

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 April 2017



Progress on the Implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Transformation & Partnerships, and Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children & Adult Services

Purpose of Report

- 1 To provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress on the Implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy by Paul Shadforth, Strategic Manager for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion and Linda Bailey, Strategic Manager for Progression and Learning.

Background

- 2 In September 2014 the introduction of the Children and Families Act brought about major reforms to the way local authorities and other organisations support children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities as a Local Area.
- 3 The majority of children and young people with special educational needs are educated in a mainstream school, including almost half of those with statements and EHC plans. Information from November 2015 shows that around half of our children and young people with Statements or EHC Plans are educated in specialist provision.
- 4 In County Durham, we have a good track record of working collaboratively with partner organisations and families to achieve outcomes and meet the holistic needs for children and young people with SEND. Our key partners include education providers, Health, the voluntary and community sector, together with parents/carers, children and young people.
- 5 In taking the reforms forward across the Durham Local Area Durham County Council has developed a Strategy for Children and Young People with Special

Education Needs and/or Disabilities 0-25 covering the period 2016-2018. The strategy has been co-produced with parents and children and young people, Durham County Council, Schools, Colleges and Health partners.

- 6 The SEND strategy has been signed off at democratic level and senior leadership levels in the local authority and at CCGs. Governance of the SEND Strategy is through the SEND Strategy and Accountability Group, a sub group of the Children's and Families Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board 29 June 2016.
- 7 The SEND Strategy sets out the shared vision 'for all children and young people with SEND to have every opportunity to take control of their lives, be as independent as possible and achieve their full potential'. To achieve this we are committed to; "Participation, Promotion and Prevention, Personalisation and Preparing for Adulthood"
 - Participation - Ensuring children and young people and their families are at the heart of developing and planning services.
 - Promotion and Prevention - Promoting wellbeing and inclusion, ensuring that the right support is available which develops skills and capacity and identifies and meets needs as soon as possible.
 - Personalisation - Providing and commissioning services to maximise choice to the right support enabling children and young people with SEND to fulfil their individual aspirations.
 - Preparing for Adulthood - Ensuring all professionals working with our children and young people share high aspirations and support them towards greater independence and employability.

Implementation of our Strategy

9. The presentation will outline our approach to the implementation of the Strategy and will address:
 - SEND Strategy – Vision & Priorities
 - Identifying children and young people who have SEND
 - Assessing and meeting needs
 - Improving outcomes
 - Views of Parents, Children and Young People
 - Local Area Inspection

- Next Steps
 - Inclusive Durham
 - Strategic Review of High Needs Provision
 - Ongoing implementation of Reforms

Recommendation

10. Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to receive the presentation, note its content.

Background Papers

SEND Strategy



SEND Strategy
-Final.docx

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Appendix 1: Implications

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Durham County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there is a school place available for every child.

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to keep the provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities under review (including its sufficiency), working with parents, young people, and providers.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None