

21 November 2016

Agenda Item: 07

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND INCLUSION**

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY FINAL REPORT**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the findings of the Review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).
2. To seek approval of the recommendations of the Review of SEND.

#### **Information and Advice**

3. Local authorities are required by law to review elements of their Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) arrangements every three years.
4. The review commenced on 2 October 2015 and concluded on 10 October 2016. Its work was led by a multi-agency Board, chaired by Councillor John Peck, and three additional working groups were established to support the SEND Review Board. Details of the SEND Review Board Membership is available as a background paper.
5. The review has gathered evidence from a broad range of stakeholders across a variety of disciplines. It has also engaged with over 100 parents/carers and children and young people, details of which are also available as a background paper.
6. The review has explored the need, role and function of specialist places of education for children and young people with SEND presently and into the future. It has also considered the processes surrounding the assessment, commissioning and monitoring of specialist places of education and the SEND support services provided to mainstream schools and academies.
7. The findings and recommendations from the review are contained within the final report of the SEND Review Board, attached as **Appendix 1**.

#### **Other Options Considered**

8. A review of SEND provision is legally required, under section 315 of the Education Act 1996, every three years and was due in Nottinghamshire in 2016. Officers believe that the

review of specialist school provision was timely and will help to focus resources most effectively into the future. No other options were, therefore, considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. To ensure the Council fulfils its statutory duty to review arrangements for pupils with SEND.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

11. Recommendation 26 in the final report recommends that some special schools require expansion or modernisation to ensure that they are able to meet the needs of children into the future. It requires the County Council and partners to seek to secure finance, which is likely to be in the region of several million pounds.

### **Human Resources Implications**

12. Recommendation 20 requires that the Schools and Families Specialist Services ensure that they are organised in the best way to meet the needs of children, young people and their families. This may result in a review of the service, which in turn may have HR Implications.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

13. Recommendation 16 asks the County Council to explore the potential to re-designate special schools as 'all age', meaning that provision can be offered across a strong network of special schools for those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of SEN, from the academic year in which they turn 5 years of age, through to the academic year in which they are 18. In addition special schools/academies and the County Council will also explore provision for children who are eligible for education in the early years. The County Council will work in partnership with special schools and consult with parents to develop this further.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

14. Recommendation 10 requires that a permanent multi-agency strategic SEND monitoring and accountability group will be established to ensure the development and continued improvement of SEND services. This group will be required to link to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, as appropriate, to ensure a joined up approach.

## **Implications for Service Users**

15. Recommendation 16 will create a change to the school-age profile of special schools/academies in Nottinghamshire. This will mean that some service users (pupils) in two years' time may receive a different service than those currently within post 16 provision in some special schools/academies.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

16. Recommendations 7, 15, 17, 25, 26, 27 and 29 may all have a positive impact on the environment and sustainability. Collectively they will help the County Council to reduce the carbon footprint of special school transport. Any new buildings or upgraded buildings within the special school estate will also improve sustainability in to the future.

## **Ways of Working Implications**

17. Recommendation 27 will require an assessment of Council properties and ways of working to determine if there are smarter ways to provide education to children and young people with SEND in properties used by other parts of the County Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the findings of the Review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) are noted.
- 2) the recommendations of the Review of SEND, focusing on the Council's special schools and other specialist education provision made by the Council for children and young people with a SEND, are approved.

**Marion Clay**

**Acting Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (LM 03/11/16)**

18. There is a statutory obligation for the Local Authority to review elements of our Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) arrangements and the recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Committee.

## **Financial Comments (TMR 02/11/16)**

19. The financial implications are set out in the report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nottinghamshire review of arrangements for Special Educational Needs and Disability – interim report – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 18 July 2016

SEND Review Board Membership

List of stakeholders who contributed to the SEND Review

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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