

Bury SEND Strategic Vision 2025-2028

Approved by Bury Send Improvement & Assurance Board - September 2025
For Review – September 2026



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Creating a positive and sustainable future for our Children and Young people

“We are a group of young people who come from Bury. We work with decision makers to ensure strategies like this deliver outcomes that matter to us. These are things like feeling healthy and well, freedom to choose our next steps, and feeling safe.

We, as young people, understand how everyone is impacted differently by their additional needs and disabilities. We want everyone to have aspirations and goals, and to be supported with those, with their individual needs taken into consideration.

This SEND strategy which has been co-produced by Bury Changemakers, Bury Youth Service and the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board is the result of conversations with young people about social reform and improvement to SEND for children and young people in Bury.

We hope this strategy will improve the lives of children and young people in Bury. The strategy is for them, and for parents/carers. This document is also for anyone who interacts with children and young people with SEND in the public and voluntary sectors. We hope they will better understand, accommodate, support and respect children and young people with SEND, their families, and those who support them.”

The Changemakers & Bury Youth Service



This document has been co-produced by:

- Children and young people with Special Education Needs
- Bury2Gether
- NHS Greater Manchester
- Bury Council

Strategy on a page



Our goal is to deliver on the things that matter to children and young people. Our goal is to work as a partnership so that children and families can take control of their lives, access the support that they need, and reach their potential.



The outcomes we are trying to deliver are the ones that our Children and Young People want:

- I am **safe**
- The people that care for me are **respected** and supported
- I feel **healthy** and well
- I have **fun**
- I have the **freedom** to choose my next steps and I am as independent as possible
- I have my say and feel **heard**
- I feel **included** at home, school and in the community

We promise that we will ensure children and young people are **informed** and understand the service that they are being offered and how it will help them.

We recognise that **good relationships** with children and young people are key to all who work with them and we promise that professionals will endeavour to build a strong, transparent and honest relationship with the young person they are working with.

We promise that staff who engage with children and young people will have the appropriate engagement **skills and training**



Our priority focus is delivering improvements to our SEND services and support through our work:

- Co-production of improvements to service and support, and better communication with children and parents
- Ensuring the right support for children is available at the right time
- Ensuring effective transport to ensure children can access education
- Supporting our parents and carers
- Supporting children and young people to have fun

Our most important partners are our children and young people, and parents and carers. We are working with them through Youth Cabinet, Changemakers, Bury2Gether, Co-production events, and school visits.

The organisations working together to deliver these improvements are Bury Council, NHS, Primary and Secondary schools, Early Years settings and Post-16 settings

1 Purpose of this strategic vision

Positive outcomes means adults valuing what we have to say, being supportive and encouraging.

This strategy is a key tool for us as a partnership to deliver the best outcomes we can for our Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs.

It will ensure that our local SEND system is focused on identifying the needs of children and young people as early as possible, meets their needs as soon as we can, and ensures there is a range of support available that can best meet their needs (known as a 'Graduated Approach').

Supporting children at all levels of our Graduated Approach requires partners from across our schools, the council and the NHS and others to work with children and young people, their parents, and/or carers to ensure that they have everything they need to live good lives and to thrive both in and out of school.

We know that we have changes that we need to make, and that these changes will not be simple to do. It is important that all the work we do as a partnership fits together.

This strategy will help us do that, ensuring that we are all working towards a shared goal, and providing the link between the different parts of the system.

By ensuring that all of our teams are working to this strategy we are confident that we can make a positive impact working alongside our children, young people, parents, carers and families.

2 Our co-production promise

We promise that we will ensure children and young people are **informed** and understand the service that they are being offered and how it will help them.

We recognise that **good relationships** with children and young people are key to all who work with them and we promise that professionals will endeavour to build a strong, transparent and honest relationship with the young person they are working with

We promise that staff who engage with children and young people will have the appropriate engagement **skills and training**.

Adults should talk to me before talking about me – that way they can take my perspective into account.

As a partnership we are committed to delivering on the promises above for all engagement.

The co-production scale below covers the different ways in which people can be involved in changes to their system. Our promise means we will always work to the right-hand side of the scale, and wherever we can to co-design and co-produce change.

To deliver on our promise we will:

- Engage with the 'Changemakers', our Children and Young Person Group supporting SEND improvement, and Bury2Gether - Bury's Parent Carer Forum, as a minimum.
- Be honest and clear about any limitations that we need to work within and the reasons why they exist.
- Communicate effectively with families throughout this period of change.
- Ensure there are effective feedback loops that keep people up to date on the work that is happening and how their views and input has influenced what we do.



3 Our goal

Our goal is to deliver on the things that matter to children and young people. Our goal is to work as a partnership so that children and families can take control of their lives, access the support that they need, and reach their potential.

Independence is about getting qualifications to get a job, living independently, and being trusted in the community

The outcomes we are working to are the things Bury's children and young people with Special Educational Needs have told us is important to them:

- I am safe
- The people that care for me are respected and supported
- I feel healthy and well
- I have fun
- I have the freedom to choose my next steps and I am as independent as possible
- I have my say and feel heard
- I feel included at home, school and in the community

4 Where are we now and what are we doing?

Following an Ofsted and CQC inspection in February 2024 the Partnership is working on a programme of improvements – called our Priority Impact Plan (see plan [here](#)) to tackle the issues identified.

We are committed to making improvements:

- The Council, the NHS and schools must work better together to provide the support and services that children and young people need
- Needs must be identified earlier and support provided as soon as possible through a graduated approach
- Children and young people need to be better supported while they are waiting for assessment, diagnosis and/or care
- Children and young people must be better supported when transitioning through key stages in their life, and/or changes in their needs
- Children and young people should receive greater help in preparing for adulthood
- The process for assessing needs and reviewing needs should work more effectively

Progress has already been made and was recognised by the DfE in a stocktake held in December 2024 and in July 2025

Our Priority Impact Plan will improve our outcomes by:

The most important thing to us is being safe and well

Safe

Bringing together leaders and teams from across our partnership to work together to ensure children are safe, including responding to individual children at risk.

Respected

Putting parents and children at the heart of our work, with Bury2Gether as key partners in our group, and a focus on effective communication to reach and support all parents.

Healthy

Tackling waiting times in NHS services, supporting people while waiting and developing our Local Offer and Graduated Approach to ensure all needs can be met.

Fun

Ensuring that we communicate all of the opportunities available to children and young people, particularly through improvements to our Local Offer and its website.

Independent

Improving our reviews process to ensure Children and Young People’s plans meet everyone’s changing needs, and creating clear transition pathways and guidance at all stages.

Heard

Actively involving children and young people in our programme and through our review and assessment improvements we are ensuring support plans are built on what children say matters.

Included

Delivering a ‘Graduated Approach’ in Bury that provides a range of support in a variety of settings to best meet the diverse needs of the children and young people in Bury.

5 Our future areas of focus

Delivery of the Priority Impact Plan is the start of a journey to improving our local system and delivering better outcomes for our children, young people and families. Our future areas of focus for making these improvements are:

Our dream future is having the support we need at school, everyone understanding our needs, and being independent

Co-production and communication

We will co-produce our strategies, and changes to our services and support offers.

We will improve our approach to and standards of communication, including the development of the Local Offer, and improving contact points into the partnership and services.

Support for children and young people when it is needed

We will co-produce changes to services and support so people at all stages of their journey are supported as best as possible.

We will make the Greater Manchester Post-Diagnosis Autism standards a reality.

We will spread a Graduated Approach across Bury, ensure we are utilising our inclusion teams as best as possible, and increase the number of children and young people we support in Mainstream settings.

Ensuring effective transport to education

We will improve the information guidance on transport options and how to access them.

We will tackle the staffing shortages that have caused transport cancellations.

We will confirm transport arrangements earlier, alongside the school transfer confirmation.

We will improve the experience of accessing and using transport for children and parents.

We will improve the transport offer for 16+ year olds.

Supporting our parents and carers

We will improve the support to carers, including specifically for sibling carers and for parents/carers at the point of diagnosis, and embedding the Greater Manchester carers standards locally.

We will ensure there is a clear and transparent pathway to social care support, healthcare support and financial support where needed.

We will improve the standard of information or advice available, particularly to families waiting for assessments. We will improve how we communicate.

Supporting children and young people to have fun

We will develop our Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) to ensure eligible children with SEND have access to a range of accessible activities

We will improve the social opportunities for young people over the age of 16 with SEND.

We will make local spaces more accessible for all of our children, such as ensuring safe outdoor space to play, or increased Changing Places.

We will ensure we support SEND families as well through improved short breaks opportunities and after/before school clubs.

6 Our partnership arrangements to delivery our strategy

