

## Leeds: Co-production in implementing the special educational needs (SEND) reforms

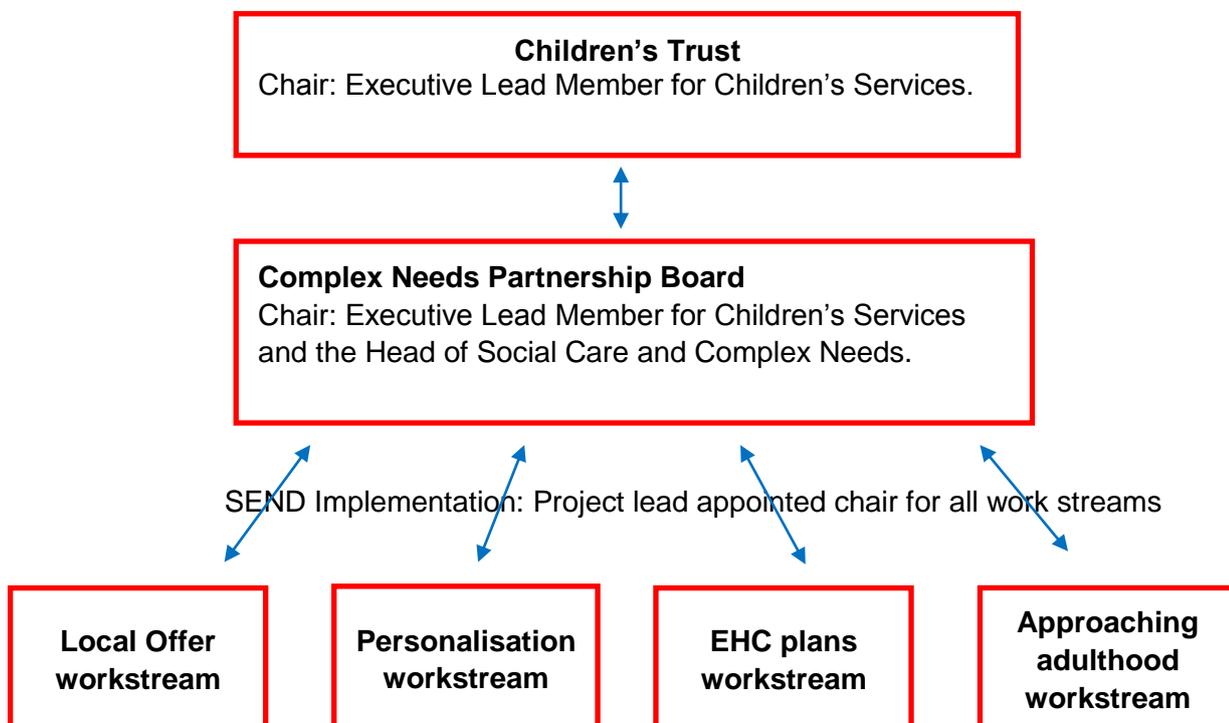
### Getting the right people working together, at different levels

Co-production works when all the people who need to be involved are brought together to work in partnership on an equal basis. This might need to happen at both strategic and operational levels.

At each level, it is important that:

- someone with sufficient seniority has authority to bring about change and provides overall coordination
- there are representatives from the different services involved who have sufficient knowledge, skills and seniority to bring about change within their own service
- commissioners with responsibility for the service are involved at all levels
- parent carer representatives are involved at all levels
- everyone is involved as equal partners.

This can be illustrated by looking at how Leeds worked in co-production to implement the recent SEND reforms.



The **Children's Trust Board (CTB)** is the key strategic body for children and young people in Leeds. It brings together strategic leads from different agencies including health, education, social care, police, probation and the voluntary sector well as some councillors. It is chaired by the councillor who acts as Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

**The Complex Needs Partnership Board** reports directly to the Children's Trust. Senior leads from health, education, social care and the voluntary sector providing services to children with complex needs are represented on the board, as well as parent carer representatives from Epic Leeds, the local parent carer forum. There are four children's commissioners in Leeds, two from the local authority and two from health. They work closely together and are also represented on this board. It is co-chaired by Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and the Head of Social Care and Complex needs. Its members include:

- **Councillors** with responsibility to Children and Young People
- **Health:** Lead community paediatrician, head of community health care (includes therapists), lead nurse for Children and Young People. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- **Education:** managers of head teachers, high school, primary school, special school, early years, child minders, Ed Psychology
- **Voluntary sector** – People in Action, Carers Leeds, and other support groups
- **Children's commissioners** (health and local authority)
- **Parent Carer Forum** – parent carer representatives.

### **Implementing SEND reforms**

The Complex Needs Partnership Board was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the SEND reforms. They seconded a senior manager/head of service to lead this project and set up four separate work streams to implement the changes. Each work stream was chaired by the same project lead, which facilitated a coordinated approach between the different work streams.

Each work stream had senior practitioners from the different services involved, including health, education and social care. It also included the children's commissioners and parent carer representatives from Epic Leeds, the parent carer forum.

The work streams included representatives from the following:

- **Health:** senior paediatricians, therapists, nurses, CAMHS
- **Education:** head teacher, teachers, SENCOs, Ed psychology
- **Head of Disability Social Care teams**
- **Support Groups**
- **Children's commissioners** (health and LA)
- **Parent Carer Forum** – parent carer representatives.

Heads of service are included in all the email trails that generate from all meetings.

This illustrates how co-production can work at different levels, with heads of services working together at a more strategic level and senior practitioners working together to plan and implement changes needed at an operational level.