A logo with a tree and text

Description automatically generated**Proposal to SEND Strategic Board**

***Adoption of an Ordinarily Available Provision Guide for Parents, Carers and Professionals of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)***

***Aim:***

The aim of this proposal is to introduce an Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) guide tailored for parents, carers and professionals supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This guide intends to provide comprehensive information and resources which can be used to support children and young people with SEND, prior to or in the interim period of, applying for further intervention or assessment.

By adopting a guide, we aim to empower parents, carers, and professionals to better understand and access the services, resources, strategies and provisions available; fostering, and empowering early intervention, inclusivity and support for children with SEND both at home and in educational settings.

***Context:***

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) often require additional support to access education and achieve their full potential. However, navigating the complex landscape of available provisions and services can be challenging for parents and professionals alike. Many struggle to understand what support is available, how to access it, and how to advocate effectively for their child or students. Lengthy waiting times for referrals to services often means that support can be delayed, further impacting on the needs of the child or young person.

An Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) guide outlines the support and resources that can be used to support parents’ and settings for children and young people with SEND from Early Years to Post 16. It provides clear and accessible information about the various interventions, accommodations, and strategies that can be implemented to support these children and young people effectively. By adopting such a guide, we can empower parents, carers, and professionals to access support quickly and efficiently, improving collaboration between parents and professionals, and ultimately enhance outcomes for children with SEND.

OAP guides have been successfully implemented in other localities but focus only on supporting schools. The proposed Waltham Forest guide aims to bring together a tool which speaks to parents, carers, and professionals; supporting children and young people accessing a range of learning environments from elective home education, early years settings to post 16. Including resources and strategies which can be implemented both in the home and educational settings, and for use by a range of individuals from parents/carers to early help, health visitors, teachers, and teaching assistants etc.

Examples of OAP guides include:

[Wandsworth](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/wandsworth/fsd/files/ordinarily_available_provision.pdf)

[Merton](https://www.merton.gov.uk/education-and-learning/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/ordinarily-available-guidance)

[Barnet](https://5f2fe3253cd1dfa0d089-bf8b2cdb6a1dc2999fecbc372702016c.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/uploads/ckeditor/attachments/5860/00_Ordinarily_Available_Document_March_2019.pdf)

[Essex](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/SEND/Documents/Ordinarily%20Available%20Inclusive%20Teaching%20Framework%20Sept.%202023%20(all%20pupils).pdf)

[West Sussex](https://schools.local-offer.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/WSX-OAIP-Nov-2021.pdf)

***Objectives:***

* To use and share specialist knowledge, skills, and strategies already within the system to build capacity for early intervention; accelerating support for children and young people, who may otherwise be waiting for referrals to specialist services without additional support.
* To provide parents and professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the support and strategies available, which can be implemented at home and within mainstream education settings for children with SEND.
* To empower parents and professionals to advocate effectively for their child or students by equipping them with relevant information and resources.
* To promote inclusivity and accessibility within educational settings by raising awareness of available provisions and encouraging their implementation.
* To facilitate collaboration and communication between parents, educators, and other stakeholders involved in supporting children and young people with SEND.

***Key Concepts of the OAP guide:***

Collaborate with experts in the field (health, education, CSC, SEND parents etc.) to develop a comprehensive guide outlining the support and resources available within mainstream education settings for children with SEND. The guide should cover a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

* Different types of SEND and their characteristics.
* Strategies for identifying and assessing SEND.
* Interventions and accommodations available within mainstream classrooms and a range of settings including home.
* Rights and entitlements of children with SEND and their families.
* Practical tips for effective advocacy and collaboration.

***Distribution and dissemination:***

Once developed, the OAP guide should be made readily available to parents, educators, healthcare professionals, and other relevant stakeholders. It can be distributed through various channels, including:

* School websites and newsletters.
* Parent-teacher associations, parent forums and support groups.
* Waltham Forest Hub and educational organisations.
* Healthcare facilities and clinics.
* Online platforms and social media channels.

***Training and workshops:***

Offer training sessions and workshops for parents, educators, and other professionals to familiarise them with the contents of the OAP guide and how to effectively utilize it. These sessions can cover topics such as understanding SEND, implementing inclusive practices, and advocating for children with SEND.

***Monitoring and evaluation:***

Establish mechanisms for monitoring the adoption and impact of the OAP guide. Collect feedback from parents, educators, and other stakeholders to identify areas for improvement and ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness.

***Timeline:***

Development of OAP guide: 5 months

Distribution and dissemination: Ongoing

Training and workshops: Conducted termly

Monitoring and evaluation: Via SEND strategic board

***Budget:***

The budget for this proposal will primarily cover the costs associated with the development and distribution of the OAP guide, as well as expenses related to training sessions and workshops. A detailed budget breakdown will be provided upon request once the initial proposal has been agreed.

The adoption of an Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) guide has the potential to significantly enhance support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within mainstream education settings and at home. By providing clear and accessible information about available provisions and resources, we can empower parents and professionals to better advocate for and support these children, ultimately fostering inclusivity and improving outcomes. We urge the stakeholders to support the adoption of this guide and collaborate in its implementation for the benefit of all children with SEND.