

<b>29<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>		<b>ITEM: 8</b>
<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>		
<b>SEND JSNA Update</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Andrea Clement, Assistant Director of Public Health		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Andrea Clement, Assistant Director of Public Health		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Dr Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health / Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children's Services.		
<b>This report is</b> Internal		
<b>Version:</b> 1		

## Executive Summary

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) assesses the current and future health and care needs of the local population and is used to inform and guide the planning and commissioning of health and wellbeing services. This JSNA update outlines the changes to the Thurrock picture of Children with SEND since the Children with SEND JSNA was published in 2018. It also reviews progress against the recommendations made in the 2018 JSNA and identifies areas for future work to further understand the needs of Children with SEND and how they can be addressed.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

**1.1 That Health and Wellbeing Board note the contents of and agree to the publication of the SEND JSNA Update 2024 on the Council website.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This JSNA update has been brought to Health and Wellbeing Board to obtain approval to publish on the Council website.

2.2 In 2018, a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was produced for Children with SEND. It sought to understand and demonstrate the different considerations relevant to Children and Young People with SEND in Thurrock aged 0 – 25 by providing a comprehensive evidence base of the current picture in Thurrock. There is now a need to refresh the analysis in this JSNA and assess the progress made against the recommendations to understand whether there have been any changes in the Thurrock picture for Children with SEND, and how far the

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needs of children with SEND are being met currently, from which to further plan and develop services to support Children with SEND.

- 2.3 Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is a broad term and covers a range of needs including behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, autism spectrum disorders and specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. The Children and Families Act (2014) defines SEND as encompassing all children or young people from birth up to the age of 25 who have "significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or 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"<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.4 We know that Children with SEND face greater disadvantage and higher risks over and above the experience of their counterparts who do not have SEND. Children with SEND are at greater risk of poor educational and social outcomes and therefore are an important group to consider when working to reduce inequalities and ensure that all children achieve their full potential in life. The challenges children with SEND face can be multi-faceted, which means they often require co-ordinated and multi-dimensional responses.
- 2.5 This JSNA update refreshes key data for Children with SEND in relation to number, demography, types of need, and attainment, comparing the picture in Thurrock to both England and CIPFA comparators.
- 2.6 The analysis of data indicates that both the number of children with SEND and proportion of children on the school roll with SEND has increased since 2018. The demographics of Children with SEND remains fairly similar and there continues to be disparity in gender, ethnicity and deprivation – disparities which are also observed nationally and amongst CIPFA comparators. Whilst the type of needs in Thurrock have also remained broadly similar there are some differences with England and CIPFA comparators such as a greater prevalence of children receiving SEND support but with no assessment, and a lower prevalence of ASD and specific learning difficulties for example. Attainment of children in Thurrock with SEND presents a mixed picture. In Early Years Foundation stage, attainment in children with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) has decreased since 2018, whereas it has improved in children without an EHCP. At key stage 4, attainment 8 scores have dropped in children with an EHCP (no change in children with no EHCP). GCSE results and attainment in Key Stage 2 has improved in both cohorts of children.
- 2.7 The JSNA update makes recommendations for future analysis and exploration in order to further understand the issues identified.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 3.1 The final draft version of the JSNA update was completed in January 2024 and was subsequently approved by the Public Health Leadership team and the Children's Directorate Management team.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/part/3/enacted>

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3.2 **Option 1: Approve the final version of the SEND JSNA Update for publication**  
The Board will note the contents of the SEND JSNA Update and provide their approval for publication of the report on the Council website. The JSNA update will provide an evidence base for the Council SEND team in planning and developing support for Children in Thurrock with SEND.

3.3 **Option 2: Provide conditional approval for the SEND JSNA Update**  
The Board will note the contents of the SEND JSNA update but request a review of the content of the document. Based on the understanding that these amendments would be carried out, conditional signoff for publication of this report would be provided.

3.4 **Option 3: Reject the final version of the SEND JSNA Update**  
The Board will note the contents of the SEND JSNA Update but reject the document in its entirety and request a new JSNA update be completed based on specific recommendations.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 Option 1 is recommended. In providing final signoff on the needs assessment update the Public Health team and partners will be able to publish the SEND JSNA Update, and the findings can inform the future development of the offer of support for children with SEND.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 This report has been shared with Public Health Leadership team and Children's Directorate Management team. Engagement with Children with SEND and their families and appropriate stakeholders is recommended to further inform understanding of the issues identified in this report.

#### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The report contributes towards the 'People' priority – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay, as the recommendations support improvement in the health and wellbeing of Children with SEND.

- building on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing; and
- communities being empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together.

6.2 The recommendations also contribute towards the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26 Domain 1 and 4: Staying Healthier for Longer and Opportunity for All.

6.3 The recommendations also contribute towards the Brighter Futures Strategy priorities:

- i) Strategic Priority 1: All children are able to achieve their potential, focusing on education and skills
- ii) Strategic Priority 2: Children are able to access the services they need to stay healthy
- iii) Strategic Priority 4: Children and their families experience good emotional health and wellbeing

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## 7. Implications

### 7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Bradley Herbert**  
**Finance Manager - ASC & Public Health**  
**8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

There are no direct financial implications of the content within the JSNA update and providing approval for its publication on the Council website. However, the SEND JSNA update indicates that the number of children with SEND has increased since 2018 and this is likely to continue into the future. This will result in a need for greater capacity in support services for Children with SEND, and the Council will therefore need to ensure that the appropriate resources are available to meet this need whilst ensuring that the quality of services is not compromised.

### 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Daniel Longe,**  
**Principal Solicitor,**  
**16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Section 196 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 imposes an obligation on local authorities to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board to exercise the functions of the local authority and its partner integrated care boards (ICBs) to carry out the functions imposed upon it under sections 116 to 116B of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

In accordance with The Health and Wellbeing Boards Guidance 2022, HWBs are required to: “lead action at place level to improve people’s lives and remain responsible for promoting greater integration and partnership between the NHS, public health and local government”. These are achieved by HWBs carrying out: Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JLHWSs).

This report is therefore prepared in furtherance of the public sector duty imposed under the abovementioned legislation. The recommendation is that the Board should note the contents of the JSNA and to approve its publication. This is within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**  
**Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer**  
**9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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Children with SEND face greater disadvantage and higher risks over and above the experience of their counterparts who do not have SEND. Children with SEND are at greater risk of poor educational and social outcomes and therefore are an important group to consider when working to reduce inequalities and ensure that all children achieve their full potential in life. The SEND JSNA update aims to increase knowledge of children experiencing or at risk of experiencing inequality due to the presence of SEND, regardless of protected characteristics.

This JSNA update identifies a number of groups in which prevalence of identified SEND is higher, such as males, children living in more deprived areas of Thurrock and children in certain ethnic groups. It makes recommendations to further understand these differences so that plans can be formed to improve accessibility to assessment and support for affected groups.

#### 7.4 **Risks**

#### 7.5 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

The SEND JSNA update focuses on identifying inequality caused by the presence of SEND. By virtue of this approach, higher risk groups that are most affected by SEND can be targeted for support.

#### 8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Children with SEND 2018 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

#### 9. **Appendices to the report**

- SEND JSNA Update 2024

#### **Report Author:**

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Public Health

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