Derbyshire Local Area SEND Strategic Joint Commissioning

Partnership Agreement 2026 – 2029

Where every child is able to follow their dreams, be valued for who they are, be safe, and know they belong.

(replaces Derbyshire Joint Commissioning Strategy SEND 2022-2025)



DERBYSHIRE County Council

NHS
Derby and Derbyshire
Integrated Care Board

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What is joint commissioning…?

Joint commissioning is a process by which local area partners align all available resources to identify, plan, implement and evaluate services to improve outcomes for children and young people, across Derbyshire, in the most efficient, effective and sustainable way

Joint commissioning arrangements are set out in Section 3.11 of the SEND Code of Practice (2104) requires local areas to have joint commissioning arrangements for activities such as Education Health Care (EHC) Needs Assessments, securing provision specified in the EHC Plan and agreeing Personal (Health) Budgets (PHB).

Joint commissioning arrangements must also deliver positive outcomes for children and young people through to adulthood and improve planning for transition points, including between early years, schools and college and between children's and adult social care and/or health services.

Through this, The Local Area SEND Strategic Joint Commissioning Partnership Agreement has been co-produced and it sets out how the Local Area SEND Strategic Partnership will ensure that the best possible services are in place to enable children and young people with SEN or disabilities to feel/be/have

- Belonging, relationships and community
- Healthy
- Opportunities and experience, achieving and preparation for the future
- Support (being and feeling)
- Heard, respected and valued
- Safety (being and feeling, at home, at school and in the community)

Diagram 1: The Commissioning Cycle



Applying the Joint Commissioning Cycle to Derbyshire

This document will now focus on each stage of this cycle explaining how this applies to the joint commissioning practices in Derbyshire.

The Joint Commissioning Cycle

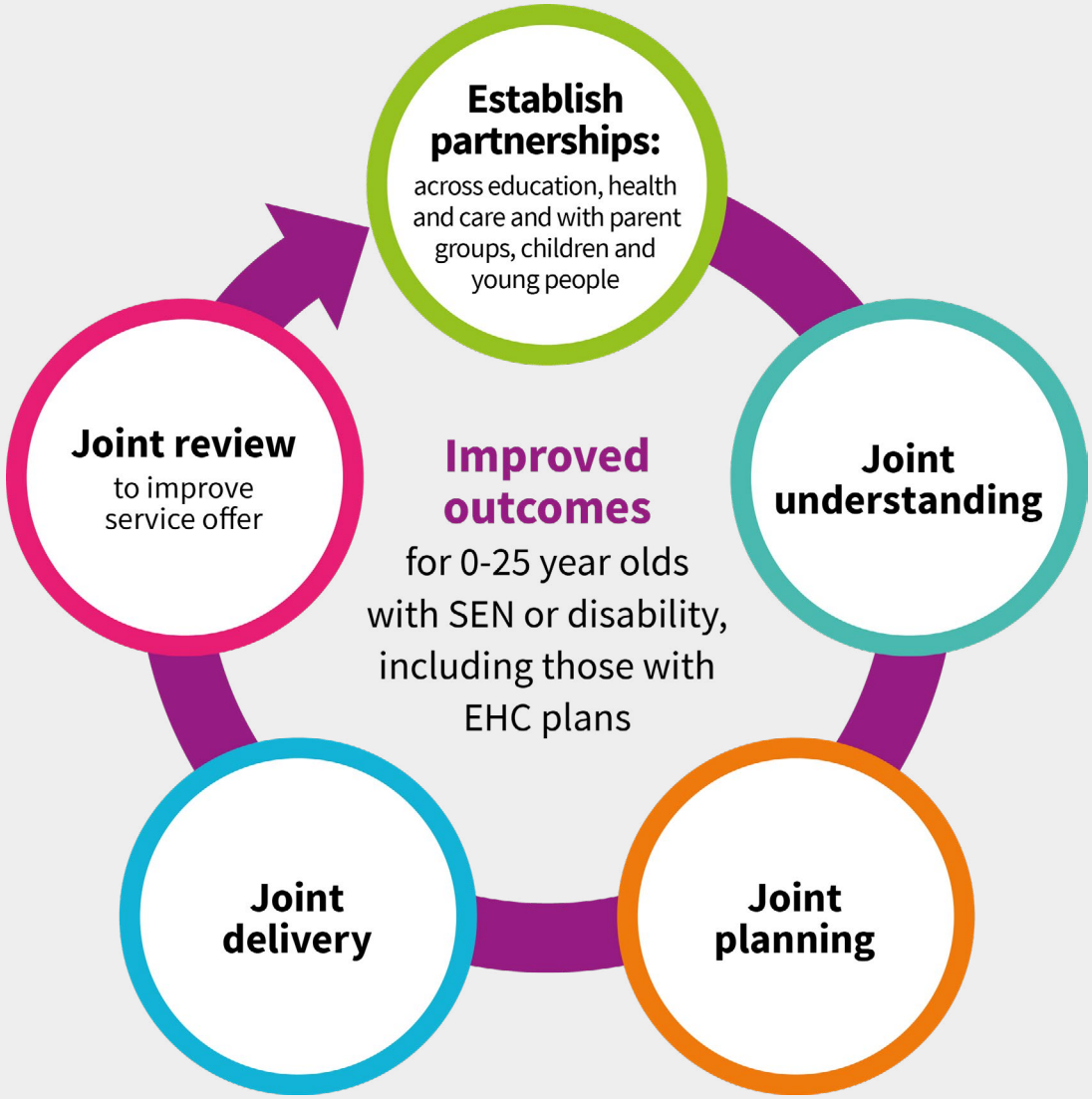


Diagram 2: The Joint Commissioning Cycle (SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf, P41)

Derbyshire Local Area SEND Strategic Partnership Joint Commissioning Hub

Supporting 0-25 year olds with SEN or disabilities with or without an EHC plan.

- Derbyshire Local Area SEND Strategic Partnership Joint Commissioning Hub – supporting 0-25 year olds with SEN or disabilities with or without an EHC plan
- The Local Area SEND Strategic Partnership Joint Commissiong Hub brings together key stakeholders from across the local area to deliver the Local Area Joint Commissioning Plan. They work together to ensure that :
- There is a co-ordinated approach across Education. Health and Social Care to commission services to achieve positive outcomes.
- There is a wider focus on service commissioning - individual packages of support are commissioned through other mechanisms as described in the Joint Commissioning Processes Document (see Appendix 1)
- All available data and intelligence, including the voice of children, young people and their families is used to inform commissioning intentions and plans, ensuring that they are aligned to the local area SEND Strategy.
- The local area is promoting all available service provision, to children, young people, their families and other professionals.
- The current service provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities is jointly reviewed and evaluated and the local area's joint strategic partnership commissioning intentions are updated as required.

The Joint Commissioning Cycle



How do we engage with our stakeholders…?

We follow the principles of the Co-produced Derbyshire Engagement and Participation Charter.

We always aim to strengthen engagement and ensure it is on-going through representation at the Joint Commissioning Hub (please refer to Derbyshire Joint Commissioning Strategy SEND - Derbyshire Local Offer) meeting.

We use already established engagement methods to gather data and intelligence around delivery of services and to avoid duplication.

The Local Area SEND Strategic Partnership includes…

- Derbyshire Adult Social Care
- Derbyshire Children and Young People's Social Care
- Derbyshire Education Team
- Derbyshire Public Health
- NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board
- Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice
- Education providers
- Department for Education Advisors

The Joint Commissioning Cycle

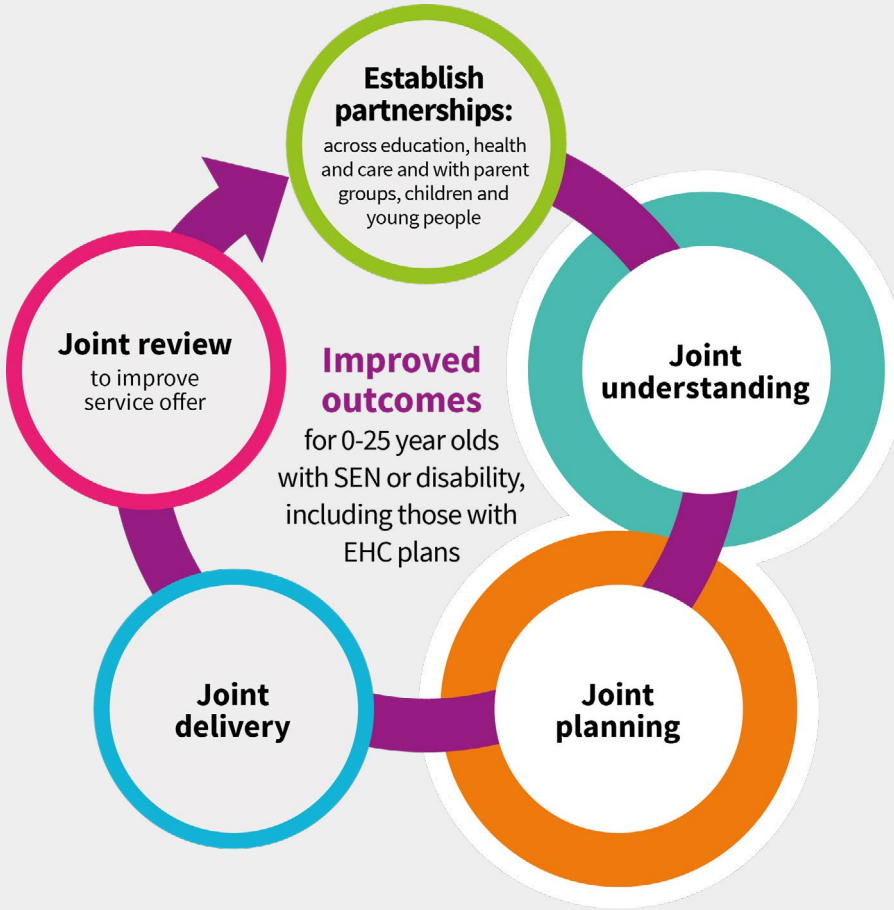


How do our partnerships work together to support joint planning and joint understanding?

The Local Area SEND Strategic Partnership Joint Commissiong Hub work jointly to ensure the following principles are evidenced in commissioning decisions:

- **Needs-Led approach** using a range of qualitative and quantitative data, including the SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the voice of children, young people and their parents.
- **Collaboration** to ensure services are jointly planned and funded by education, health and social care.
- **Early identification and intervention** to ensure that children, young people and their families get the right support as early as possible.
- **Shared and improved outcomes** across education, health and social care.
- **Pathways that lead to personalisation and choice** to ensure that services offer flexible options tailored to individual needs.
- **Transparency and accountability** for commissioning decisions, outcomes and impact.
- **Participation and Co-Production** to actively involve children, young people and their families in the commissioning cycle.
- **Integrated Delivery and Review** across education, health and social care.

The Joint Commissioning Cycle



Derbyshire's current joint understanding…

Qualifying our rationale



The latest data from 2023 Office for National Statistics (ONS) data estimates **Derbyshire's population to be 811,449, of which 246,217 are children and young people** aged 0-24yrs. While Derbyshire's overall child population has grown over the last 5 years by 1.9% it is a slower growth rate than in England (2.3%) and the overall population of children has fallen by 0.3% (0.2% fall nationally).

2025 JSNA data indicates: **15.6% of school aged children are receiving SEN Support (January 2024)** with Social, Emotional and Mental Health as the most common reason for support, followed by Moderate Learning Difficulty and then speech, language and communication needs.





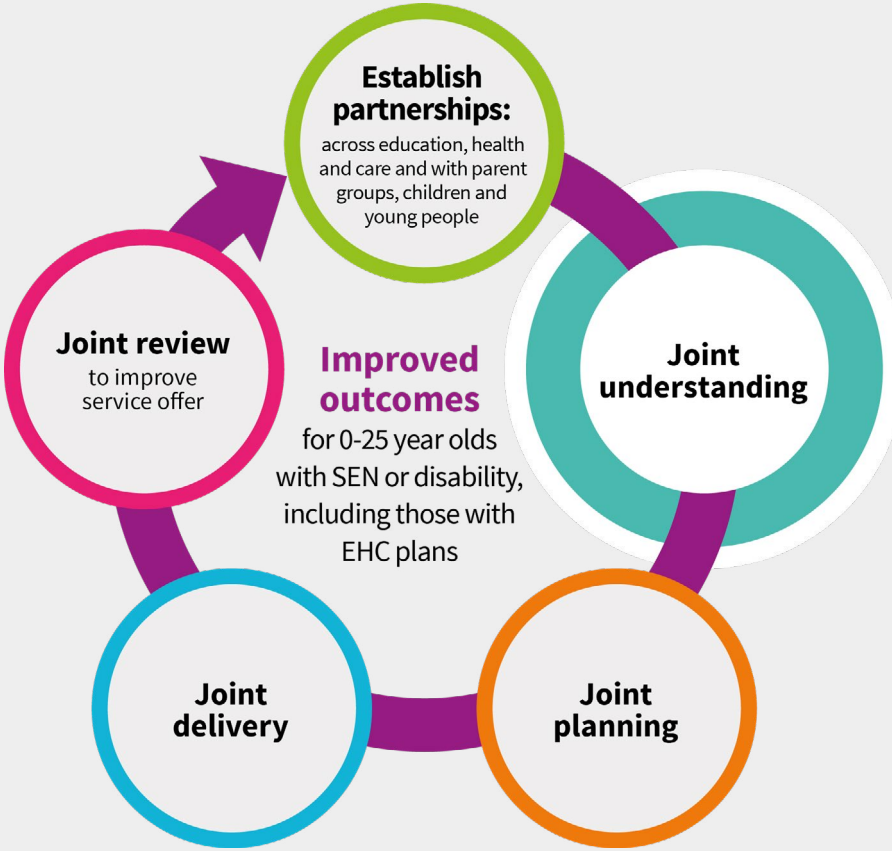
Children with SEN support and EHCPs are more likely to be persistent absentees compared to those without SEN. **There are also increasing numbers of children with SEN being electively home educated** and missing from education, however this trend can also be seen for pupils overall.

2025 JSNA data indicates: **Derbyshire has higher SEN support rates than England** and Statistical Neighbours. The reasons for this are not clear.



Data sources: SEND_Local_Data_Review_2025.pdf

The Joint Commissioning Cycle



Derbyshire's current joint understanding…

Qualifying our rationale

Local analysis has not yet been undertaken to understand the link between poverty and SEN. However, **national evidence shows that children from low-income families are more likely than their peers to be born with inherited SEND**, are more likely to develop some forms of SEN in childhood and are less likely to move out of SEN categories while at school.

2025 JSNA data indicates: **White British children and young people may be over-represented** in the SEN system – although further investigation is required before more robust conclusion can be drawn.

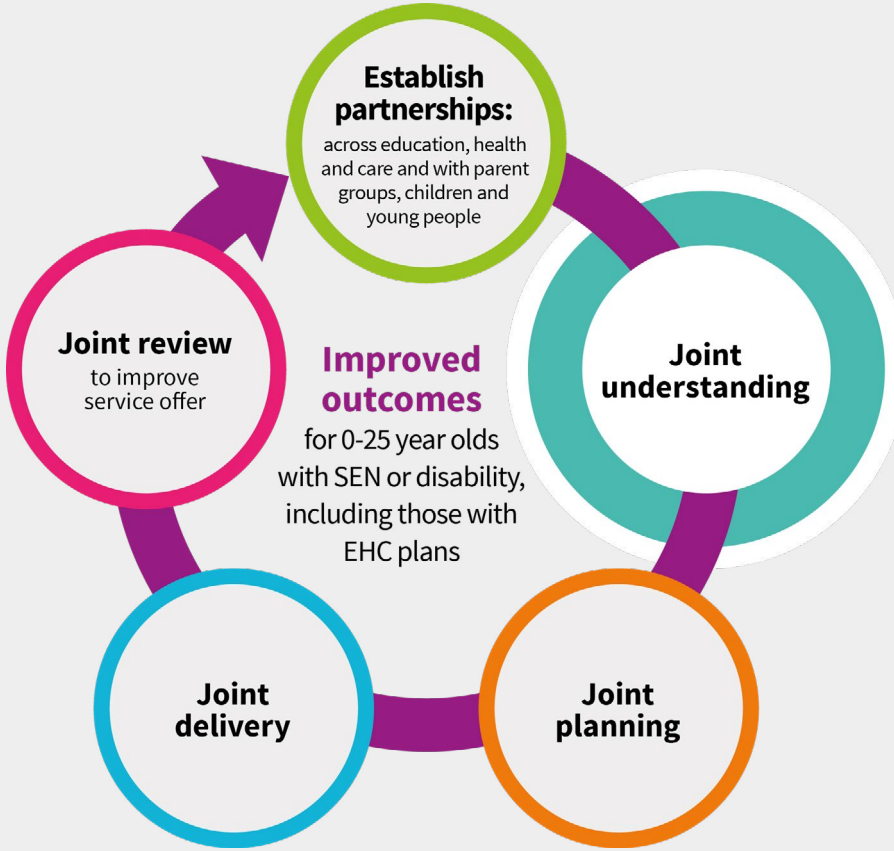
2025 JSNA data indicates: **4.3% of school agreed children have an Education, Health Care Plan** with Autism as the most common reason for needing a plan followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health, followed by speech, language and communication needs

The 2021 Census collects wider data than SEND registers as they include self-reported data which suggests that **9.2% of 0-24 years olds in Derbyshire were living with a disability** as defined by the Equality Act.

2025 JSNA data indicates: **In Derbyshire SEN is more prevalent in males than females** and 9.7% of males aged 0-24 years have a disability compared to 8.7% of females aged 0-24 years

Data sources: SEND_Local_Data_Review_2025.pdf

The Joint Commissioning Cycle



What are people saying about services…?

Qualifying our rationale

Feedback from Children and Young People

- We want places to go to when we feel overwhelmed, so we feel safe.
- Need to ask for our opinions more about services and involve us in service development.
- We want more links and community groups.
- We want more work experience for people who are less academic.

Feedback from Parent/Carers

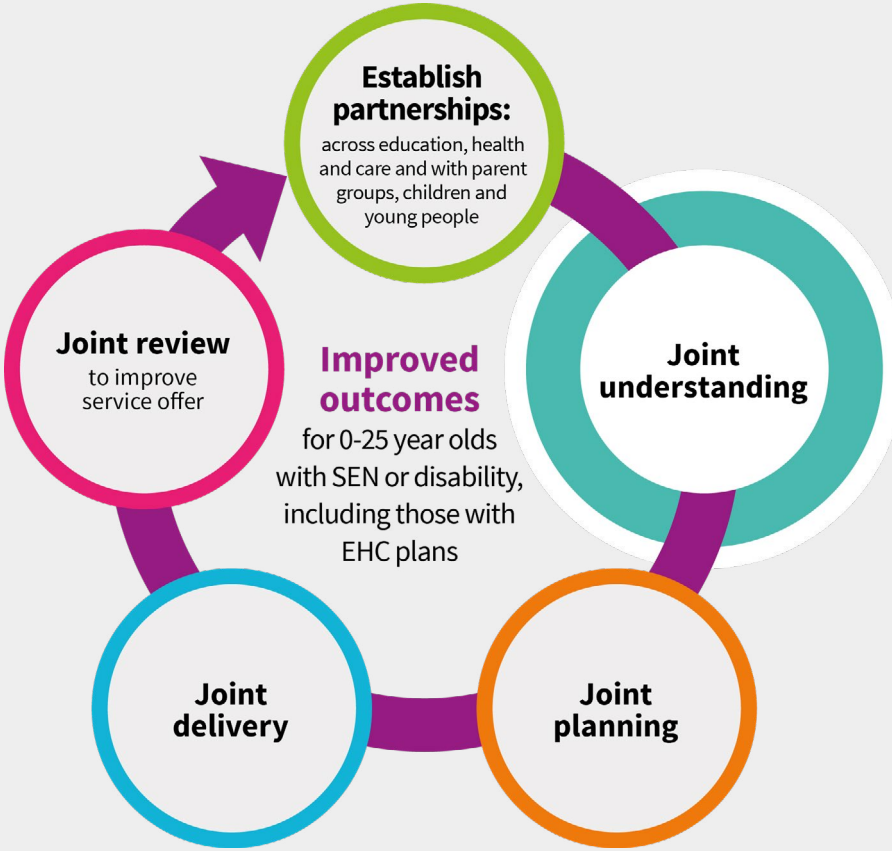
- Need to wait for assessment and support.
- We should be able to access support without a diagnosis.
- Information about services and support isn't always helpful.
- Don't feel listened too or valued.

Feedback from Professionals

- Teams need to work together more effectively.

Derbyshire SEND Voice – feedback from Parents and SENCOS, December 2025

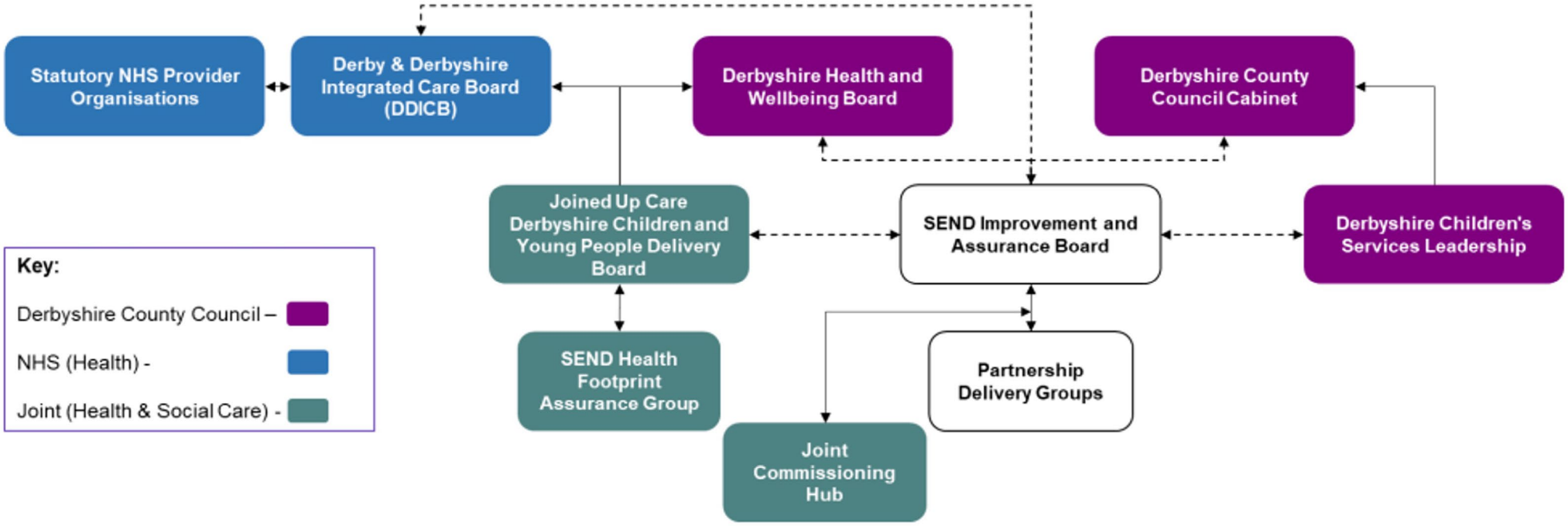
The Joint Commissioning Cycle



How do we do jointly commission? What does our Joint planning look like?



Governance Structure Diagram - Local Area:



This Governance Structure Diagram shows where the Joint Commissioning Hub fits within the wider system and how governance between Derbyshire County Council and Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board interlink to ensure decisions can be made and acted upon within the wider system.

How do we do jointly commission? What does our Joint planning look like?

Joint planning of services and commissioning are identified through the joint commissioning hub and they ensure that every service follows:

1. The correct processes of governance and sign off
2. Auditing and the effective contract management in place to ensure deliverables can be evidenced and challenge to poor practice can be addresses
3. That there is not a duplication of services and that resources can be as effectively utilised as possible.

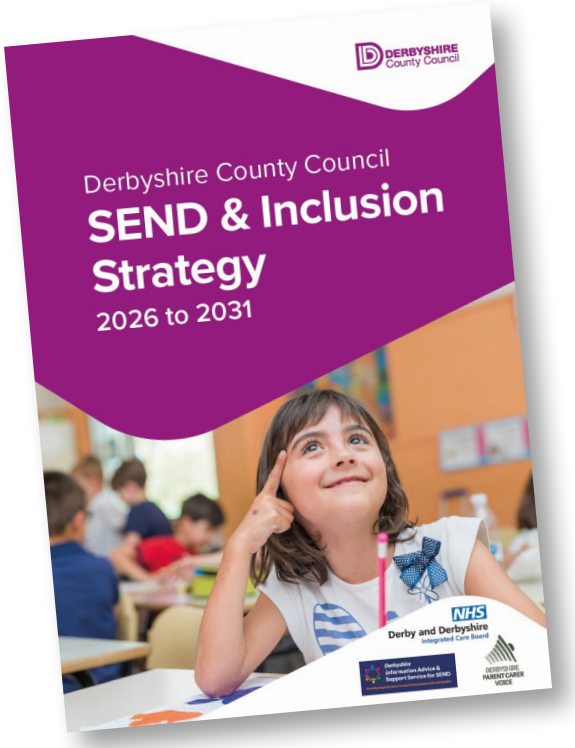
(For a more detailed overview of joint commissioning processes document, please refer to Derbyshire Joint Commissioning Strategy SEND - Derbyshire Local Offer)

The Joint Commissioning Cycle



What does our Joint planning then lead us to?

A co-produced Commissioning plan (please see Derbyshire Joint Commissioning Strategy SEND - Derbyshire Local Offer) aligned to the Derbyshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2026-2031.

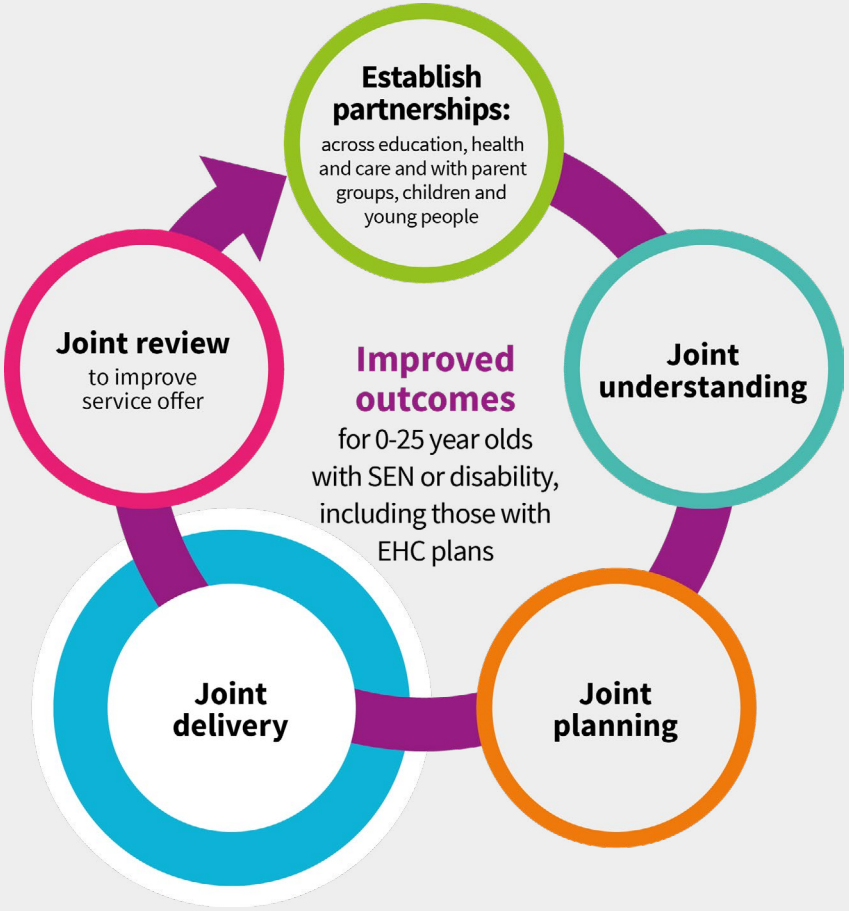


Our Joint Understanding and joint planning currently evidences that aligned delivery should focus on:

1. Social and Emotional Mental Health (SEMH)
2. Neurodiversity (ND)
3. Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

(Derbyshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - SEND)

The Joint Commissioning Cycle



How will we know when we've done it…?

- We will see positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- Children, young people and their families will know which service or support they need to access.
- Professionals will know which services children, young people and their families need to access and when.
- Children, young people and their families are accessing the right support at the right time.
- Children and young people with SEN or disabilities will feel/be/have
  - Belonging, relationships and community.
  - Healthy.
  - Opportunities and experience, achieving and preparation for the future.
  - Support (being and feeling).
  - Heard, respected and valued.
  - Safety (being and feeling, at home, at school and in the community).
- Will support the delivery of the (Derbyshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2026 - 2031, P21-32).

The Joint Commissioning Cycle



What should this all result in?

- Feedback of the services and the offer will then be presented to stakeholders of the services commissioned will be presented.
- The cycle can continue to ensure that jointly commissioned services are always improving outcomes for children, young people with SEND and their families in the most effective and 'resource smart' way.



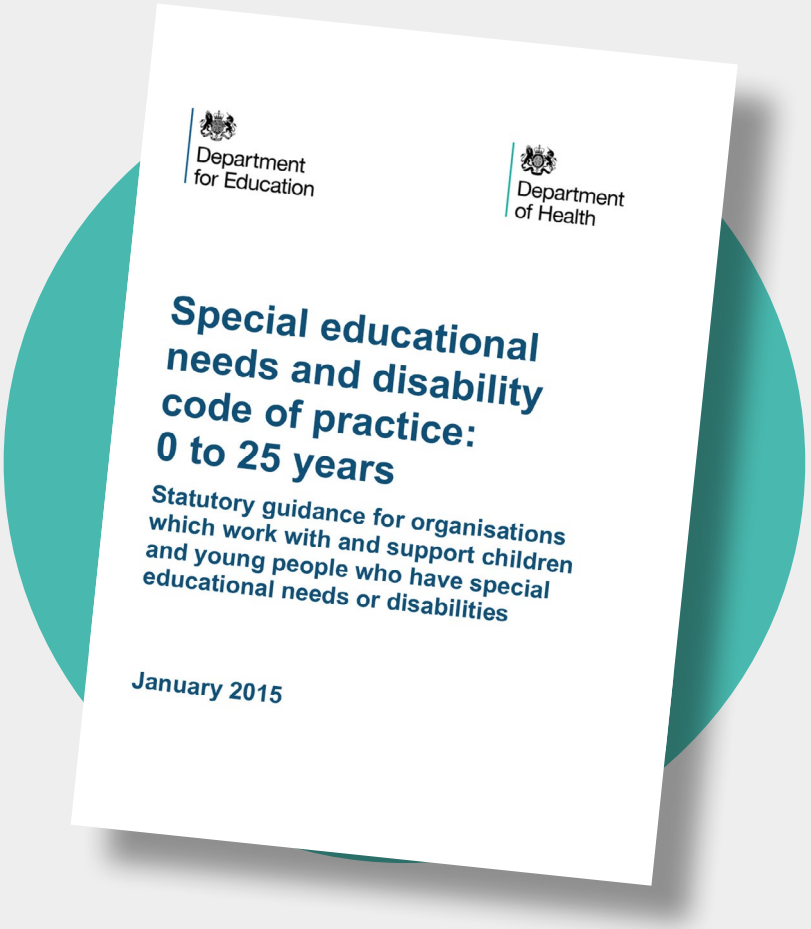
The Joint Commissioning Cycle



Other useful links/contacts

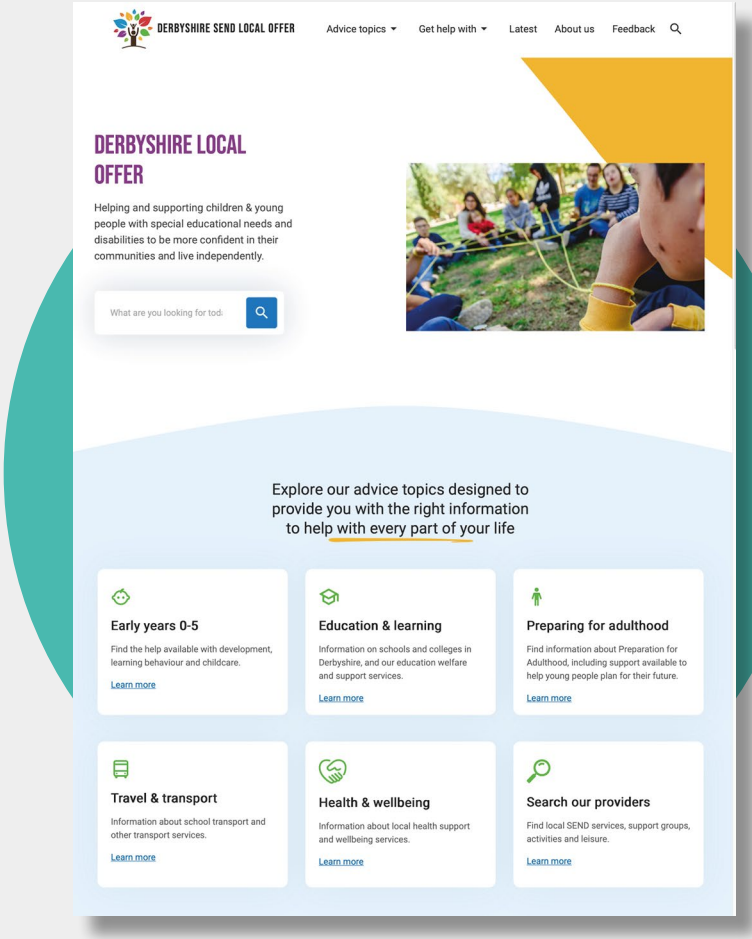
- SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf
- Derby & Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB Cluster Commissioning Plan - 2026/27 – 2030/31 » Joined Up Care Derbyshire
- Commissioning strategy DCC - please refer to Derbyshire Joint Commissioning Strategy SEND - Derbyshire Local Offer
- Home - Derbyshire Local Offer
- Feedback form for jointly commissioned services – please refer to Derbyshire Joint Commissioning Strategy SEND - Derbyshire Local Offer
- Other relevant strategies/plans -
  - Derbyshire's Families First Partnership - Derbyshire County Council
  - Derbyshire Best Start in Life Local Plan
  - Accessibility statement - Derbyshire County Council





Appendix 1 - What is currently commissioned jointly

- ND Assessment Transformation Programme.
- Supporting pupils with medical needs in school.
- SLCN pathway to identify and support pupils who require Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).
- Sensory Processing multi-agency model of support including Toolkit for schools & settings and CPD development.
- Mental Health Support Teams- joint arrangement with LA.
- Youth Justice Services – contributions made from the Council and the ICB to facilitate and strengthen nursing services.
- DECC – a tripartite (Derby City, Derbyshire and ICB) funding contract to support the emotional health and wellbeing for children in care. Go to The DECC Action for Children website.
- Community equipment via Derbyshire Integrated Community Equipment Service (DICES).
- Complex Cases Pathway s75 Pooled Budget (Health and Care Act 2022).



For more information on these, please visit the Derbyshire Local Offer website.

How do we do jointly commission? What does our Joint planning look like?

This is a text description of the flowchart on page 13, for people reading this document using a screen reader.

High-Level Overview

- Title: Governance Structure Diagram - Local Area
- Objective: This flowchart illustrates the governance, reporting, and assurance relationships between various local government, health (NHS), and joint entities responsible for children's services and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in Derbyshire.
- Visual Key: The diagram uses color-coding to show organizational responsibility, which is detailed textually below:
  - Derbyshire County Council is represented by purple rectangles.
  - NHS (Health) is represented by blue rectangles.
  - Joint (Health & Social Care) is represented by teal rectangles.
  - Assurance & Delivery groups are represented by white rectangles with black borders.

Logical Structure & Relationships

1. Core Statutory Oversight Bodies (Top Row)

- Statutory NHS Provider Organisations (NHS - Blue): Has a two-way connection linking directly to the Integrated Care Board.
- Derby & Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (DDICB) (NHS - Blue): Connects to Statutory NHS Provider Organisations and links directly downstream to the Joint Delivery Board. It also shares an interconnected relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board (Derbyshire County Council - Purple): Shares connections with the DDICB, the Derbyshire County Council Cabinet, and has an assurance link downstream to the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board.
- Derbyshire County Council Cabinet (Derbyshire County Council - Purple): Connects with the Health and Wellbeing Board, links directly downstream to Derbyshire Children's Services Leadership, and maintains an assurance link with the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board.

2. Joint Delivery & Leadership Entities (Middle Row)

- Joined Up Care Derbyshire Children and Young People Delivery Board (Joint - Teal): Receives direction from the top-tier NHS and Council structures. It has a two-way horizontal connection with the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board and a vertical two-way link to the SEND Health Footprint Assurance Group.
- SEND Improvement and Assurance Board (White / Black Border): Acts as a central hub. It receives oversight links from the DDICB, Health and Wellbeing Board, and County Council Cabinet. It has two-way horizontal connections with both the Joined Up Care Board (Teal) and the Derbyshire Children's Services Leadership (Purple). It links vertically downwards to the Partnership Delivery Groups and the Joint Commissioning Hub.
- Derbyshire Children's Services Leadership (Derbyshire County Council - Purple): Reports upwards to the Derbyshire County Council Cabinet and has a two-way horizontal connection with the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board.

3. Operational & Assurance Groups (Bottom Row)

- SEND Health Footprint Assurance Group (Joint - Teal): Connects directly via a two-way link up to the Joined Up Care Derbyshire Children and Young People Delivery Board.
- Joint Commissioning Hub (Joint - Teal): Connects directly via a one-way reporting link up to the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board.
- Partnership Delivery Groups (White / Black Border): Connects directly via a two-way link up to the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board.