

Equality Impact Assessment

Directorate/Division: Strategic Commissioning

Name of policy: Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2021-2024

Responsible Owner/Senior Officer:

Mark Walker	KCC
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Drafting history:

Version	Author	Comments
0.1	Rachel Britt, Senior Commissioning Manager	First draft

Pathway of Equality Analysis: Improvement Board (24th November 2020)

Summary and recommendations of equality analysis/impact assessment

- **Context**

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment is to review the potential impact of the proposed strategy for children and young people with SEND.

This strategy builds on the work of the previous strategy, published in 2017, and has been jointly developed by Kent County Council and the NHS in conjunction with children and young people, parents and carers, Kent PACT and other key stakeholders.

This strategy has been developed alongside the delivery of the Written Statement of Action and forms part of Kent's response to the inspection. Progress has been made to address the issues highlighted by the inspection, however, the document goes beyond the inspection and sets out how we will continue to improve the outcomes for children and young people into the future.

SEND impacts the whole family and are key to supporting the child or young person with SEND and helping them to reach their potential. We will ensure that support is in place to address not only the needs of the child or young person with SEND, but also their family.

This equality analysis will be revisited again after the consultation process to ensure it reflects any potential opportunities and impacts. This will be used to support the approval and decision-making process for the strategy.

Aims and Objectives

Once approved, this strategy will support the inclusion of all children and young people in Kent. It will deliver the following vision:

Our vision for children and young people with SEND in Kent is that:-

- they learn and grow by being well cared for, have their health needs met and lead happy, fulfilled lives
- families can reach the right people at the right time to support their children in the way that they need
- services work together with families to improve outcomes and the achievements of their children

The strategy includes the following priorities:

Priority One: Improve the way we work with children and young people, parents and carers.

Priority Two: Ensure children, young people and their families' have positive experiences at each stage of their journey including a well-planned and smooth transition to adulthood.

Priority Three: Identify and assess the needs of children and young people earlier and more effectively.

Priority Four: Improve education, care and health outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Priority Five: Ensure children and young people with SEND are included in their local community.

Summary of equality impact

This Equality Impact Assessment finds that there is a **low** adverse equality impact rating.


It is a high-level strategic document that is intended to be ambitious and positive about improving the outcomes and quality of life for children and young people with SEND within the county. Therefore, it has county-wide application and will have county-wide impacts.

At this stage after early engagement with stakeholders and before formal consultation, there appear to be no negative/adverse impacts on protected groups.

Adverse Equality Impact Rating: Low

Attestation

I have read and paid due regard to the Equality Analysis/Impact Assessment concerning **Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2021-2024**. I agree with the risk rating and the actions to mitigate any adverse impact(s) that has /have been identified.

On behalf of Kent County Council:
DMT Member Signed:  Name: Mark Walker Job title: Interim Director for Special Educational Needs, Disabled Children and Young People Date: 25 th November 2020

Part 1 Screening

Could this policy, procedure, project or service, or any proposed changes to it, affect any Protected Group (listed below) less favourably (negatively) than others in Kent? Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group?

Protected Group	Please provide a <u>brief</u> commentary on your findings. Fuller analysis should be undertaken in Part 2.			
	High negative impact EqIA	Medium negative impact Screen	Low negative impact Evidence	High/Medium/Low Positive Impact Evidence
Age	No	No	The strategy is a positive vision for what we want to do to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Kent. There is no evidence of any negative impacts. Any initiatives or changes proposed to deliver the priorities and objectives in the strategy will be subject to individual equality impact assessment and action as needed.	There is potential for the strategy to set out outcomes and objectives that promote equality for children and young people with all protected characteristics, and to promote relations between groups. A number of equality considerations that could improve quality of life for people with protected characteristics have been identified and have been fed into the drafting of the strategy.
Disability	No	No		
Sex	No	No		
Gender identity/ Transgender	No	No		
Race	No	No		
Religion and Belief	No	No		
Sexual Orientation	No	No		
Pregnancy and Maternity	No	No		
Marriage and Civil Partnerships	No	No		
Carer's Responsibilities	No	No		

JUDGEMENT

The current judgement to proceed with at present is:

- **Continue the policy** - despite potential for adverse impact or missed opportunity. Set out the justifications: there is no justification for direct discrimination; and indirect discrimination will need to be justified according to the legal requirements.

Internal Action Required

YES/NO