

Lewisham Local Area SEND Improvement Plan



An Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) and CQC (Care Quality Commission) Local Area SEND inspection was conducted from 23 to 27 September 2024, with the inspection report published late November 2024.

Inspection outcome and findings

Key points from the inspection report include a positive demonstration of the partnership's effective work, as well as recommendations for areas of improvement.

The overall judgement of the Local Area SEND Inspection conducted in September 2024 was:

“The local area partnership's current arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND and urged the partnership to work collaboratively to implement necessary improvements”.

The complete inspection outcome report is available for viewing [here](#)

Our Partnership Vision

Our vision for children and young people (0–25 years) with special educational needs and/or disabilities is that their needs, dreams and desires are met and celebrated.

Working collaboratively alongside families, parents and carers, in recognising the vital role they play in supporting their CYP with SEND, we will take a high-quality service approach with transparent pathways so that families can easily locate and receive the help they need.

Children and young people with diverse SEND profiles will grow and thrive in an environment that is not simply accepting but understanding of their needs, that they feel welcomed in among their neurotypical peers.



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Our Partnership Priorities

1

Children and young people with SEND are supported to build healthy, happy lives within their community; prepare for adulthood; and experience smooth and timely transitions, appropriate to their needs

2

Parents and Carers are recognised as experts by experience and their voices shape our services and service delivery

3

The partnership workforce has the knowledge and skills to effectively support children and young adults with diverse SEND profiles

4

The partnership ensures early/timely identification, assessment and effective planning to meet needs through inclusive practice

5

Information is shared effectively and there is good communication with CYP and their families



Strategic improvement Plan

This improvement plan has been developed in response to the Ofsted/CQC recommendation for Improvement outlined in our Local area SEND inspection report.

The plan has been developed in collaboration with all partners within our SEND local area. In the upcoming months, this plan will be integrated into our refreshed SEND Strategy, allowing us to report on progress.

Ofsted/CQC inspection report outlined three areas of improvement that focuses on: Preparation for Adulthood, reduction of assessment waiting times, EHC Plan quality assurance, gaps in services for children previously diagnosed with GDD and Integrating primary health care providers more effectively into the EHC planning processes.

Area of Improvement

1

Leaders across the partnership need to strengthen the support for young people in preparing for adulthood. They should focus on:

- ensuring that a broad offer for education, employment and training is available locally.
- ensuring that all those young people with a previous diagnosis of global developmental delay are correctly identified and added to learning disability registers.

Ensure that a broad offer for education, employment and training is available locally						
Ref	Aim	Action	Timeline	Responsible Partnership Lead	Outcome	Success Measure
1.1	The Preparing for Adulthood Board will establish and maintain robust strategic oversight to ensure positive outcomes for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) as they transition to adulthood.	Develop a preparing for adulthood strategic plan to monitor and evaluate the progress in young people with SEND transitioning.	June 2025	Head of Service SEND Head of Service Adult Social Care	Priority 1	Preparing for adulthood board is operational and oversees strategic improvement work against agreed impact measures. More YP have a transition plan from age 14.
		Develop multi-agency operational working groups that progress actions from the strategic plan and will provide a quarterly progress against actions, including potential risks and mitigations to the PFA board.	January 2026			Clear strategic and operational plans are in place and monitored, contributing to better outcomes for children, young people and young adults.
1.2	We will develop a multi-agency panel consisting of all relevant partners who will meet termly to review and plan for the placements of young people 16+.	Develop a multi-agency panel with relevant partners to meet on a 6-weekly basis to plan and review residential educational placements for learners with the highest level of needs Terms of reference to be determined with panel members. Develop a standardised data set.	September 2025	Head of Service SEND Head of Service Adult Social Care ICB DCO for SEND General Manager – Community CYP's Specialist Services /LGT Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS	Priority 1	Multi-agency panel is in place and has robust oversight of all placement decisions. Data should be predefined of good quality and relevance to the criteria of the panel.

1.3	We will ensure that there is a clear pathway for students with profound needs to prepare them for transition as early as possible.	Implement integrated processes between children and adult services to ensure seamless information exchange and planning starting at age 14.	September 2025	Head of Service SEND Head of Service Adult Social Care	Priority 1	Increase in the percentage of transition plans that include contributions from both children and adult services.
1.4	We will ensure additional post 16 SEN places are created locally, providing more choice to our young people with SEND.	LA and CtK 6 th form college will jointly work on creating discreet SEN provision for 20 learners who are leaving special schools.	September 2026	Head of Service SEND Principal 6 th form College Capital Projects Team	Priority 1	A new and additional 6 th form offer has been created for our young people, and the first group of young people is joining CtK in Sept 2026 for their studies.
1.5.	Improve local employment opportunities for young adults with SEND.	The LA will work with employers and colleges on creating more opportunities for paid work for learners with SEND.	September 2026	Head of Economy, Employment and Partnerships. Principal Lewisham College.	Priority 1	Local Employers have made more offers to local young people with SEND, destination figures will demonstrate improvement journey.
1.6.	Statutory SEN service and local Further Education providers will work collaboratively on building on the existing supported internship (SI) offer to create an enhanced supported internship offers for our learners.	We will create a wider range of SI's in line with expressed interests of our young people.	March 2027	Head of Service SEND Principal Lewisham College and CtK 6 th form Local colleges	Priority 1	It is evident that the work-based SI offer in Lewisham offers more subjects to study, including offers in Health & Social Care, ICT and Customer Services.
		We will double the existing SI offer.	September 2026			We will have additional SI offers for our young people across two colleges.

1.7.	Ensure the development of a wider range of curriculum pathways and subject options for KS4 learners with our local secondary schools.	We will work with our secondary schools and AP providers on ensuring a wider range of subject options is available to learners with EHCP's in their settings (ASDAN etc)	September 2026	Director of Education Lewisham Learning	Priority 1	A broader offer of courses is available, matched to learners abilities and needs.
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Ensure that all those young people with a previous diagnosis of global development delay (GDD) are correctly identified and added to the learning disability (LD) register.

Ref	Aim	Action	Timeline	Responsible Partnership Lead	Outcome	Success Measure
1.8	To ensure that Children and Young People (CYP) with a previous diagnosis of Global Developmental Delay (GDD) are correctly identified, converted to Learning Disability (LD) or an appropriate diagnosis and have their records updated.	<p>We will establish a Task and Finish group to develop the process / clear guidance that the partnership can follow to identifying CYP with a diagnosis of GDD, converting their diagnose and updating their records appropriately.</p> <p>We will develop and publish the new strategic and operational guidance of identifying CYP with a previous diagnosis of GDD and updating their records; Ensure that protocol is ratified by the SEND Partnership board.</p>	<p>September 2025</p> <p>July 2026</p>	<p>CYP Senior Joint Commissioner</p> <p>General Manager – Community CYP's Specialist Services /LGT</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p> <p>Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS</p> <p>Associate Director of Primary Care</p> <p>Principal Educational Psychologist and Manager of STEPS</p>	<p>Priority 3</p> <p>Priority 4</p>	<p>Task and Finish group is in place overseeing the on-going work.</p> <p>Clear guidance is published and sent out to all partners within LBL.</p>

		We will implement the protocol/guidance and monitor how the partnership identifies CYP with a previous diagnosis of GDD.	September 2026	<p>CYP Senior Joint Commissioner</p> <p>General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT</p> <p>Associate Director of Primary Care</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p> <p>Head of Service Adult Social Care</p>	Priority 1,3,4	<p>Increase in the number of CYP and Young adults with GDD diagnoses who have been identified and referred to relevant medical professionals for conversion.</p> <p>CYPs and Young adults’ needs are better understood and consequently are achieving outcomes appropriate to their needs which will be monitored via Outcomes sets in their EHCPs and Personal Education Plans (PEP).</p> <p>Children are well placed in settings that best meet their needs, and placements are appropriately secured for moving on to secondary school.</p>
		We will ensure that Young People who have had their diagnosis changed from GDD to LD are appropriately added to the LD registers and continue to monitor this.	January 2026	<p>General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT</p> <p>Associate Director of Primary Care</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p> <p>Head of Service Adult Social Care</p>	Priority 1,3,4	<p>Young People with new diagnoses of LD are appropriately added to the LD register which will be monitored via routine review of the LD register.</p> <p>Young People and Young adults with LD can access services to which they are entitled, which will be monitored via established baseline by the SEND Partnership board.</p>

1.9	To raise awareness of LD and Increase the uptake/completion of annual health checks for CYP from 14yrs onwards.	We will continue to work with CYP, families and partners to promote and celebrate the yearly LD and Autism Big Health Week to help raise the awareness of LD and uptake of the AHC for CYP with LD from 14yrs onwards.	September 2025	<p>ICB Lead for Community-Based Care and CCPL for Primary Care</p> <p>Head of Services CYP Joint commissioning</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p> <p>Associate Director of Primary Care</p> <p>Head of Service Adult Social Care</p>	Priority 1,4	An increase in the number of Young People with LD having timely AHC competed and monitored via the AHC established baseline data.
		LD Health checks continue to be incentivised at both a practice and PCN level and the ICB will support primary care to maximise uptake.	September 2025	<p>Head of Service CYP Joint Commissioning</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p> <p>Associate Director of Primary Care</p>	Priority 1	An Increase in the rate of annual health checks completed for CYP with LD from 14yrs onwards.
1.10	To ensure that the local Learning Disability (LD) Register held by GPs are kept updated and that key partners have relevant data/information.	We will update the LD Register held by GP bi-annually and ensure that key partners can access relevant data/information.	September 2025	<p>Associate Director of Primary Care</p> <p>ICB Lead for Community-Based Care and CCPL for Primary Care</p> <p>Head of Service CYP Joint Commissioning</p>	Priority 1	Young People and young Adults with LD are appropriately identified by GPs, which will ensure that they benefit from plans and interventions designed to meet their needs.

Area of Improvement



Leaders across education, health and social care should ensure that a multi-agency quality assurance framework is in place for existing and amended EHC plans. This includes:

- improving the quality and timeliness of input into plans from health and children's social care professionals.
- ensuring that outcomes, including those related to PFA, prepare children and young people well for their next stage in education.
- ensuring that EHC plans are routinely updated at key transitions and when there have been significant changes.

Improving the quality and timeliness of input into plans from health and children's social care professionals.

Ref	Aim	Action	Timeline	Responsible Partnership Lead	Outcome	Success Measure
2.1	Ensure all new EHC Needs Assessments undertaken will have a contribution from Social Care.	<p>Appoint MASH officer responsible for EHCPs</p> <p>We will review processes and develop clear pathway for securing and monitoring social care contributions.</p> <p>We will produce guidance to support quality contributions</p> <p>Review process for sign-off of final draft EHCP to ensure social care input is included.</p> <p>Social care contribution to quality assurance roll out is prioritised.</p>	<p>July 2025</p> <p>November 2025</p> <p>December 2025</p> <p>January 2026</p>	<p>Director of Social Care</p> <p>Director of Education</p>	Priority 1,4	Children and Young People's EHC Plans will provide a holistic picture of each child, and all needs are identified and met.
2.2	<p>Ensure the EHCP Quality Assurance work and tool (Invision 360) is rolled out to the wider partnership network, and all key stakeholders are quality assuring EHC plans.</p> <p>A delivery plan ensuring all partner agencies are actively involved with quality assurance will</p>	<p>We will roll out the EHCP Quality Assurance Tool to partners from Health, social care and schools over the autumn, seeking to engage volunteers from all agencies, parents/carers to be trained up by the summer.</p> <p>Each 'auditor' will quality assure three EHCPs' per term.</p>	January 2026	<p>Head of Service SEND</p> <p>General Manager – Community CYP's Specialist Services /LGT</p> <p>Head of Quality Assurance Social Care</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p>	Priority 1,3	Children and young people will have high quality EHCPs' in place, the partnership is reassured of consistent practice related to EHCPs' and parents/carers are satisfied with the quality of their child's EHCP.

	be shared with the network.					
2.3	All services contributing to statutory EHC Needs assessments have systems in place to ensure their statutory report contributions are quality assured within their services prior to submission to the SEN Service.	<p>Managers will set up systems in each service to monitor, track, quality assure EHCNA contributions/statutory assessment reports.</p> <p>Reports will be signed off by managers/team leads and termly reviews will be held in each assessing team to inform learning and practice.</p>	October 2025	<p>Head of Service SEND</p> <p>General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT</p> <p>/Head of Children and Young People’s Therapies</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p> <p>Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS</p>	Priority 1	<p>Consistently high-quality EHC Plans are produced which meet needs.</p> <p>Higher parental satisfaction with EHCPs, fewer complaints and/or Tribunal appeals over section B & F.</p>
2.4	A multi-agency quality assurance forum is set up, consisting of all key stakeholders, to ensure that learning from EHC Plan audits is taken forward across the partnership and improves practice.	<p>HoS invite leaders from across the partnership to join up a multi-agency QA forum.</p> <p>ToR developed highlighting how learning is taken forward.</p> <p>A bi-annual report will be provided to partners highlighting learning and improvements made.</p>	<p>January 2026</p> <p>Bi-annual</p>	<p>Executive Director CYP</p> <p>Executive Director Adult Social Care</p> <p>General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p> <p>Head of Service SEND</p> <p>Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS</p>	Priority 1,2,3	All partners have a shared understanding of the quality of our EHCPs’ and the quality of EHCPs’ are consistently improved.

2.5	Improve the number of EHCNAs which are completed by health teams with outcomes returned within the statutory timescale.	Redesign of the EHCNA medical pathway to ensure Children and Young People undergo a timely health assessment.	December 2025	General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT CYP Senior Joint Commissioner ICB DCO for SEND Head of Service SEND Associate Director of Primary Care Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS	Priority 4	Completed redesign of the pathway leading to a demonstrable reduction in the number of EHCP issued without community paediatric medical assessment advice.
		To investigate and evaluate the potential for wider health services to contribute to EHCNAs and agree a pathway for this.	March 2026			Regular ECHP quality assurance will show the range of health professionals inputting into ECHNAs is expanded / diversified, leading to children and Young People’s wider needs better understood by the professionals who support each child.
		Submit business cases for additional funding from July 2025 to increase the capacity of the workforce in community paediatrics, enabling more assessments to take place.	March 2025			The business case is approved, and Clinical Nurse Specialists are in post to increase capacity for assessment. More assessments completed within statutory timescales.
2.6	Staff in education settings will be supported with submitting high quality EHCNA requests.	The SEND Advisor Case Management system will be implemented across all Lewisham schools to facilitate detailed case discussions and to ensure Quality Assurance of	March 2026	Director of Education Head of Service SEND	Priority 1,4	Greater understanding across the partnership regarding universal and targeted provision and support (SEN Support), evident via feedback received

		<p>EHCNAs, continuing the progress made during the DBV pilot.</p> <p>Feedback on recurring themes identified by the SEN Multi-Agency Panel will be shared with SENCOs during the SENCO Forum on a termly basis.</p> <p>Dedicated training will be provided to new SENCOs, either new to their role or new to Lewisham, focusing on producing high-quality EHCNA submissions.</p>				<p>from training sessions delivered to various partners.</p> <p>High-quality EHCNAs, documented within the minutes of the Multi-Agency SEN Panel.</p> <p>Informed decision-making processes ensuring timely assessments for children when needed, with measurable improvements in meeting statutory deadlines month-on-month.</p>
2.7	To implement quality assurance measures and implement a tracking system to determine timeliness of partner contributions towards the EHC needs assessments and EHC Plans.	<p>Information shared across the partnership on the timelines of the EHC process.</p> <p>Clear guidance provided on expectations of timeframes for contributions.</p> <p>Tracking system will be developed by each contributing partner to monitor timeliness.</p> <p>Tracking system will be developed by each contributing partner to monitor quality.</p>	January 2026	<p>General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT</p> <p>Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS</p> <p>Head of Service SEND</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p> <p>Head of CYP Joint Commissioning</p> <p>Director of Social Care</p>	Priority 4	<p>A robust and detailed plan will be developed, implemented and shared by each contributing service.</p> <p>Continuation of the QA Tool which is used by LGT to contribute high quality advice for the EHC process. This is replicated for wider health services, social care and education.</p> <p>Statutory timeliness guidance is refined and disseminated across assessing professionals in the</p>

		Feedback provided monthly to the partnership on the timeliness of contributing professionals.				<p>partnership and displayed on the Local Offer.</p> <p>Continue the monitoring of performance indicators of the timeliness of the completion of advice and finalising of EHCPs.</p>
2.8	Headteachers and partners will receive an annual summary report of audit findings and learnings.	<p>We will provide Heads/ partners with feedback on learning and demonstrate improved practice.</p> <p>Dedicated training will be provided to new SENCOs, either new to their role or new to Lewisham, focusing on producing high-quality EHCNA submissions.</p>	January 2026	<p>Head of Service SEND</p> <p>Head of Quality Assurance Social Care</p> <p>ICB DCO for SEND</p>	Priority 3	<p>Headteachers are reassured of consistently good practice related to EHCP's and children placed with them. Schools have the reassurance that the EHCP's issued are 'fit for purpose' and can track the improvement journey.</p> <p>Positive impact on funding and placement decisions.</p>
2.9	To ensure that the 0-19 Service are notified when an EHCNA (Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment) has been approved for a child, and that the completed EHC Plan is shared with all relevant services, including primary care.	A robust process will be developed to inform the 0-19 service when an EHCNA has been agreed for a child and will incorporate the procedure for distributing completed EHCPs to the relevant services, including primary care.	October 2025	<p>Head of Service SEND</p> <p>Head of Service CYP Joint Commissioning</p> <p>Head of Adult Commissioning</p> <p>Associate Director of Primary Care</p> <p>General Manager – Community CYP's Specialist Services /LGT</p>	Priority 3,4,5	<p>Comprehensive guidance or protocol has been established for healthcare professionals, including those in primary care, outlining the EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan) process and detailing their expected contributions. This guidance also incorporates the procedure for distributing completed EHCPs to the relevant services, including primary care.</p> <p>All healthcare professionals involved with a child will have the</p>

				CYP Senior Joint Commissioner ICB DCU for SEND		knowledge that the child is undergoing a statutory assessment, fostering effective collaboration and ensuring the best possible outcomes for the child.
2.10	To ensure that our primary health care service are visible partners across EHC planning processes.	We will initiate discussions and organize a workshop to explore the role of primary care within the EHCNA. This will enable us to identify challenges and propose solutions, ensuring that our GPs become visible and integral partners in the EHCNA planning processes.	March 2026	Head of Service SEND Head of Service CYP Joint Commissioning Associate Director of Primary Care ICB DCO for SEND General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT	Priority 3,4	A comprehensive guidance document or protocol has been established for healthcare professionals, including those in primary care, outlining the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process and their roles within its Primary Healthcare professionals involved with a child will have the knowledge that the child is undergoing a statutory assessment. This will ensure enhanced collaboration, leading to optimal outcomes for the child.
2.11	Ensure that all newly issued EHC Plans have Health and Social Care contributions, including appropriate medical and CAMHS contribution when issued, and submissions to be checked via routine tracking system and regular random audits.	Review of processes in place and development of clear guidance for health (including medical clinicians and CAMHS) and social care contributions and send this guidance out to relevant partners.	March 2026	Head of Service SEND/ Adult Social Care ICB DCO for SEND General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT CYP Senior Joint Commissioner Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS	Priority 4,5	EHCP plans are issued with full health and social care assessment included, which will be monitored via routine audit of EHCP section C, D, E, F, G, H and J. CYP EHC Plans will provides a holistic picture of each child, with health and social care needs identified, and outcomes are achieved; monitored via timely review of EHCs’.

2.12	To ensure that all relevant Health partners across public health and specialist health services, and Children's Social Care teams access and complete training and information sessions on EHCNA processes and Quality assurance via the CDC website and local sources.	We will promote EHCNA trainings and QA process through multiple channels including emails, and attendance will be monitored by the partnership.	January 2026	Head of Service SEND General Manager – Community CYP's Specialist Services /LGT CYP Senior Joint Commissioner ICB DCO for SEND Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS Associate Director of Primary Care Head of Service Adult Social Care	Priority 1,2,3,4,5	Good uptake of training which will be tracked by services and the wider partnership at supervision with line manager. Knowledge and skills gained through the training will ensure colleagues understand the legislation and expectations at SEN Support level, high quality EHCPs are produced to meet needs and help CYP to progress to the next stage which are monitored via timely review and routine audit of EHCPs. The wider partnership has a greater understanding of SEN matters and can better support our CYP with SEND.
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Ensuring that outcomes, including those related to PFA, prepare children and young people well for their next stage in education.

Ref	Aim	Action	Timeline	Responsible Partnership Lead	Outcome	Success Measure
2.13	Establish process to ensure robust PFA outcome setting, involving CYP and families at all stages	Teams Platform (LA & B settings) to interrogate PFA outcomes in CYP's EHC Plans and annual reviews with a specific focus on Y5 and Y9 cohort to assist transition and successful move to the next phase of education. Annual review officer to be appointed to support PFS	January 2025 April 2025	Head of Service SEND	Priority 1,3,4	Children and Young People transition well into the next phase of their education and/or training. All partners are having regards to CYP's aspirations and desired outcomes.

		<p>outcome setting at annual review.</p> <p>Roll out of training for schools and settings and children & adults services on incorporating PFA outcomes in EHCP and provision delivery to meet need.</p> <p>Protocol for co-production with CYP & families in PFA planning and outcomes setting.</p>	<p>March 2026</p> <p>June 2026</p>			
Ensuring that EHC plans are routinely updated at key transitions and when there have been significant changes						
Ref	Aim	Action	Timeline	Responsible Partnership Lead	Outcome	Success Measure
2.14	Establish process to ensure robust planning and outcome setting to support successful transitions, involving CYP and families at all stages.	<p>Systems established to ensure that EHCP's will be updated following annual review when there have been significant changes indicated. Primary needs will be reviewed specifically in preparation for CYP's in phase transfers.</p> <p>Annual review officer to be appointed to be transitions project lead.</p> <p>Protocol for co-production with CYP & families in transition planning and outcomes setting Monitored through Envision QA process.</p>	<p>September 2025</p> <p>April 2025</p> <p>June 2026</p>	Head of Service SEND	Priority 1,5	Children's needs are met by their setting and children are accurately placed. Fewer EAR and placement breakdowns.

Area of Improvement



Health leaders should ensure that waiting times for specialist mental health pathways and neurodevelopmental assessments are reduced and that children and young people, and their families, consistently receive effective communication and support while waiting.

Reduce waiting times for specialist mental health and neurodevelopmental assessments.						
Ref	Aim	Action	Timescale	Responsible Partnership Lead	Outcome	Success Measure
3.1	Reduce waiting times for neurodevelopmental assessments.	Submit business cases for additional funding from July 2025 to increase the capacity of the workforce in community paediatrics, enabling more assessments to take place.	March 2025	General Manager – Community CYP’s Specialist Services /LGT ICB DCO for SEND	Priority 4	The business case is approved and (Clinical Nurse Specialists, Allied Health Professionals) are in post to increase capacity for assessment. Reduction in the number of CYP waiting over 52 weeks for an autism assessment by March 2026.
		Redesign of the autism assessment Pathway to reduce overall waiting time, co-produced with families, carers and young people.	September 2025			
		Piloting new models of managing the autism Assessment waiting list.	September 2025			
		Procure independent providers to provide additional capacity to support with waiting list reduction for autism assessment for those with the longest wait.	April 2025			
3.2	Continue to develop the prevention and early help offer for CYP emotional wellbeing and mental health to reduce the likelihood of escalation to specialist mental health services (CAMHS).	Expand the GP Youth Clinic Offer and align with the development of the Youth Offer (aligned with the Family Hubs 0-19/25 with SEND).	March 2026	Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS Head of Service, CYP Joint Commissioning Head of Service Prevention and Early Help	Priority 2,3,4,5	Maintain zero CYP waiting over 52 weeks for CAMHS assessment. A 50% increase in the number of CYP accessing GP Youth Clinics through increased service provision by end of March 2026.

		Expand access to Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in schools.	March 2026	Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS Head of Service CYP Joint Commissioning		Maintain zero CYP waiting over 52 weeks for CAMHS assessment. An increase of at least five schools with MHSTs in 2025/26 through the rollout of Wave 12. An increase of at least 10% in the number of CYP accessing MHST's direct 1:1s and group work interventions from the March 2025 position.
3.3	Improve access to combined neurodevelopmental assessments for autism and ADHD.	Review current pathways for within CAMHS and Community Paediatrics for autism and ADHD assessments to reduce duplication and for more holistic assessments.	April 2026	General Manager – Community CYP's Specialist Services /LGT Head of Services CYP Joint Commissioning Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS	Priority 2, 4, 5	Transformation plan to pilot a joint assessment pathway following the outcome of the review.
Develop consistent and effective communication and support for families and young people waiting for neurodevelopmental assessments.						
Ref	Aim	Action	Timescale	Responsible Partnership Lead	Outcome	Success Measure
3.4	Improve needs led support for families of children and young people with neurodivergence.	Evaluation of the All-Age Autism Wellbeing Service to include a feasibility of expanding the existing to offer to include ADHD, providing a broader	October 2025	CYP Senior Joint Commissioner ICB DCO for SEND	Priority 3, 4, 5	Business case for a new neurodevelopmental service following the review of the autism service.

		range of needs-led support to neurodivergent CYP.		Assistant Director - Adult Integrated Commissioning: Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Group Manager Children with Complex Needs		
3.5	Develop more practical needs-led support and information for CYP and their families while they are waiting for specialist mental health services and/or neurodevelopment assessment.	Co-produce with parents, carers and young people a model of communication and engagement, to identify what support they would like while awaiting an access to specialist services for assessment and support.	March 2026	General Manager – Community CYP's Specialist Services /LGT CYP Senior Joint Commissioner ICB DCO for SEND Head of Services CYP Joint Commissioning Service Manager Lewisham CAMHS	Priority 2,4,5	Information provided from parent and carers surveys about waiting times for initial assessment will show improving satisfaction with waiting times and care received. Parental, career, school and settings surveys will demonstrate increasing confidence that support/advice is being provided while CYP and families wait for their neurodevelopmental assessments and/or specialist mental health services.

Glossary of Acronyms

Acronyms

CYP	Children & Young People
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
PfA	Preparing for Adulthood
YP	Young People
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
DCO	Designated Clinical Officer
LGT	Lewisham and Greenwich Trust
EAR	Early Annual Reviews
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
SEN	Special Education Need
SI	Supported Internship
GDD	Global Developmental Delay
STEPS	Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychology Service
LBL	London Borough of Lewisham
LD	Learning Disability
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PCN	Primary Care Network
GP	General Practitioner
EHENA	Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment
MHST	Mental Health Support Team
ADHD	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
CCPL	Clinical Care Professional Lead.

