

ANNEX B

Support, monitoring and next steps

Local area partnership: West Sussex

This annex sets out how we will work with you to review progress, identify risks and provide support and challenge. You should read it alongside your outcome letter and the feedback in Annex A. Our shared priority is to ensure that your work leads to sustained improvements in the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND and their families.

1. How your progress will be assessed

You will be regularly assessed through the Local Area SEND Performance and Delivery Framework. The framework brings together evidence about outcomes for children and young people with SEND, your partnership's readiness and capacity, and your capability to deliver your Local SEND Reform Plan.

Your assessment will draw on quantitative and qualitative evidence as well as professional judgement. It will consider the quality of local SEND provision and the progress you are making against your approved or revised plan. It will also consider the strength of your leadership, relationships, systems and corporate capacity.

Your overall performance and delivery assessment will inform the level of monitoring, engagement, support and, where necessary, intervention that applies to your partnership. The approach will remain proportionate to the evidence available and may change if your performance, risks or delivery confidence changes.

The Local Area SEND Performance and Delivery Framework will be published in due course, alongside each local area's overall performance and delivery RAG.

2. What you will need to do

- Maintain clear collective ownership and senior accountability across education, health and care local SEND partnership to deliver the commitments and milestones in your Local SEND Reform Plan, addressing the feedback in Annex A;
- Identify and escalate emerging risks promptly, with clear action to mitigate them;

- Submit quarterly data returns in line with the guidance issued in August 2026; and
- Use the quarterly data reports, visualised analysis and benchmarking provided by the Department for Education to support your local delivery, monitoring and evaluation.

3. Your monitoring, engagement and support arrangements

Your plan has met the threshold for approval, but you still have further work to do to strengthen your readiness to deliver reform successfully at pace. You will be expected to strengthen collective ownership, governance, capability and partnership working, with clear senior accountability and robust performance monitoring.

You should reflect on the actions needed to address Annex A in your local governance, implementation planning and reporting. Your review meetings will provide a formal opportunity to assess progress, examine risks and agree further action. Where progress is insufficient or not evidenced, we will consider whether further support, challenge or oversight is required.

You will receive closer monitoring and targeted support to address the concerns identified in your assessment and wider SEND delivery. You will continue to have six-monthly Strategic Review Meetings with government officials, health regional SEND leads and your assigned SEND and Financial Advisers; consolidated with existing engagement where appropriate. Alongside the Strategic Review Meetings, DfE case leads will meet with you at quarterly to discuss ongoing improvement activity and delivery of your reform plan. Collectively, these meetings will examine delivery against agreed milestones, the effectiveness of your improvement actions and any risks requiring further action.

You will receive additional SEND and Financial Adviser support. We will review with you whether this support is addressing the identified gaps and whether further action is needed.

Your regional team will schedule a meeting with you in October to discuss this letter, feedback on your plan and expectations for implementation monitoring. Your lead DfE contact, Luke Parker – SEND Case Lead (luke.parker@education.gov.uk) will confirm the arrangements with you, including adviser and relevant health participation.

4. What happens next

When	Who	What you can expect
October 2026	Your Department for Education regional team	You will receive confirmation of your first feedback and planning meeting and the officials and advisers who will support your partnership.
Quarterly– from January 2027	Your partnership and government officials	You will review delivery against your plan, evidence progress, consider risks and agree any further support, challenge or action.
Quarterly - from October 2026	Your partnership	You will submit the required data return in line with the August 2026 guidance.
Quarterly - from January 2027	Department for Education	You will receive a data report with visualised analysis and benchmarking to support local delivery, monitoring and evaluation.

Local contact: Luke Parker – SEND Case Lead (luke.parker@education.gov.uk)