

SEND Sufficiency Update Schools Forum January 2026

Background

The current SEND Sufficiency Strategy is detailed as part of the Safety Valve Agreement and implementation plan. This has been in operation since 2021 running until the end of 25/26.

A longer-term strategy is required to identify sufficiency requirements beyond Safety Valve from 01/04/26.



Introduction

- The Council has a responsibility to create enough education provision to meet the needs of all pupils, this is called sufficiency.
- This includes support to mainstream schools to meet a wider level of SEND need and also to provide sufficiency of education where it is determined specialist provision is required.
- This SEND Sufficiency Strategy identifies local needs and provision requirements so that all pupils across the SEND continuum are able to access appropriate education provision.

Vision

We have a strong clear vision. In Rotherham we are just as ambitious for children and young people with SEND as for every other child.

The SEND Sufficiency Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Rotherham SEND Strategy My Life My Rights 2024-2028..

Underpinned by Four Cornerstones

welcome and care

value and include

communicate

work in partnership

Engagement

- As part of the preparation of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy stakeholder discussion and feedback was completed with mainstream schools, special schools, post 16 providers, health colleagues, parents and carers and young people.
- SEND Sufficiency discussion took place with education leaders at Schools Forum, wider education and school improvement partners and at SENCO network events. Discussions focused on what's working well and areas for improvement across core areas including - SEND Provision, Graduated Approach and Outreach Services.
- Alongside engagement completed specifically for the development of the new SEND Sufficiency Strategy young people's and parent/carers views are captured as part of established quality assurance processes across SEND provision.

Progress during the last SEND Sufficiency Strategy (Safety Valve)

- Supporting more children to access education within or close to their local community
- Creating good and outstanding local provision
- The Graduated Response in Rotherham
- Development of SEND School Improvement Offer and Quality Assurance
- Specialist Inclusion Team (SIT)

Context

Increasing numbers of EHCP

Increasing demand for specialist provision

Specialist provision already over capacity


School Types	% CYP in Rotherham as at SEN2 25	% CYP Nationally as at SEN2 25	Gap to National	% CYP in Rotherham as at SEN2 24	% CYP Nationally as at SEN2 24	Gap to National	% CYP in Rotherham as at SEN2 23	% CYP Nationally as at SEN2 23	Gap to National	% CYP in Rotherham as at SEN2 22	% CYP Nationally as at SEN2 22	Gap to National
<i>*Special Schools</i>	32.8%	25.0%	7.8%	32.8%	26.9%	5.9%	34.8%	28.2%	6.6%	32.8%	29.6%	-0.8%
<i>*Resource Provision / SEN units</i>	4.0%	3.8%	0.2%	2.9%	3.9%	-1.0%	1.2%	3.9%	-2.7%	3.2%	4.5%	-1.3%
Mainstream Schools	36.6%	39.7%	-3.1%	34.1%	39.2%	-5.1%	32.1%	37.4%	-5.3%	28.8%	36.0%	-7.2%
<i>*Independent Non Maintained Special Schools</i>	3.3%	5.3%	-2.0%	3.7%	5.2%	-1.5%	3.5%	5.0%	-1.5%	3.8%	5.2%	-1.4%
<i>*Independent Specialist Provision</i>	4.9%	1.5%	3.4%	3.4%	1.5%	1.8%	3.6%	1.6%	2.0%	4.3%	1.7%	2.6%
Post 16 / FE Colleges	13.7%	12.3%	1.4%	14.2%	11.7%	2.5%	13.5%	12.3%	1.2%	14.7%	14.8%	-0.1%
* All Specialist Provisions	45.0%	35.7%	9.3%	42.8%	37.5%	5.3%	43.2%	38.7%	4.5%	44.2%	41.0%	3.2%

Needs Analysis

Key Documents considered

- Safety Valve Monitoring dashboard
- SEND statutory returns information to identify current demand/place planning
- Local SEND provision map
- Performance monitoring analysis – Outreach Services
- EHCP trends and comparison to national picture
- National Strategy links where appropriate
- SEND Strategy and KPI dashboard.
- Partnership data – RPCF, health.

Key Areas identified

- EHCP Growth
 - Prime Need understanding
 - Place planning forecasting
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Aspirations

1. More young people are able to be educated locally, in their communities with mainstream peers
2. More young people are able to start their education journey successfully with a plan for their next phase of education
3. We will work with our network of special schools to identify gaps in current provision and make best use of the places available across our special schools
4. Mainstream Schools are able to access a range of support and best practice guidance to create a more consistent offer to SEND pupils.
5. Our mainstream and special schools are more accessible places for SEND learners.
6. More young benefit from additional support to improve outcomes at post 16 and access employment
7. We will ensure that our network of local specialist provision is utilised to its fullest and continues to deliver good outcomes

Measuring success

- Combination of output measures (activity completion) and impact measures (outcomes for children and young people)
- Progress to be monitored through SEND Sufficiency Board and SEND Executive Partnership Board
- Annual Scrutiny and Cabinet update

Thank you and questions

