

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 MAY 2018**

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS/DISABILITIES STRATEGY**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Special Education Needs/Disabilities Strategy (Appendix 1) was approved by the Health and Well-Being Board on the 5 December 2017 and the Cabinet on 8 February 2018. The Strategy seeks to improve health, education and care outcomes for children & young people with a special educational need and/or a disability (SEND). This is a key priority of the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) and is dependent on, and expecting of, effective partnership collaboration between strategic health bodies, schools and the Local Authority (LA). It will drive greater integration of services in a co-productive approach that will:

- Identify children and young people with SEND
- Assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, through a Graduated Approach<sup>i</sup>
- Provide support and services that effectively meet needs and improve the outcomes of those with SEND

2. To inform the development of the Strategy and review the provision in the local area for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities a Peer Review was commissioned from the Local Government Association (LGA) (Appendix 2). The Peer Review took place between the 4 and 7 December 2017. The Peer Review Team interviewed officers, visited settings and reviewed the Strategy, self-assessment and draft action plans.

3. A Joint Local Area SEND Inspection was carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) between the 5 March and 9 March 2018. Publication of the inspection letter is expected week beginning the 6 May 2018 (Appendix 3 to follow). The findings of the Joint Inspection remain draft and confidential until publication.

#### **Background**

4. Local authorities and partners must have regard to the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015) which provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations. It relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people up to the age of 25.

5. The purpose of the Worcestershire's SEND Strategy is to deliver the local partners statutory duties by setting out a case for change and improvement. Five

Strategic Priorities were identified as part of the development of the SEND Strategy they are:

- (i) A Person – Centred Approach - recognises the strengths and abilities of individuals and put them at the centre of planning and decision making about their own care and support.
- (ii) Integration and Operational Delivery - develop a local approach that integrates our assessment and planning process and to ensure services for children with SEND and their families are coordinated.
- (iii) Early Intervention - support children to have the best start in life and ensure children and young people and their families can access help when they need it.
- (iv) Preparation for Adulthood - take a whole life approach, which starts at birth, to improve the personal transition experience and journey to adulthood for children and young people with SEND and their families.
- (v) Workforce Development - Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and partners to develop a workforce development programme that will result in a confident multi-agency workforce that understand SEND, that is able to work together, shares a vision for those with SEND and achieves good outcomes.

6. These priorities form part of a plan to drive a programme of work that will be overseen by representatives of the accountable bodies through the SEND Improvement Board reporting to the Health & Well-being Board.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

7. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- consider the SEND Strategy, the LGA Peer Review and the feedback from the Joint Local Area SEND Inspection carried out by Ofsted and the CQC
- determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny, and
- agree whether it would wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families

### **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 - Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2017-2021
- Appendix 2 - Worcestershire County Council SEND Peer Review 4th – 7th December 2017 Feedback Report
- Appendix 3 - Joint Local Area SEND Inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission Outcome Letter (to follow)

### **Contact Points**

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## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

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i **Graduated Approach:** A model of action and intervention in early education settings, schools and colleges to help children and young people who have special educational needs. The approach recognises that there is a continuum of special educational needs and that, where necessary, increasing specialist expertise should be brought to bear on the difficulties that a child or young person may be experiencing.

ii **The SEND Code of Practice** is statutory guidance for the following organisations:

- local authorities (education, social care and relevant housing and employment and other services)
- the governing bodies of schools, including non-maintained special schools
- the governing bodies of further education colleges and sixth form colleges
- the proprietors of academies (including free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools)
- the management committees of pupil referral units
- independent schools and independent specialist providers approved under Section 41 of the Children and Families Act 2014
- all early years providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors that are funded by the local authority
- the National Health Service Commissioning Board
- clinical commissioning groups (CCGs)
- NHS Trusts
- NHS Foundation Trusts
- Local Health Boards
- Youth Offending Teams and relevant youth custodial establishments
- The First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) (see v.)