

## **CABINET**

### **28 SEPTEMBER 2023**

# **WORCESTERSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND 2023-2026**

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#### **Relevant Cabinet Member**

Councillor Tracey Onslow, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education

#### **Relevant Chief Officer**

Melanie Barnett, WCF Director for All Age Disability (0-25)

#### **Local Member(s)**

Not Applicable

#### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education recommends that Cabinet approve the Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2023-2026.**

#### **Background**

2. Local Authorities and partners must have regard to the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015) which provides statutory guidance on duties, responsibilities, 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.
3. The previous Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2017-2021 was approved by Cabinet on 8 February 2018.
4. 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 Strategy 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.
5. 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 (CYP) 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.
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 and All Age Disability Partnership Board, reporting to Children and Young People's Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Overview and Scrutiny**

7. The Strategy and covering report was taken to the joint adults and children's scrutiny panel on the 6 July 2023. The panel asked questions which were responded to at the meeting. There were no further recommendations to the Cabinet member. As requested by the panel, an update on the progress of the delivery plan will be provided in 12 months.

### **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

8. Local authorities owe statutory duties to children and young people aged 0 - 25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities, under Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, associated regulations and statutory guidance. The Worcestershire Strategy for CYP with SEND recognises and takes account of the Council's duties and sets out how these will be met.

### **Risk Implications**

9. The updated Strategy will drive an ambitious programme of work overseen by the All-Age Disability and SEND Partnership Board to change how we work with children and young people with SEND and their parents. A Strategy will ensure that there is a formal structure for communication and the sharing of information.

### **Joint Equality, Public Health, Data Protection and Sustainability Impact Assessments**

10. Equality Impact Analysis has been carried out in respect of the SEND strategy. This identified potential positive impact in the lives of children and young people who have a disability. No potential adverse impact was identified.

### **Human Resources**

11. There are no human resource implications relevant to this report.

## **Other Implications**

12. There are no other implications relevant to this report.

## **Supporting Information**

- Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2023 – 2026.

## **Contact Points**

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Melanie Barnett, WCF Director for All Age Disability (0-25)

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## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Strategic Director for All Age Disability (0-25)) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- [SEND Code of Practice \(January 2015\)](#)
- [Agenda and Minutes of the Joint Adult Care and Wellbeing and Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panels](#)
- [Agenda and Minutes of Cabinet](#)