

Lewisham's local area partnership

Special educational needs and disability strategy (0–25 years)

2020–2023



It's everybody's business to be inclusive



Foreword

We are ambitious for all children and young people in Lewisham: we want them all to thrive and achieve to the best of their ability. That is why our children and young people plan 2019–2022 says that, 'Together, with families, we will improve the lives and life chances of children and young people, so that they can lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives'. For that to happen for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), we know that we need to make sure that, 'Lewisham is an inclusive community that is welcoming of all and has the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of children and young people (0–25 years) with SEND, to enable them to play, learn, work and champion their aspirations.'

For that aim to be reality, we need to achieve three key priorities:

1. Children and young people with SEND (0–25 years) and their families having access to good universal services and support, to help children and young people and parents/ carers to be more resilient and independent within their local communities.

2. Where they are at risk of, or already experiencing difficulty with health, learning and social care, they get early help through targeted services and support, to meet their identified needs and prevent their needs from escalating and enable them to achieve their full potential.

3. Those who have high levels of complex needs who have been assessed by professional(s) as requiring specialist services and support across health, social care and education, receive the right support at the right time by the most appropriate person and/ or service, so they can become as independent as possible.

To make these things happen, we need to recognise that 'It's everyone's business to be inclusive', to truly make a difference to our children and young people with SEND we need a whole-community approach. Accordingly, I am delighted to present Lewisham's second local area partnership SEND strategy (0–25 years). The partnership includes the local council, health services, schools, colleges, early years settings and the voluntary and community sector. Together,

the partnership provides a range of services, support and provision to approximately 6,600 children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities across the London Borough of Lewisham. The strategy sets out our partnership commitments across education, health and social care over the next three years.

Councillor Chris Barnham

Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance

Our partnership vision

Lewisham is an inclusive community that is welcoming of all and has the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of children and young people (0–25 years) with special educational needs and / or disabilities, to enable them to play, learn, work and champion their aspirations.

Introduction

This is Lewisham's second local area partnership, (SEND) strategy (0–25 years), 2020–2023. Our local area partnership SEND strategy builds on the work that we have already achieved. It sets out our shared partnership vision, priorities and commitments for the next three years and will play a vital part in developing services to improve life outcomes for children and young people (0–25 years) with SEND and their families. It also aims to improve the experiences that children and young people and their families have when accessing and receiving services.

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child or young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

Many children and young people who have SEN may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 that is '... a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

Children and young people with disabilities do not necessarily have SEN, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with SEN. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision they will also be covered by the SEN definition. Therefore, for the purpose of this partnership SEND strategy, the term special education needs and disabilities (SEND) will be used rather than distinguishing between SEN and / or disabilities.



Our new local area partnership strategy 2020–2023

Extensive consultation and collaboration was undertaken to develop this partnership SEND strategy. Outlined below is a summary, for full details of the consultation and engagement, please refer to the local area consultation and engagement report that is available on the local offer alongside the partnership SEND strategy document.

A monthly SEND working group was established with identified key professionals from health, social care, education and the voluntary and community sector to work on the development of the new partnership SEND strategy. This working group has been fundamental in scoping, shaping and developing this strategy.

We have also engaged with the local area partnership through a number of consultation and engagement activities such as workshops, events, surveys, meetings, coffee mornings and tailored activities for children and young people with SEND appropriate to their communication needs.



Our local area partnership

The local area partnership includes a range of key stakeholders. Outlined below are the organisations that make up the local area partnership. Within these organisations there are a number of key services that support and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. For a full list of the services, please refer to Appendix 1 within this partnership SEND strategy.

The local area partnership recognises and embraces diversity and actively works to reduce inequality and injustice for all groups



Our partnership key themes of focus

In addition, to the mapping need against the graduated response framework, we also scoped what we are currently doing and what we need to strengthen across a number of key areas of work, which are outlined below. This has enabled us to identify Lewisham's areas of strength and where further work is needed to improve these key areas of work

Early identification

Early identification is about recognising difficulties or issues at the earliest point and identifying what is needed.

Meeting need

Meeting need is about providing the right support at the right time by the most appropriate person/ professional and/or service to meet the identified need.

Improving outcomes

Improving outcomes is about being able to measure the impact or the effect of the support and / or services that have been put in place to meet need and whether it has improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Communication and engagement (including training)

Communication and engagement is essential for effective functioning of services and the partnership

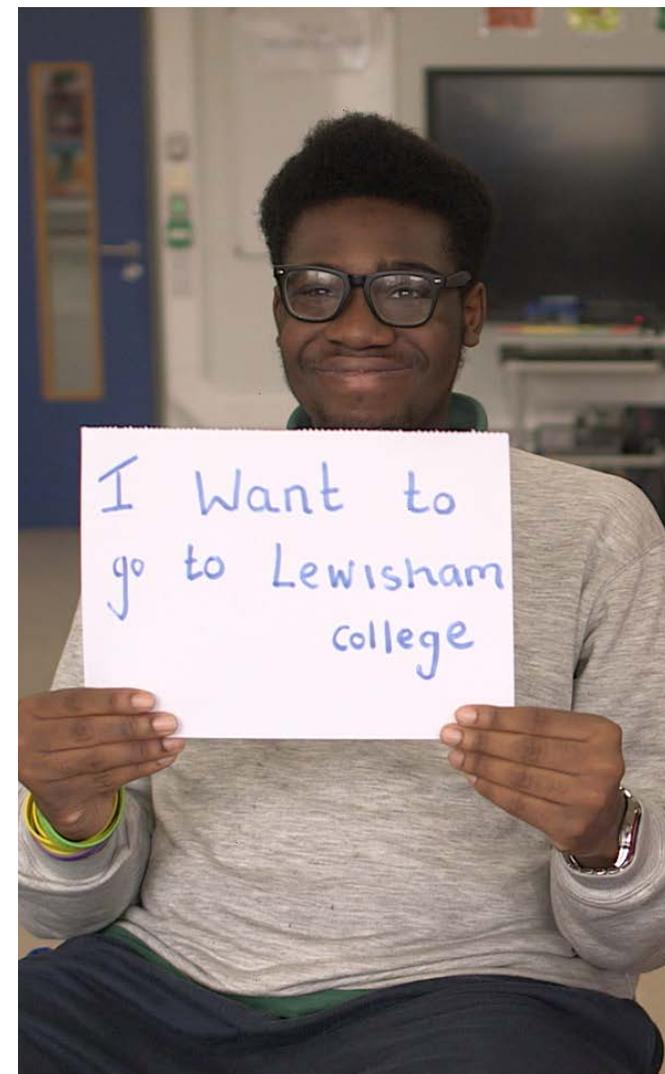
to provide high quality services. It also enables children and young people with SEND and their parents/ carers and professionals to be provided with information that can enable them to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND effectively.

Voice of the child and young person

The voice of children and young people with SEND must be at the very heart of services and we must listen to the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people when providing them with a service and/ or support and provide them with opportunities to participate of service development.

Multi-agency working

Multi-agency working leads to enhanced and improved outcomes and better services for children and young people with SEND. It also helps to reduce duplication and builds a more cohesive community.



Our partnership outcomes

The partnership has agreed a number of outcome areas that we are aiming to achieve over the next three years through our partnership commitments.

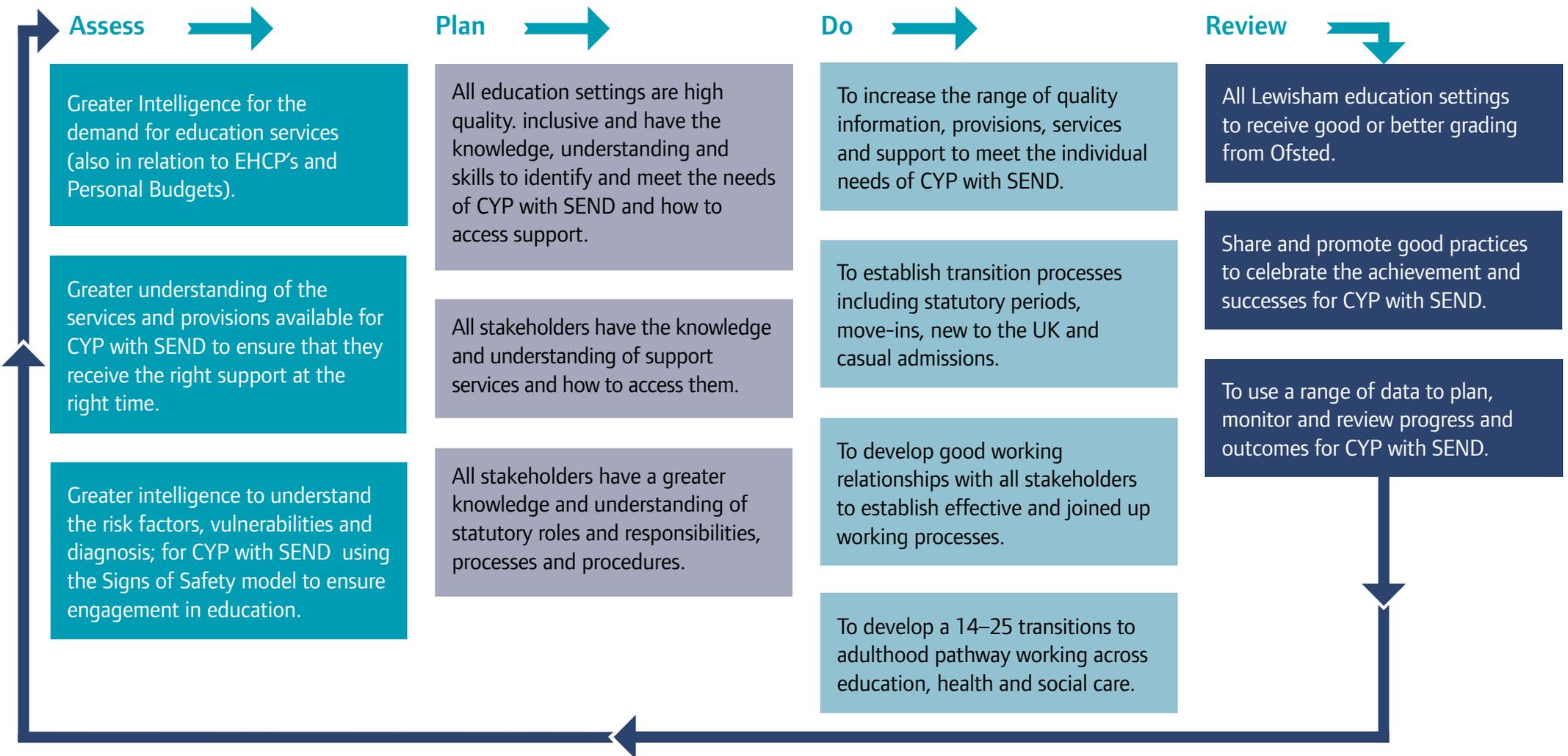
- 1 Informed and empowered
- 2 Prevention of needs escalating
- 3 Healthy and active
- 4 Socially and emotionally resilient
- 5 Raised achievement and attainment
- 6 Right support at the right time
- 7 Enabled independence and transition to adult life



We set out our objectives for education , health and social care under the assess, plan, do and review cycle striving to continually learn and work towards our partnerships enabling children and young people with SEND to meet their outcomes.

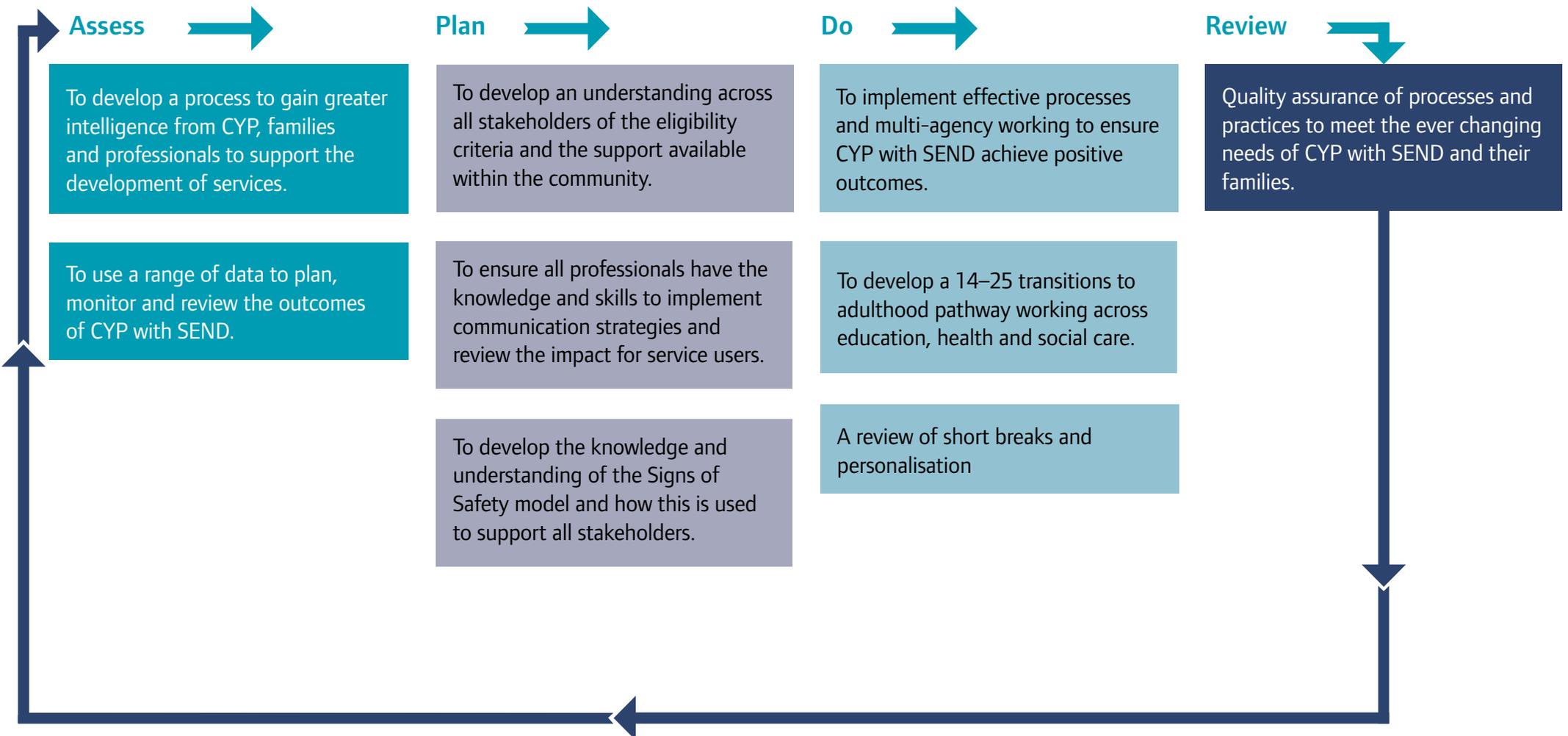
SEND Strategy 2020–2023 education objectives

The objectives will be worked towards using a continuous cycle of assess, plan, do and review as listed below.



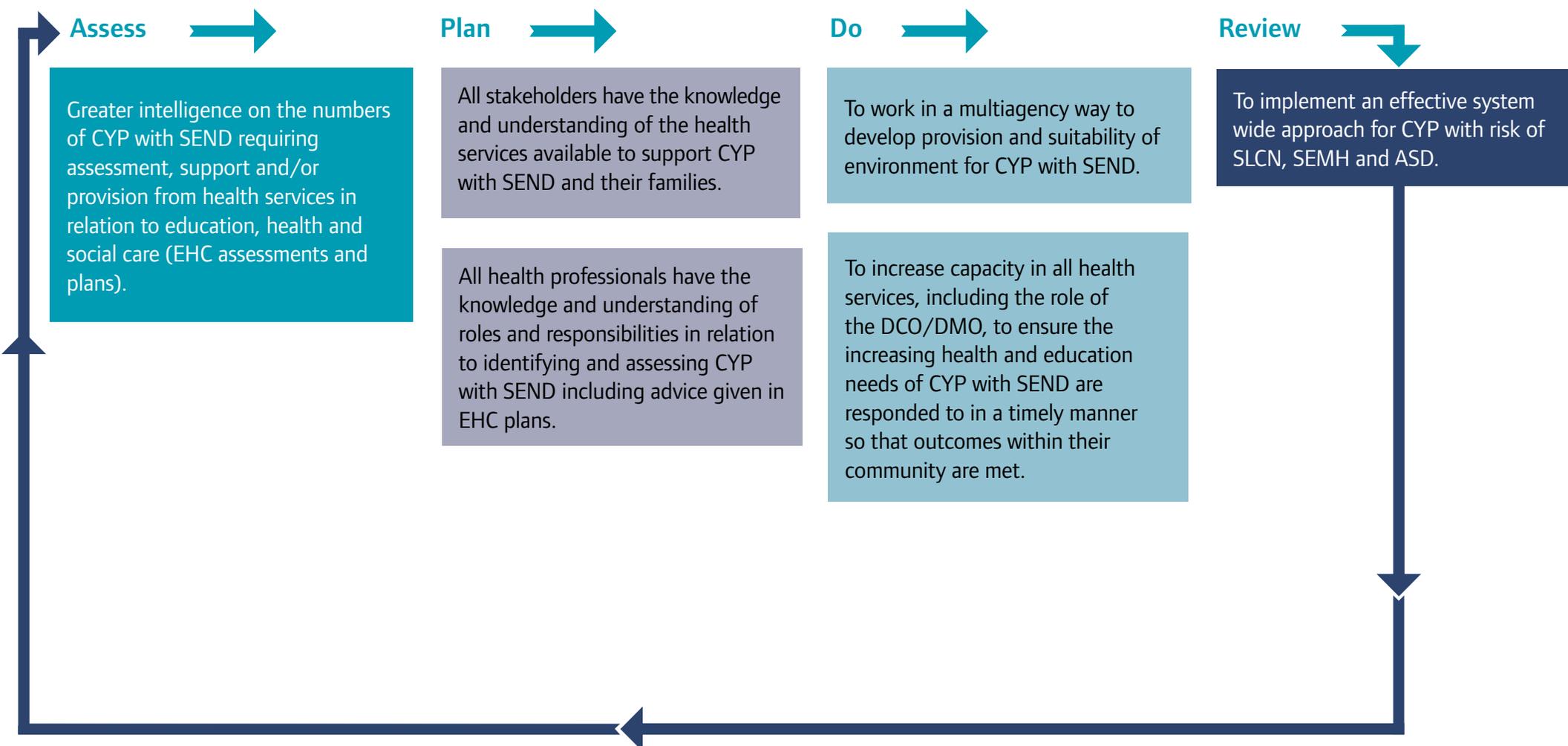
SEND Strategy 2020–2023 disability social care objectives

The objectives will be worked towards using a continuous cycle of assess, plan, do and review as listed below.



SEND Strategy 2020–2023 health objectives

The objectives will be worked towards using a continuous cycle of assess, plan, do and review as listed below.



Our partnership areas of work



Our partnership local offer



Support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

Visit our 'local offer' to find out about:

- health and wellbeing
- social care
- education and learning
- things to do and much more

www.lewisham.gov.uk/localoffer

