



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Inclusion in West Northamptonshire

March 2025

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Inclusion

- In the local community
- In school

- Universal - for all children, young people and families
- Targeted approach for children and young people with additional needs

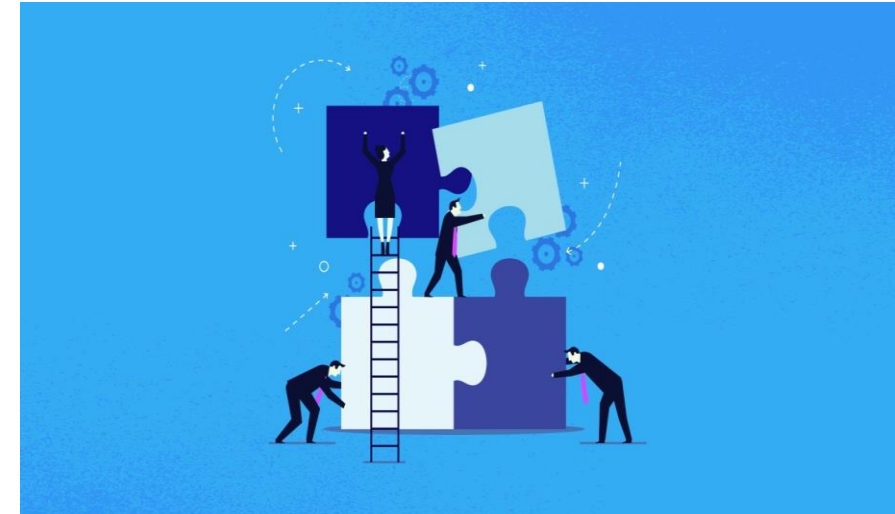
Changing needs

- Demographics and community
- 'SEND crisis'
- Budgets
- EHE
- Exclusions



Inclusion – the challenge in West Northants

- Demand for more specialist provision
 - 130 requests for an EHCP per month
 - Increased from 1,700 EHCPs in 2021 to over 4,500
 - Section19 provision and EOTAS packages
 - SEMH and ASC
- Very limited local available special school or AP places
- Lack of trust in the system
- Lack of historic relationships and leadership across the local partnership
- Historic loss of early intervention services

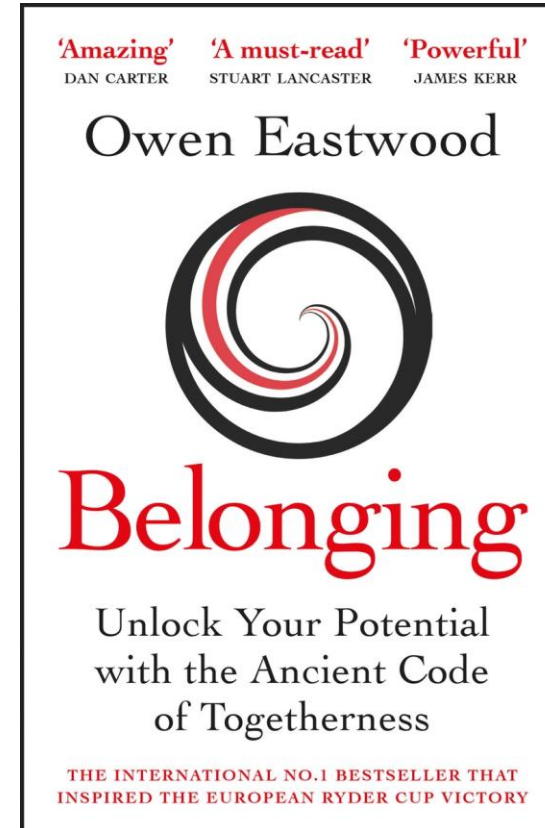


What young people tell us

- Lack of activities
- Want to have safe spaces
- Negative perception of young people
- They want to be heard
- Place based challenges
 - Urban v rural
 - Very aware of risks
- Need for a variety of opportunities

No sense of belonging? Or *whakapapa*

(there was a lot of positive feedback as well)



What are we doing - Family Help Strategy

- Developed through consultation in Local Area Partnerships
- Place Based Community Support
- Family Hubs
 - Physical and virtual offer
- Multi-disciplinary Family Help teams
- Early Identification
- Strength-Based Support



OUR RELATIONAL PRACTICE APPROACH

Children, young people and families at the heart of all we do

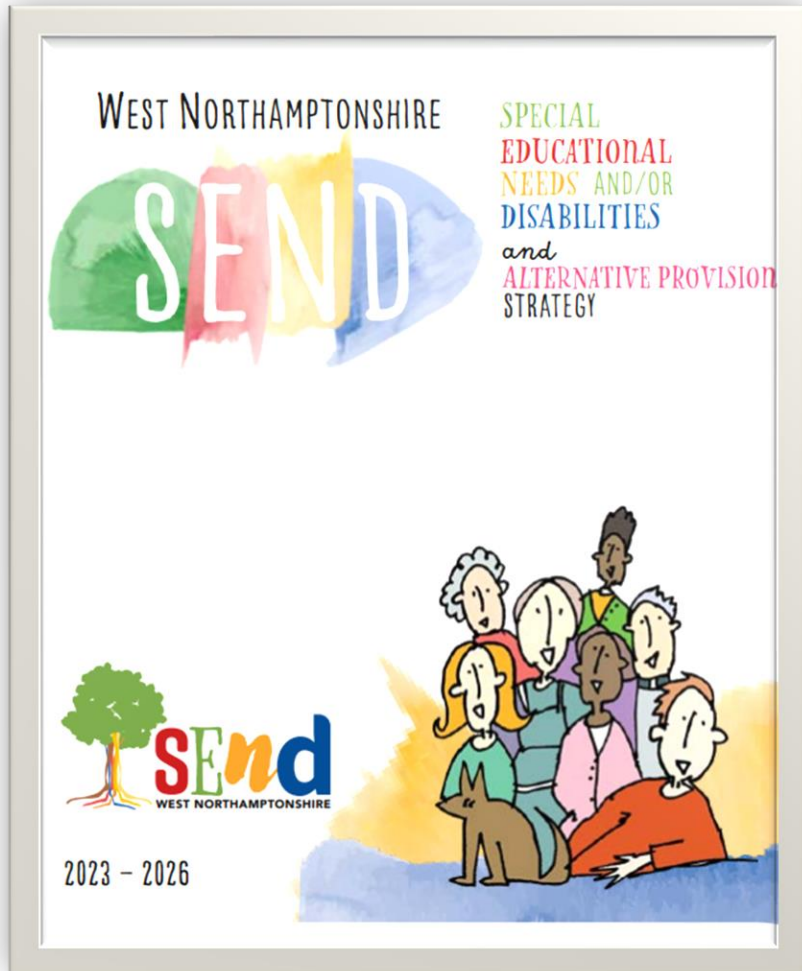
OUR PRACTICE PRINCIPLES



FOUR PILLARS TO EMPOWER OUR BEST PRACTICE



Inclusion – what we have done (Education and SEND)



Council investment

- £2.85m in local schools SEND budgets
- Capital programme to create over 600 additional SEND places by September 2026
- Over £2m in additional staffing capacity
 - Educational Psychologists
 - Head of SEND
 - EHCP Managers and Officers
 - Specialist teacher service
 - New Early intervention services

New Partnership

- Council, health, social care, schools and other education providers, parents, voluntary sector, DfE and NHS England
- Independent Chair – nationally recognised SEND leader

New Strategy, vision and partnership improvement plan



New partnership



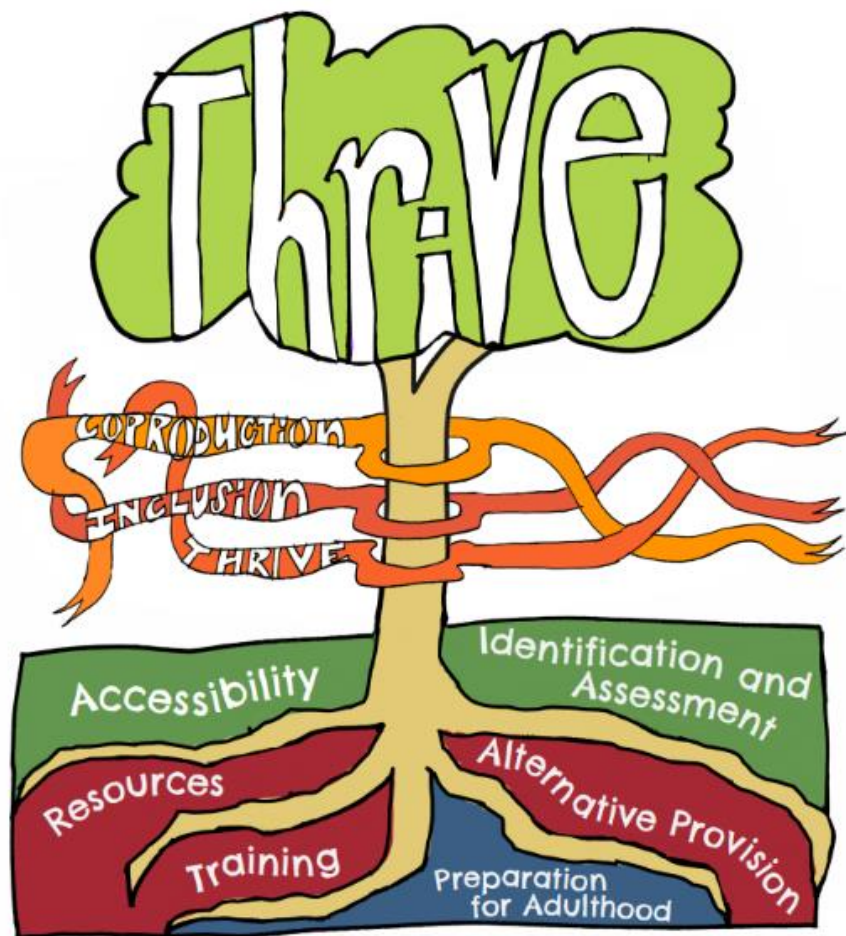
Co-production

- 4-month timeframe
- 25 partnership events and discussions
- Over 800 people engaged
- More than 3000 individual responses online



The SEND & AP Strategy

OUR THRIVE TREE



Children with SEND and their families in West Northamptonshire

- Thrive, fulfil their potential and live their best life.
- Are healthy, safe and part of inclusive communities
- Achieve aspirational outcomes
- Have a good start in life, are curious, inspired to succeed and achieve their dreams and ambitions
- Enjoy realistic adulthood outcomes as valued citizens

We have 3 golden threads

- Co-production
- Inclusion
- Thrive

Integrated Care
Northamptonshire




Co-production charter

West Northants Co-production Charter

Together we are stronger'

This co-production charter outlines the shared values that all partners have agreed to adhere to when working with children, young people and their families.



What is Co-production?



Co-production means working with people who use services as equal partners to create a decision or service that works for them all.





Why co-produce and how do we know it makes a difference?

- ✓ Everyone feels equally valued and listened to.
- ✓ It leads to better services that improve people's lives.
- ✓ It is a legal requirement for all agencies to co-produce with children, young people and families.

This co-production charter outlines the 5 values that all parties will use to work together.

| | | |
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| Communication We will make our communication clear, consistent informative and timely. | Transparency We will be open and honest as we make decisions. | Accountability We will take responsibility, find solutions and regularly review to ensure we make a real difference. |
| Respect We will listen to and empower people and treat them as equal partners. | Working together We will work together and recognise that everyone has valuable contributions to make. | |



What are we doing next?

- Updating Ordinarily Available Provision guidance
- Graduated Approach upgrade
- Introducing new systems to improve assessment timescales
- Additional specialist provision and SEND Unit spaces
 - Over 600 new specialist places created
- Continue Therapeutic Thinking training programme
- Roll out Partnership Training Plan
- Working with DfE to secure additional capital investment
- Developing new employment opportunities with local and national employers
- Increasing capacity and breadth of Alternative Provision
- Youth Offer partnership to further capture children and young people's views





“Life is much simpler and much happier when you look at what you can do, not what you can’t do.”
Henry Fraser

