

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

6 JULY 2023

WORCESTERSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND 2023-26

Summary

1. The Panel will receive an update on the draft Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2023-26
2. The representatives invited for this discussion are:
 - The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being, Worcestershire County Council
 - The Director for All Age Disability and the Director of Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning, Worcestershire Children First
 - The Managing Director, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB).
 - The Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust
3. Presentation slides are attached as Appendix 1.

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 (CYP) with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people up to the age of 25.
5. The previous Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2017-2021 was approved by Cabinet on 8 February 2018.

Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2023-26

6. The purpose of Worcestershire's SEND Strategy is to deliver the local partners' statutory duties by setting out a case for change and improvement. This refreshed draft Strategy (attached as Appendix 2) has been co-produced with the SEND and All Age Disability Partnership Board including the Parent Carer Forum. Workshops were also held with school children to inform the priorities.
7. Six Strategic Priorities were identified as part of the development of the latest SEND Strategy and they are:

- i. Identification and assessment of SEND is timely and effective
 - ii. There is sufficient and effective SEND provision
 - iii. There is awareness and understanding of SEND within local communities
 - iv. Outcomes for young people with SEND are improved as a result of effective planning, preparation for adulthood and better coordination of service delivery to ensure positive transitions as they progress through their education
 - v. Children and young people with autism achieve positive outcomes and the support required to enable this is in place
 - vi. Emotional health and wellbeing is actively promoted for CYP with SEND and their families and effective targeted and specialist support is available for those CYP at risk of, or experiencing difficulties
8. 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 and All Age Disability Partnership Board reporting to the Children and Young People's Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Purpose of the Meeting

9. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:
- Consider and comment on the draft SEND Strategy
 - Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being and representatives from NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
 - Determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Presentation slides

Appendix 2 – Draft Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2023-2026

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 8th February, 2018](#)

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