

SEND and Alternative Provision Board Newsletter: February 2026

The SEND and Alternative Provision Board is a meeting to implement and oversee the SEND and Alternative Provision strategies for Salford. This is a shared partnership approach with representatives from health, education, children's and adults social care, voluntary sector, parents and carers, elected members, and the wider council. We aim to support and improve services so that all children with SEND can reach their full potential in Salford, it is currently chaired by Melissa Caslake Executive Director Children's Services and Cathy Starbuck, Director of Education and Inclusion.

A number of subgroups report into the board. The subgroups are Local Offer, Transitions, Neurodevelopmental Approach, Graduated Approach, EHCPs, Alternative Provision, Preparation for Adult Life, SEND Performance and Engagement and Participation. Each subgroup reports on progress being made to the SEND board on a rolling programme.

Below is a brief summary of the areas that were covered at our latest SEND and Alternative Provision Board which took place on the 3rd February. We hope you find this update useful. Please send any feedback or if you have any ideas to nicola.robbs@salford.gov.uk



Agenda	Key Points
<p>Voice of the Child</p>	<p>The SEND Youth Council, YETI (Young, Energetic, Talented and Intelligent), has been busy working on a range of exciting projects. Two members recently created a powerful presentation and animation sharing their personal journeys in accessing the support they need to thrive.</p> <p>Their stories highlight two very different experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One young person received support from an early age. • The other faced delays, challenges in getting needs recognised, and a long wait for diagnosis. <p>These contrasting journeys reflect the pressures that families face when they are advocating for their child—challenging decisions, repeatedly requesting support, and waiting for assessments can all have a significant emotional impact.</p> <p>The positive news is that once the right support was in place, both young people made great progress and stood in the Salford Youth Mayor Election 2026.</p> <p>Ryan (white shirt) was successful in being elected as Deputy Youth Mayor 2026, and will be inaugurated as Youth Mayor in 2027.</p>



Deep Dive – Neuro Development

Dawn Fenton presented information on Neurodevelopment to the board. The neurodevelopmental approach has 5 strands which are:

- **Support Offer:** Support is available when it is required, at the right level linked to the needs and provided by the right person
- **Diagnostic Assessment:** CYP are assessed at the right time and by the right professionals
- **Outcomes:** Children and Young People have positive outcomes focused on their priorities
- **Data:** Our data supports us to understand CYP needs, the impact we have and what we need for the future
- **Workforce:** All children and young people meet professionals who are knowledgeable, skilled and work together to support CYP and their families

Part of the support offer are neurodiversity network sessions. So far there have been 4 to date (7th October, 24th November, 16th January, February 11th) They are a one stop shop for advice and support and attendance has been growing. Sessions are at different locations and times and services are building it into their offer of support. So far 100% of people that attended rated the sessions as 'positive' or 'very positive' and 100% of people said they went away feeling supported due to attending the session.

An update on the outcomes framework:

This started out with a neurodevelopmental focus however has increased in reach to incorporate preparation for adult life policy and elements of SEN support. The framework is due to go to SEND board in March 2026. Feedback so far is that the framework is welcomed and will support working together, holistic outcomes for children and young people and provide some richer data on impact. Work is required to refine some terminology and supporting documents.

The next neurodiversity network session will take place on Thursday 19th March. Drop in is between 10 and 12. It will be at Broughton Family Hub, 50 Rigby Street, Salford M7 4BQ. Parents and carers can drop in to talk, ask questions and access Salford services. [Salford's neurodevelopmental offer](#)•[Salford City Council](#) has further information.

BeeWell

The board were presented with the BeeWell survey 2024 findings for SEND young people in Salford. The aim of the survey is to listen to young people about their wellbeing and is completed by young people in year 7 and 10 across Greater Manchester secondary schools. In 2024, all but

	<p>one Salford secondary school completed the survey. 3520 Salford students completed the survey. 18.5% of those had SEN.</p> <p>The survey looks at areas of wellbeing (domains) such as life satisfaction, psychological wellbeing and emotions. Some of the strengths that came out of the survey were:</p> <p>80% of young people with an EHCP report that they get enough sleep.</p> <p>77% of young people with an EHCP report that they know where to go if they need help. (higher than 72% in Greater Manchester)</p> <p>33% of young people on SEN support attend youth clubs (higher than Greater Manchester)</p> <p>Some of the challenges that came out of the survey were:</p> <p>Only 24.6% of young people with an EHCP meet daily exercise guidelines. Only 58% of young people with an EHCP feel supported by their friends.</p> <p>52.8% of young people who are SEN support feel that they belong at school.</p> <p>Overall, Salford's results follow a very similar pattern to the wider Greater Manchester trends. The 2025 survey has now been completed, and we expect to receive the updated data shortly.</p>
<p>Maturity Assessment Tool</p>	<p>The board were informed about a maturity assessment tool which has come from the Department for Education and NHS England. This is based on seven pillars around: co-production, effective system leadership, accurate understanding of needs, high quality service delivery at universal, targeted and specialist levels to promote inclusion, effective partnership working across education, health and social care, skilled and organised workforce and use of resources including sufficiency, place planning and capital.</p> <p>The monthly SEND improvement group have tasked themselves to work on this and bring a draft to the SEND board in March.</p>
<p>Scorecard – Be Well Equipped</p>	<p>The board looked at the Be Well Equipped page on the scorecard.</p> <p>Our SEND Leaders have now begun recording how confident school staff and SENCOs feel about their understanding of Preparation for Adulthood and how it is being implemented within their school or setting. Early findings are encouraging, showing that secondary schools and post-16 providers are currently the most confident in this area.</p> <p>The performance sub group continue meeting on a monthly basis to review the SEND scorecard.</p>
<p>Recent SEND inspections</p>	<p><u>ADCS SEND Inspection Outcomes</u></p> <p>Link to the recent SEND inspections for information.</p>