

Practice guide

Education & Social Care

Sufficiency Planning and Provider Relationships

Background, purpose and rationale

Using our No Wrong Door provocations and our 7 outcomes for children and young people, Rochdale Borough Council have been working with providers to support our sufficiency in the borough and to enhance our provider relationships with local providers.

At the centre of our development we want to ensure that children and young people are placed in their home borough and have access to the right support at the right time and the right services. We want to ensure that our children and young people have access to the right education provision and health services to ensure that they achieve their outcomes in a safe and stable home. This has including identifying where we have gaps in our own provision, what services we need to bring into the borough and developing relationships with providers to meet our sufficiency needs.

What we did to improve children's outcomes and policies/experiences

We have increased our internal residential service to include provision for children and young people with learning disabilities and autism through a successful DfE bid for capital funding meaning children will be placed locally instead of at a distance. We have developed a further 2 homes for children aged 7 and above via a business case for capital funding as this was a developing need.

We have developed partnership working with providers to ensure that their models support local children both across care and education. We work with providers who share the same vision as Rochdale for all our children.

We have open and transparent discussions with providers on our vision and gaps. We support providers to develop provision in the borough where this fits to meet our sufficiency gaps across all sectors of the market.

What was the impact?

The impact of the sufficiency planning and provider relationships are

- More children placed in their local borough
- More children are educated in their local borough when a specialist provision meets their needs
- Children will be supported to move back to their local borough in the new homes
- Children with LDA will not be placed at a significant distance

- Increased placement stability for children and young people as we work in partnership with providers
- Providers tell us when there are vacancies and we work together

[Find out more contact](#)

Sarah Tonge, Strategic Lead for Children's Commissioning, Rochdale Borough Council,
sarah.tonge@rochdale.gov.uk