



## South West SEND and Inclusion Regional Priorities and Action Plan Highlight Report

<b>Date of Report:</b>	14/08/2025 Reporting Period 2
<b>Reporting period:</b>	May to August 2025
<b>SW SEND Regional Coordinator:</b>	Dr Vikki Jervis

### 1. South West Inclusion/SEND Network Priorities Progress

*How much have we done? How well have we done it? What difference has it made?*

#### Strategic Investment and Governance

The SW RIIA has secured approximately £1.6 million in Department for Education (DfE) grants, with £1,190,200 allocated for SEND and Alternative Provision and £428,388 for Children's Social Care—a tenfold increase from previous years for SEND. This funding supports a strengths-based, collaborative model of sector-led improvement across the South West's fifteen local authorities. The initiative is governed by a detailed Statement of Requirements, ensuring robust planning, delivery, and reporting. The SW SEND Coordinator & Regional Principal Educational Psychologist oversees all strands of the SEND project, manages the budget, and serves as the key liaison with the DfE and LGA.

#### Improvement Plan and Delivery Focus

The SW RIIA's SEND Improvement Plan is structured around four core areas: data and diagnostics, universal support, targeted support, and governance. New initiatives include enhanced data systems, peer reviews, and region-wide collaboration among health services, schools, and parent groups. The plan aims to improve outcomes through evidence-informed practice, peer-led challenge, and strengths-based approaches. The ambition is that by April 2026, the region will benefit from improved performance data, clearer insights into effective practices, stronger universal support, and targeted interventions where most needed.

#### Expansion and New Roles

To deliver the expanded SEND and Children's Services work, six new roles have been created, all fully funded by the DfE with no financial burden on the host Local Authorities. These roles include practitioners and coordinators focused on strategic SEND improvement, data analysis, education settings, project support, and health integration. Each role is designed to enhance regional capacity, drive inclusive education, and support reforms in both SEND and Children's Social Care. Recruitment processes are ongoing and the aim is to have colleagues in post by December 2025.

- **SW RIIA Website:** 14.4% increase in people visiting the site over the past 90 days.
- **Newsletter Email.** There is a significant amount of SEND information being published almost daily. To ensure colleagues have all the information in a manageable way we are sending an email circa every 2 weeks with a summary and key links to important reports and documents. This



information is also stored on our website [www.swriia.org.uk](http://www.swriia.org.uk) **7 newsletters** have been circulated to nearly **1500 colleagues** during this reporting period.

- **SEND Leadership: 25 participants from 14 local area partnerships** have completed this popular leadership course run by the Staff College. Delegates from PCF, education, health and care are all working together on the course. All respondents classed the course as good to excellent with the most popular word chosen to describe the course as being “inspiring”. The course finished in July and comments from participants included “The design and purposeful delivery has made this course so impactful”, “I really enjoyed sharing leadership challenges and gaining feedback on my own challenges”.
- **SW Regional learning Academy:** has been launched to host to all our training and development courses. To date **45** colleagues have applied to take part in the **regional enhanced SEND induction** for our SEND case officers starting in September. The **Legal training** with Bevan Britan solicitors has finished with **88 officers** coming together. **100%** of respondents reported that the training was useful in their role, that the presentations were engaging. There was a request for further training with continued focus on the tribunal process.
- **Oak Manor SEND peer network.** **41** participants from across PCF, SENDIAS, NHS, DFE, CYPISA education, health and care spent the day together. **93% agreed or strongly agreed** that the presentation and networking worked for me today. This event gave participants updates from CYPISA and NHS England, feedback on the SENDIASS impact report and information related to the Enhanced Induction Package as well as time spent looking at the CPP EHCP templates. The key messages from this event were that the SW region would like to have an agreed EHCP template, to consider how to work more effectively with our SENDIASS colleagues and concerns were raised about the impact that the changes to our health service will have.
- **The Lead case Officer network:** **5** attendees from **4** local area partnerships attended the lead case work officer event. The group agreed Induction training proposals with enhanced regional induction training starting in September 2025.
- **Self-Evaluation work:** Following on from the SEF workshop in March, a working group has met to produce a good practice guidance on SEF writing in collaboration with the LGA. This work will be published on the RIIA and LGA websites.
- **The Operational Steering group** met to discuss and enhance the draft Grant plan.
- **The Strategic Steering Group** had its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with strategic leaders from the region meeting face to face. Strategic Steering Group bulletins are available after each meeting to share key messages to the region from the meeting.
- The **Alternative Learning Provision Network** met –**10** attendees from **7** local are partnerships met to discuss best practice. This included a presentation and discussion with David Curtis serves as the Online Alternative Provision Lead at the DfE.
- The third **SEND Information Forum** took place in July. The SEND Information Forums (SIF) are to share information from all partners including the DFE, Education, Health, Care, PCF and SENDIASS to name a few. The meetings are intended for colleagues working in SEND to stay up to date with new information and to share "better practice". **38** attendees received 5 different



updates from across the SEND system including up to date information from the DFE. **14 out of the 15** local area partnerships attended (93% of the region).

- We continue to represent the region at national events including the tribunal user group meeting, the **ADCS Health Care and Additional needs Committee** (HCAN). We have contributed to key discussions including those on the use of agency workers within the Educational Psychology Services and on children in care who have EHCPs.
- The **SW regional PEP group** has met for the first time and terms of reference have been written.

## 2. Programme Activities Planned for reporting Period 3 September to December 2025

<b>September</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 01/09/2025 Operational Leads Network</li> <li>• 03/09/2025 Enhanced Induction</li> <li>• 09/09/2025 SEND Huddle</li> <li>• 16/09/2025 SEND Lead Case Officer's Network</li> <li>• 22/09/2025 Operational Steering Group</li> </ul>	<b>October</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 01/10/2025 EP Network</li> <li>• 06/10/2025 Operational Leads Network</li> <li>• 09/10/2025 Regional Collaboration and Peer Challenge (RCPC) event</li> <li>• 13/10/2025 SEND Information Forum</li> <li>• 14/10/2025 SEND Huddle</li> <li>• 15/10/2025 Enhanced Induction</li> <li>• 21/10/2025 PSW/DSCO Network</li> <li>• 29/10/2025 Strategic Steering Group</li> </ul>
<b>November</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 05/11/2025 Enhanced Induction</li> <li>• 10/11/25 Oake Manor Peer Network Day</li> <li>• 11/11/2025 SEND Huddle</li> <li>• 17/11/2025 AP Network</li> <li>• 18/11/2025 Legal Training</li> <li>• 24/11/2025 In person EP Network</li> <li>• 26/11/2025 Strategic Steering Group</li> </ul>	<b>December</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 02/12/2025 Legal Training</li> <li>• 03/12/2025 Enhanced Induction</li> <li>• 08/12/2025 Operational Leads Network</li> <li>• 09/12/2025 EHCP Writer's Workshop</li> <li>• 15/12/2025 SEND Information Forum</li> </ul>



### 3. Key messages for the region

These key messages highlight the progress made, the effectiveness of the initiatives, and the positive impact on the SEND community.

**Message 1** The RIIA has been successful in bidding for additional funds through the RIIA Grant Plan. The DFE accepted the plan, and initial funds have been released with a further 2 tranches of funding released upon completion of successful reporting against agreed KPIs.

**Message 2** The SW Regional Learning Academy has been launched and will host regional training.

**Message 3** SWSEND continues to have an extensive reach and new networks and groups have been established.

**Message 4** The SW RIIA work is funded through a section 31 grant from the DFE. The grant is from April 2025 to March 2026 however, grant plans were only signed in July which means that the first 5 months of the work has been delayed.

**Message 5** We continue to make contributions to national groups by attending national meetings and feeding back on consultations on behalf of the region.

**Message 6** A significant amount of time in the next reporting period will be used in recruitment to regional posts.