



TOWER HAMLETS

# Let's Talk SEND

9<sup>th</sup> November 2022



# Local Area Inspection and Written Statement of Action



- Local Area Inspection of SEND was in June 2021
- Areas of weakness identified were:
  - 1. Poor quality and oversight of EHC Plans including the Annual Review process
  - 2. The lengthy waiting times for an assessment and diagnosis of Autism
  - 3. Fragmentation in the provision of SLT: too many children not getting specialist help
  - 4. Weaknesses in communication between area leaders and parents



# Quality of Plans and Annual Reviews



- New EHCP templates, with consistent advice written to what our children and young people need: specificity, quantification and precision in the provision; in place now
- Moving towards co-production meetings for real contribution; from spring/summer 2023
- New Annual Review process: review the progress in between key stages, with a full review of all areas at phase transfer and where need has significantly changed: again, with real co-production from summer 2023



# Quality of Plans and Annual Reviews



- Real improvement in quality of new plans
- Reflective of need, reflective of advice
- All children and young people will move between Key Stages with an accurate EHCP



# Waiting times for Autism



- Increase in staffing in CAMHS
- New Autism pathway from April 2022
- Identify needs early, target support early rather than waiting just for diagnosis
- Higher rate of referrals since Covid
- Continual close monitoring and under review



# Speech and Language Provision



- 1. Targeted groups in Children and Family Centres
- 2. Universal SEND training for Early Years professionals
- 3. Redesign of specialist pathways
  
- Play and Connect, Little Talkers, Stephen Hawking Stay and Play
  
- Targeted groups for social communication difficulties: again, early intervention and identification so can be signposted to the right support services
  
- Additional staffing, and ongoing



# Speech and Language Provision



- Extra and early support in schools
- Increase in referrals
- 10% increase nationally since Covid



# Communication between the LA and parents



- Needed improving, needed changing
- Let's Talk SEND: meetings and newsletters
- Parent groups working with SEND on their new processes
- Our Time Young People Forums
- SEND Parent Ambassadors: working with them





# Communication between the LA and parents



- Co-production in our services and our work, in your children's lives and their support
- Social media use: to tell you what's going on
- Contact and communication standards with LA services: publishing this in winter 2022

