

# Let's TALK SEND Local Area Update

Steve Nyakatawa, Divisional Director, Education

July 2022



# Updates



- Written Statement of Action
- SEND Improvement Plan
  - Transitions to Adult Services
  - Preparation for Adult Life
- National updates:
  - Education White Paper
  - SEND Green Paper and Consultation
  - Consultation on Annual Review timescales
  - New Local Area Inspection Framework



# Written Statement of Action



## The Four Areas of the Written Statement of Action for Tower Hamlets Local Area:

1. The poor quality and oversight of EHC plans including the annual review process
2. The lengthy waiting times for an assessment and diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
3. Fragmentation in the provision of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) which means that too many children and young people do not get the specialist help and support they need.
4. Weaknesses in communication between area leaders and parents leading to misunderstandings. Many families are not aware of services that they could access and have no knowledge of area's plans to improve.



# Written Statement of Action



- First monitoring Meeting took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- DFE/NHSE monitoring progress of the WSoA
- Significant investment in staffing and resources across the partnership
  - Increased staffing in SEN and Educational Psychology
  - New pathway for ASD assessment from April 2022
  - Increased diagnostic capacity for ASD
  - Direct commissioning of Barts Health to deliver the Speech and Language Treatment Pathway for age 3-5s and a Social Communication Difficulty Pathway for age 0-5s.
- Regular engagement with Parents and Young Adults through Let's Talk SEND events and commitment to widen participation and co-production



# Summary



- Leaders are working well together across the partnership. There is a robust leadership and governance structure in place for SEND and for monitoring the progress of the WSoA. Leaders are ensuring investment is being made where needed in the staffing and resourcing of SEND services.
- Positive progress has been made in a number of areas and foundations being laid to develop some new models and ways of working. A QA framework has been developed to improve quality of EHCPs and templates for plans and ARs have been revised.
- Arrangements for engaging parents and young people are in place but the Local Area want to increase the scope and numbers involved and expand the feedback opportunities.
- Some early deadlines for WSoA actions have slipped. The local area feel this is due to a combination of being unrealistic with their original timescales in the WSoA, ongoing impact of COVID and the time lag between investment and recruitment of staff. Leaders have identified the reasons, revised timescales and are committed to accelerating progress where they can. DfE and NHSE stressed the importance of the local area demonstrating that everything is being done to ensure further timescales are not missed.

