



REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Cabinet of progress made in responding to the findings of the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) [inspection](#) and seek feedback on the draft terms of reference and improvement plan.

Information

2. As reported to Cabinet in May 2023, the Nottinghamshire local area SEND partnership is undertaking focussed work to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and families. This work, captured in a joint improvement plan, will respond to findings of the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission (CQC) local area SEND inspection which took place in January/February 2023.
3. An independently chaired improvement board has been established and will meet for the first time on 23 June 2023. The proposed terms of reference for the board which will be considered at the first meeting are outlined in **Appendix A**, in order that Cabinet can consider any feedback it wishes to make.
4. The priority areas in which the local area partnership is required to make improvement are outlined below:
 - a. Leaders, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board and education, health and care providers should cooperate to urgently identify, assess and provide for the needs of children and young people with SEND. This includes assessment of needs, timely issuing of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and holistic oversight of these plans through annual reviews.
 - b. Leaders, including commissioners and providers, should act urgently to identify and address the delays and gaps in access to some health services, particularly speech and language therapy, neurodevelopmental pathways and equipment services. They should also ensure that they use available performance data to identify where gaps exist and whether actions taken to address these are effective.

5. A draft improvement plan to respond to the priority areas for action continues to be developed through co-production with children, young people, parents/carers and families and partners. The current draft is included in **Appendix B** in order that Cabinet can consider any feedback it wishes to make. The plan will be submitted to Ofsted/CQC for consideration following ratification by the Improvement Board on 23 June 2023.
6. The local area partnership is committed to improving the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND and will continue to focus on developing and strengthening the improvement plan and improvement arrangements moving forwards.

Other Options Considered

7. The Council and Integrated Care Board could have sought to drive forward improvements through existing partnership governance arrangements, however, they consider that the establishment of an independently chaired improvement board will better enable timelier improvements to be made to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To ensure the necessary improvements are made to respond to the outcome of the local area inspection and to ensure oversight by an independently chaired body.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

10. Local authority costs associated with the improvement programme and associated partnership governance arrangements are in the process of being confirmed and will be subject to the relevant approvals by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Cabinet Member for Finance.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet:

- 1) provides feedback on the proposed terms of reference for the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Partnership Improvement Board, attached as **Appendix A**.
- 2) provides feedback on the draft SEND improvement plan, attached as **Appendix B**.

- 3) agrees to receive a further update on progress in implementing the improvement plan in six months' time.

Councillor Tracey Taylor
Cabinet Member, Children and Families

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CD 13/06/23)

11. Cabinet has the authority to consider the report and recommendations.

Financial Comments (SS 13/06/23)

12. Local authority costs associated with the improvement programme and associated partnership governance arrangements are in the process of being confirmed and will be subject to the relevant approvals by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Cabinet Member for Finance.

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.

[Improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - report to Cabinet on 25 May 2023](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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