

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Expert at Hands and Local Authority Special Needs and Disability Grant

Responsible Officer

Karen Stone - CED F

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)

Craig Chapman - CY EDSSEN

Type of Activity

Service Change

Service Change

Service Redesign

Service Redesign

Project/Programme

Project/Programme

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

Strategy/Policy

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Special Education Needs

Responsible Head of Service

Craig Chapman - CY EDSSEN

Responsible Director

Craig Chapman - CY EDSSEN

Aims and Objectives

In mid-April, the Department of Education announced the 2026-27 individual LA allocations for the EaH and LA SEND Transformation Fund, along with indicative national allocations for 2027-28 and 2028-29. For Kent County Council this equated to £12.2 million in 2026-27, and approximately £21.2 million and £24.0 million respectively for the next 2 years. The detailed guidance and updated terms & conditions of the grant were then published on 5th June.

The EaH offer is a key pillar of the Government's proposed SEND Reforms, a long-term (10-year) plan, to achieve a single, inclusive system for CYP with SEND, with high-quality local support. This funding is expected to be invested over the next 3-years, to improve mainstream settings access to specialist support, alongside the roll-out of wider legislative and system reform.

Local Authorities are expected to work in partnership with ICBs to develop and deliver a new EaH offer for mainstream education settings which provides a new route to access expert advice and support from education & health professionals including:

- Educational psychology services & specialist teachers
- Additional outreach including from alternative provision, special schools & post 16 institutions
- Speech & Language therapists and Occupational therapists
- A new Speech & Language Therapist Advanced Practitioner in every ICB area

The grant will also fund associated administration costs of EaH offer and wider SEN reforms including

evaluating existing SEN support services to mainstream schools and developing, submitting and implementing future SEND reforms

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?

Health (ICB & providers)

As plans develop further consultation will take place with mainstream settings (Early Years, Schools, Colleges), Parent and Carer Forum, Children & Young People voice.

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

Residents/Communities/Citizens

No

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

Initial screening has identified possible positive impacts for the protected characteristics of disability and age. The grant is intended to support development of services and support for children and young people aged 0 and up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disability. These services are expected to lead to more positive outcomes for children and a more equitable service. Further analysis will be undertaken as plans with the local area are developed and implemented.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

No

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Applicable

Mitigating Actions for Age

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Not Applicable

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable

26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable