

## EQIA Submission – ID Number

### Section A

**EQIA Title**

Special Educational Needs Integrated Therapies Joint Commissioning Strategy

**Responsible Officer**

Emma Hanson - CED SC

### Type of Activity

**Service Change**

No

**Service Redesign**

No

**Project/Programme**

No

**Commissioning/Procurement**

Commissioning/Procurement

**Strategy/Policy**

No

**Details of other Service Activity**

No

### Accountability and Responsibility

**Directorate**

Children Young People and Education

**Responsible Service**

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

**Responsible Head of Service**

Christy Holden - CED SC

**Responsible Director**

Christine McInnes - CY EPA

### Aims and Objectives

The 2015 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, sets out that Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Assistive Technology should be jointly commissioned.

KCC is working towards a jointly commissioned Integrated Therapy Service, which will include the Kent and Medway Communication and Assistive Technology Service (KMCAT), to maximise the use of finite resources from local authorities, schools, colleges, and the NHS improving outcomes for 0–25-year-olds with SEND and their parents/carers.

The joint aim is to establish a new jointly commissioned service by September 2025, to fall in line with NHS Kent and Medway's broader recommissioning of a unified Community Service Offer.

### Section B – Evidence

**Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?**

Yes

**It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?**

Yes

**Is there national evidence/data that you can use?**

Yes

**Have you consulted with stakeholders?**

Yes

**Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?**

Discovery interviews were held with 33 stakeholders including parents, SEN staff, The Education People (TEP), KCHFT, EKHUFT and NHS Kent and Medway. These interviews established common themes to inform the future commissioning strategy and reinforce ongoing transformational activity to embed the Balanced System® Framework for SLCN.

As well as identifying issues with capacity, the lack of clear pathways and the need for a properly articulated tiered approach, those interviewed also varied greatly in their understanding and approach to what was a health need or an educational need for Integrated Therapy and there was inconsistency about when and why Therapies should be considered and written into Section F or G of the EHCP.

This lack of clarity about responsibilities, reinforces the need for future Therapy provision to be jointly commissioned, because of this, if parents find they are on a waiting list for NHS Therapy, then some are using the EHCP process to ensure the need for Therapy is included in Section F of their child's EHCP, this makes the need for Therapy an educational requirement and placing the responsibility on KCC to provide. As evidence of this, in recent years, KCC has seen the number of pupils receiving spot purchased Therapies increase and therefore the budget.

KCC has also met and held individual discovery interviews with 18 of the 25 Kent Maintained Special Schools to ascertain their impression of current therapy provision and their aspirations for the future commissioned provision. Although these interviews have not been fully analysed and written up, there have been interest themes emerging that will inform the future commissioning strategy. There is a postcode lottery of provision with schools responding very differently to the therapeutic needs of their pupils. Some schools have invested in their own therapy provision using High Needs Funding, whilst others have taken the stance that this is the NHS/Council's role. In the new commissioning strategy using the Balanced System® framework we hope to set out more clearly what should be expected of schools and the whole SEN system to create a more coherent and consistent offer.

Ensuring that children, young people, and their families/carers are involved in the development of future delivery models to inform our joint commissioning strategy, we have sought to engage families, initially via a survey which was widely circulated and completed by 109 parents, of which 60% said that they would be willing to participate in future opportunities to shape Therapy provision.

Following up with willing parents a Therapies Commissioning Co-design Steering Group has been established with five parents, a KCC employed Lived Experience Practitioner, SEN Service and Commissioning representatives.

The Group now meets fortnightly to support the engagement of more families in the development of wider collaboration and co-design as this commissioning activity develops.

**Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?**

No

**Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?**

Yes

**Section C – Impact**

**Who may be impacted by the activity?**

**Service Users/clients**

Service users/clients

**Staff**

Staff/Volunteers

<b>Residents/Communities/Citizens</b> Residents/communities/citizens
<b>Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?</b>
Yes
<b>Details of Positive Impacts</b>
Extending the existing Contracts providers stability whilst we work with a range of stakeholders on what the new contract post 2025 will look like.
<b>Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for age?</b>
No
<b>Details of negative impacts for Age</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating Actions for Age</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age</b>
Not Applicable
<b>20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Disability?</b>
No
<b>Details of Negative Impacts for Disability</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Disability</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Disability</b>
Not Applicable
<b>21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Sex</b>
No
<b>Details of negative impacts for Sex</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Sex</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Sex</b>
Not Applicable
<b>22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender</b>
Not Applicable
<b>23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Race</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Race</b>
Not Applicable

<b>Mitigating actions for Race</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race</b>
Not Applicable
<b>24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Religion and belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable