Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
APPENDIX 2: Theory of Change

BCP Council

PARENT CARERS TOGETHER
Bournemouth Christchurch Poole

NHS Dorset

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Theory of Change

BCP begins from a position of strong partnership and growing inclusive practice, but the system remains fragmented, with inconsistent experiences for families, rising EHCP demand above national levels, workforce pressures, and too much reliance on specialist and crisis support. Through our SEND and AP Strategy, we will shift this towards a joined-up, inclusive 0–25 system where support is delivered early, locally and consistently so that every child and young person feels they belong, are listened to, and can thrive. To achieve this, our reform focuses on strengthening inclusive mainstream provision, embedding early identification and intervention, building workforce capacity and confidence, improving partnership working and co-production, and ensuring sustainable, value-for-money use of resources.

Inputs

- Joint leadership across education, health and care Investment in workforce
- Implementation of priorities within maturity matrix
- Capital for inclusive places; data and digital systems;
- Co-production with families;
- implementation of the Experts at Hand, Universal Offer and cluster-based models.
- link with families first/family hubs and neighbourhood health initiative

Outputs

- Expanded mainstream and inclusion base capacity
- Increased access to early multidisciplinary support without referral
- A clear graduated pathway and Universal Offer in all settings
- Locality clusters with a single point of access
- Strengthened governance, co-production and data use.
- Increased skill and confidence across workforce

System changes

- A shift from reactive, referral-led and fragmented services to a proactive, locality-based system delivering early intervention Coordinated multi-agency support
- Inclusive practice embedded across all settings through Experts at Hand with accountability measures secured
- Genuine joined up working and embedded co production

Outcomes

- Earlier identification and support More children supported in mainstream without escalation
- Reduced EHCP requests and reliance on independent/alternative provision
- Improved family experience and trust
- Increased workforce confidence and consistency

Impact

- Children and young people experience greater belonging, improved outcomes and life chances, fewer crisis points, and support closer to home, alongside a more sustainable, value-for-money SEND system.
- Increased trust and alongside a more equitable system where access to support and outcomes are consistent

Assumptions:

- Partners sustain shared accountability and collaboration
- Workforce capacity and skills can be built at scale
- Early intervention will reduce escalation and demand
- Co-production will strengthen trust, engagement and system effectiveness

External factors:

- National reforms (NHS, Children's Social Care, curriculum)
- Funding pressures in the High Needs Block
- Workforce supply challenges
- Wider system changes (e.g. ICB restructuring, Family Hubs rollout) influencing pace and delivery