



Rethinking SEND: whole system transformation



**COUNCIL
FOR DISABLED
CHILDREN**

**NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
BUREAU**

Part of the family

BETTER CHILDHOODS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

Why choose the Council for Disabled Children?

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) has tried-and-tested **expertise in health, social care, education, participation and the wider SEND system**. Our team includes nationally recognised leaders and experts in specialist areas of SEND. Our breadth and depth of knowledge gives us a clear understanding of the challenges families face and the pressures on local and wider SEND systems.

We lead and contribute to **national programmes** and translate that learning directly into practical local improvements. Our work spans every local area across England, with links across the four nations.

Many of our facilitators bring **first-hand experience** of working with disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs and their families, or as leaders in the sector, ensuring that we keep the family experience at the heart of our work.

Unlike other consultancy firms, any **surplus remains within the organisation** to fund our research, children and young people's engagement, resource development and other work related to improving the lives of vulnerable children and young people.

START A CONVERSATION

It takes just one conversation to start your journey with the Council for Disabled Children. Contact us to discuss:

- the **local context**, including strengths, challenges and local improvement work
- the **particular challenge** and what you feel would help to make progress
- the **objectives** for the piece of work
- key **stakeholders** to involve, to ensure success
- the **budget**.

We will then develop a bespoke proposal and quote for you to discuss with your colleagues before committing to the work.

To start your journey with us
email rethink@ncb.org.uk

Our ambitious plan for transformation

The SEND system is at a pivotal moment, with an ambitious plan for reform to help every child achieve and thrive.

CDC is helping leaders and decision-makers understand how these changes will impact local areas. Helping you to provide the strong, coordinated leadership and effective partnership working necessary to overcome challenges in a practical and sustainable way.

We focus on three key areas.





“ CDC are fab and always provide quality, helpful and enjoyable support which is really appreciated. ”

“ The practical approach to learning was highly beneficial, and the team’s dedication to ensuring each participant’s understanding and growth was evident. ”

Learning & development

We provide **engaging, motivating training** to the workforce to help teams to increase their understanding of policy and good practice, and to feel more confident in carrying out their roles.

Our learning & development activities are always **interactive, discussion-based and brought to life** with case studies and examples.



This might include:

- development of e-learning
- delivery of existing training modules, online or in-person
- adaption of existing training modules for the local context
- development of new training modules
- train the trainer.

Example topics include:

- understanding policy landscape and its implications for local areas
- co-production
- difficult conversations
- the Equality Act 2010
- Education, Health and Care Plans.

Systems improvement

We work in close collaboration with senior leaders and their partners to develop bespoke interventions which get to the heart of the sector's most challenging issues.

We can support you to:

- strengthen relationships between partners
- develop buy-in for improvement work
- understand current strengths and challenges from different perspectives
- learn from good practice examples
- make recommendations for improvements
- collaboratively develop a way forward
- monitor and evaluate progress.

This might include:

- desk research and analysis
- interviews and focus groups
- facilitated conversations
- facilitation of task & finish groups
- large-scale workshops
- reports and recommendations.



Example topics include:

- developing strategic outcomes
- developing strategies and workplans
- making meaningful use of data
- mapping the provision landscape.



“The team were always excellent and listening to our feedback, adapting (often quickly), as well as ensuring we keep focused on what you know works in this area.”

“You did an excellent job of managing what could have been a very difficult conversation. I was very grateful for the way you led and managed the whole session.”

Service and system reviews

We take a systematic approach to understanding the current context of a particular service or system, in order to identify areas for improvement.

We can help you to:

- review and summarise existing research
- understand the national context and what this means for your system/service
- understand current strengths and challenges from different perspectives
- make recommendations for improvements.



This might include:

- literature reviews
- quantitative analysis of existing local or national data sets
- interviews, focus groups, and surveys
- qualitative analysis of responses
- reports and recommendations.

Example topics include:

- youth justice services
- neurodevelopmental pathways
- therapy services
- Ordinarily Available Provision.



CASE STUDY

Rochdale Integrated SEND Alliance

The challenge:

Different parts of the SEND System in Rochdale were working in siloes, without a clear picture of the collective impact their work was having.

Who was involved?

- Rochdale Borough Council.
- NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Rochdale parent carers voice.

What support did we provide?

We worked with the local partnership to:

- Design and facilitate a SEND functions assurance process.
- Develop strategic outcomes and corresponding data indicators.
- Map early intervention services for SEND.
- Develop a SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Develop an Ordinarily Available Provision framework.

The result

Rochdale created a multi-agency alliance to improve support and outcomes for 5,913 children and young people who require SEND support. There is now a shared vision, backed by a strong information sharing system, meaning that:

- Partners can identify patterns in early intervention support needs and gaps in provision.
- More children are receiving early intervention and support.
- More professionals are accessing training.
- Autism diagnosis and support waiting times have reduced.
- The Raising Rochdale SEND Team won the Public Sector Children's Team Award at the Children & Young People Now Awards 2022.

CASE STUDY

Review of Oxfordshire SENDIASS Service

The challenge:

Oxfordshire County Council was unclear how the local SENDIASS service was performing against the statutory requirements and Minimum Standards, and what improvements could be made.

Who was involved?

- Staff and volunteers at SENDIASS Oxfordshire.
- Staff at Oxfordshire County Council.
- Staff from local schools and settings.
- Staff from local health providers.
- Parent Carer Forum chair and members.

What did we do?

- Analysed local and national data sets to understand the quantity and quality of delivery.
- Benchmarked data against statistical neighbours.
- Conducted interviews with practitioners, staff, children & young people, and parent carers.
- Convened a multi-stakeholder workshop to review the findings and make recommendations.
- Wrote a final report.

The result

Local leaders were able to use the findings to develop a business case to increase staffing in the service, thereby providing further support to children, young people and families.

“I don't think we could have begun the positive shift we've started without your partnership.”



To start your journey with us contact
rethink@ncb.org.uk

BETTER CHILDHOODS. **BRIGHTER FUTURES.**

For more than 60 years, the **National Children's Bureau** has championed the rights and amplified the voice of children and young people in the UK. We interrogate policy and uncover evidence, blending in lived and learnt experience to shape future legislation and develop more effective ways of supporting children and families. Bringing people and organisations together is fundamental to how we improve the systems that babies, children, young people and their families rely on to thrive. We push boundaries, even looking beyond childhood itself to consider transitions into adulthood and the impact of childhood issues on an entire lifespan.

We are united for better childhoods and brighter futures.

Let's work together: 020 7843 6000 rethink@ncb.org.uk

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