

Cover sheet

Document	Business Case – Additional Capacity in Children and Young Peoples Therapy Services
Version	
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Presenter(s)	Elaine Allegretti, Strategic Director Children and Adults LBBB
Meeting	Barking and Dagenham Committees in Common
Date	7 th November 2023
Purpose	<p>Improving outcomes for babies, children and young people has been agreed as a system priority for the North East London Integrated Care Partnership. The Barking and Dagenham Best Chance Strategy for babies, children young people and their families identifies improving access and support to those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as a system priority and partners have agreed this as a commissioning intention.</p> <p>Partners are working together through the Barking and Dagenham SEND Area Board to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Improving access to therapy support has been identified as a priority – a SEND health needs assessment has pointed to a significant increase in the number of children and young people on Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) and a deficit in therapy capacity to meet current demand. This is manifested in high caseloads and long waiting times for therapy support, particularly speech and language therapy.</p> <p>NELFT undertook a therapy demand and capacity review in Barking and Dagenham in 2022/23, initially focused on speech and language therapy (SLT) and then expanded to include occupational therapy and physiotherapy. The outputs of the SLT demand and capacity review fed into the ICB financial planning process for 2023/24 and some growth funding was</p>

	<p>ear-marked for SLT (up to circa £500K), with funding to be released subject to business case sign off.</p> <p>The business case identifies a capacity gap of 10 SLT therapists and 4 occupational health practitioners and physiotherapists. Recurrent funding of £923,797 is requested to recruit additional therapists to bridge the gap.</p> <p>The business case has been endorsed by the Best Chance Delivery Group and is included as Attachment A.</p>
Background	<p>The therapy demand and capacity work has been presented to the Barking and Dagenham SEND Area Board and the Best Chance Delivery Group, who have requested that it comes to the Committees in Common for endorsement.</p> <p>Following endorsement by the Committees in Common, the business case will be submitted to NHS North East London Investment Committee for approval, with the recommendation that funding for 2023/24 is prioritised to fund speech and language therapists and one occupational therapist and that the business case is prioritised for further investment in the 2024/25 planning round.</p>
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committees in Common are asked to endorse the business case and recommend it to the NHS North East London Investment Committee.
2. Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>[To be completed following the meeting]</i>