

## **Joint Statement from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Solihull Parent Carer Voice on Local Area SEND Reform Plans**

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Solihull Parent Carer Voice are committed to working in partnership to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and to ensure that families are meaningfully involved in shaping services.

In March 2026, the Government asked every area to create a Local Area SEND Reform Plan as part of national SEND and Alternative Provision changes. Solihull must submit a draft plan in mid-May 2026 and a final version to the DfE in mid-June 2026.

The plan will set out how SEND services in Solihull will improve over the next few years. It will include:

- A shared vision for SEND in Solihull (based upon our co-produced additional needs strategy)
- Where we want to be in three years' time
- The main priorities and actions to get there
- How decisions will be made and who is responsible
- Plans for the new Experts at Hand offer – where Solihull is receiving £1.8m in the 2026/27 financial year to create an offer which builds capacity in all early years settings, schools and Post 16 providers by changing how educational psychology, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, special schools and alternative provision will work together to support schools in the next three years
- Plans for helping schools to set up and make the best use of Inclusion Support Bases so pupils with SEND attending a mainstream school can access the support they need, when they need it
- Plans for creating new Inclusion Specialist Bases so children with EHCPs can receive the specialist provision they need in a base included in a local mainstream school
- Plans to create more consistency in the ordinarily available offer in all settings in the borough

The Plan is being developed by a partnership of organisations, including the Council, NHS services, schools and other local partners.

The final plan must be formally signed off by senior leaders from the council and local NHS. It does not need to be signed off by Parent Carer Forums, but SPCV will have a say in the content included for Solihull and will be asked to agree the plan.

Solihull Parent Carer Voice has been championing families' voices throughout the development of the draft plan. SPCV have been listening to families' views about both

the national SEND reforms and local services in Solihull and have used this feedback to shape what has been said during the plan's development.

The national timescales are very tight and do not allow for full co-production or wider consultation on the plan. However, as a Local Area Partnership, we have worked as hard as possible to involve families, as well as schools, health, education, and social care partners, in developing the plan.

In Solihull, we are committed to working together (co-production) with children, young people, parents, and carers to develop this plan. We know that real improvements will only happen if we listen, work openly together, and share the same goals.

Our aim is to create a plan that reflects what families in Solihull need and want and leads to real improvements in support, services, and outcomes.

It is important to know that the submission of the plan DfE only really marks the start of this long journey. Over the next year we will be carrying out further engagement and co-production with more settings, parent carers, young people and other stakeholders to make sure the plans are the right ones, make changes where we need to, and learn more from new ideas are working well and what we need to do more of.

Whilst there has been a focus this term on writing a plan for the DfE; our overall partnership commitment to make Solihull a place where all children feel they belong, feel seen, supported and valued, so they can achieve and thrive in their own way, remains resolute.

We will continue this journey together.

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council**  
**Solihull Parent Carer Voice**



