

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 November 2015



Help and Support to Children and Young People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive, and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children & Adult Services

Purpose of Report

1. To provide members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with information in relation to the help and support the County Council provides to children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The presentation will be given by the Principal Educational Psychologist and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Officer.

Background

2. At its meeting on 24 February 2015 members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee heard of the reforms under the Children and Families Act 2014 which places duties on local authorities and others in relation to both disabled children and young people and those with Special Educational Needs.
3. The Committee received information on developments such as the Making Changes Together Forum, and the Local Offer which is primarily for use by parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. It also enables professionals and practitioners to see what services are available and how they can be accessed.
4. At its meeting on 25 June 2015, Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for the coming municipal year 2015/16 which included an overview presentation on what Durham County Council does to support children and young people with autistic spectrum disorder.

Current Position

5. Arrangements have been made to provide members of the committee with a power point presentation that will focus on:
 - *Supporting Children and Young People with Autism including:*

- *What is autism?*
- *Prevalence*
- *The implications of being on the autism spectrum*
- *Key legislation and guidance documents*
- *Meeting educational needs*

Recommendation

6. Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to receive the presentation and note its' content and comment accordingly.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – No direct implications.

Staffing - No direct implications.

Risk - No direct implications.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty -

Accommodation - No direct implications.

Crime and Disorder – No direct implications.

Human Rights - No direct implications.

Consultation – No direct implications.

Procurement - No direct implications.

Disability Issues –

Legal Implications – No direct implications.