

18 July 2016**Agenda Item: 04****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY - INTERIM REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report advises Committee of the progress to date of the Review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

Information and Advice**Purpose of the Review**

2. To consider the future need, role and strategic development of specialist places of education for children and young people (CYP) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, including those with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
3. To consider the processes surrounding the assessment, commissioning and monitoring of places at the Council's maintained provisions and at independent non-maintained provisions.
4. To explore the role and function of some services that support children and young people with SEND prior to, and during, their specialist placement.
5. The outcomes of the review will be used to inform new ways of working within the Integrated Children's Disability Service (ICDS) and Support to Schools Services (StSS). They will also be used to inform future planning and service delivery for children and young people with SEND.

Progress to Date

6. The SEND Board has continued to oversee, monitor and challenge the work of the Review through the three working Groups. These groups have explored three distinct lines of enquiry:
 - Information and Assessment
 - Commissioning and Provision
 - Property and Places.

Information and Assessment

7. This working party, to date, has identified a need to improve the quality and consistency of information regarding children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability and how this information is effectively shared and communicated between families, schools and other services.
8. In relation to assessment, the working party recognises a need to streamline assessment processes, improve the quality of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), especially in relation to outcomes for children and young people. This was also identified as an area for development by Inspectors during the Local Area Ofsted/Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of SEND arrangements (June 2016).
9. The action plan of the Information and Assessment Working Group is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Commissioning and Provision

10. This working party, to date, has identified that a more transparent and consistent approach to the commissioning of SEND school places in both maintained and independent settings is an area for further development. This is because there is a need to ensure families are able to access the best education provision as close to home as possible.
11. A key emerging recommendation is around the need to improve joint commissioning (NCC and NHS) arrangements that are developed in partnership with parents, in order to improve provision and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Again, this was identified as an area for development by Inspectors during the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of SEND arrangements.
12. The action plan of the Commissioning and Provision Working Group is attached as **Appendix 2**.

Property and Places

13. This working party, to date, has identified there are serious concerns around the suitability and sufficiency of some of the Council's special school buildings. There has been a shift in pupil need over past years. Whilst the actual number of pupils with complex needs has remained relatively static over the past five years, their complexity has increased significantly and these children and young people are attending school more regularly and for a longer period of time.
14. In addition, there has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people who have a complex presentation as a result of their autism spectrum disorder. These children require higher levels of staff support, more specialised learning environments and creative approaches to teaching and meeting their wider educational needs.
15. The action plan of the Information and Assessment Working Group is attached as **Appendix 3**.

Emerging Recommendations

16. The following key overarching recommendations are emerging and are being considered by the SEND Board:
- An agreed vision and strategy for special schools in Nottinghamshire should include a consistent admission policy, and local authority placement policy, including a transport policy which must be applied
 - An agreed co-produced SEND assessment process which is child and family focussed, and has high expectations for improved outcomes for the child or young person
 - A clear evidence based understanding of any need for capital investment which will improve provision for children and young people in Nottinghamshire special schools
 - Improved protocol and practice for the sharing of information with schools, further education, the Local Authority and health.

Local Area SEND Inspection

17. Following the Ofsted/CQC Inspection of SEND arrangements (June 2016), the recommendation by Ofsted and the CQC will be presented to the SEND Board and appropriately reflected in the Local Authority's SEND Review's final recommendations, during August 2016, and the final report will be presented to the SEND Board in September 2016. A full report on the Ofsted/CQC Inspection will also be presented to Committee in September.

Other Options Considered

18. A review of SEN provision is legally required, under section 315 of the Education Act 1996, to be made every three years and is now due in Nottinghamshire. Officers believe that a review of the specialist school provision is timely and will help to focus resources most effectively into the future. No other options were, therefore, considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. 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

21. The costs associated with the administration of the review will be contained within the overall Support to Schools Service budget.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the progress to date of the County Council's review of Special Education Needs and Disability (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, be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

22. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 01/07/16)

23. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 21 above

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 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 19 October 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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