that these objectives are implemented as part of **Nottinghamshire's Future SEND Journey**.

Nottinghamshire's Future SEND Journey

To fulfil the commitments made in this policy, we will follow **6 Next Steps**:

1. SEND Partnership:

- Building on and improving existing Families of Schools and School Behaviour and Attendance Partnership funding arrangements.
- Partnership working involved within, co-produced with stakeholders including parents and carers.
- Undertaking the triennial SEND review with a focus on Preparation for Adulthood.

2. SEND Provision:

- Developing enhanced provision in mainstream settings and special school hubs in special school settings.
- Increasing the number and capacity of Nottinghamshire special schools—building on projects already agreed (Ash Lea, Bracken Hill, Carlton Digby, Newark Orchard) and seeking Member approval to build a new specialist provision in the Hucknall area and another special school.
- Increase post-16 provision, including Supported Internships, leading to paid employment outcomes.

3. SEND Systems:

- Creating systems for locality working regarding engagement with parents and carers, SEND provision, effective use of SEND funding, specialist placements and EHCP assessments.

- Creating a system for local accountability.

4. SEND Achievement:

- Undertaking actions required by the wider Improving Educational Opportunities for All Strategy.
- Implementing the recommendations from the triennial SEND review.

5. SEND Workforce:

- Working in partnership with initial Teacher Training providers, Universities and Teaching School Alliances— so that provision for SEND across all partners is high quality and consistent.
- Further developing strengths-based practice.

6. SEND Communication:

- Rolling out the digital hub for the EHC process.
- Continuously improving the Local Offer, informed by children and young people, parents, carers and other key stakeholders.
- Providing a central resource of clear and consistent advice.
- Rationalising communication between SEND services, schools, colleges and families.



For further information contact:

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