

18th January 2021

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTORS, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS AND COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN (2021-2023) AND THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE INTEGRATED SEND COMMISSIONING STRATEGY (2021-2023)

Purpose of the Report

1. The report seeks the Committee's approval of the Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategic Plan (attached as **Appendix 1**), and the Nottinghamshire Integrated SEND Commissioning Strategy (attached as **Appendix 2**), both covering the period 2021-2023.

Information

2. In September 2020, the County Council's Children and Young People's Committee and Policy Committee approved the Nottinghamshire SEND Policy for 2020-2023 (attached as **Appendix 3**).
3. The SEND Policy built on over 30 years of learning and best practice in Nottinghamshire including the Council's continuing commitment to inclusive practice. In recent years, the SEND landscape has changed significantly and the Policy was developed with the Council's key stakeholders, including parents and carers in response to these changes:
 - there are now more children and young people with SEND
 - the SEND needs of some children have become more complex, especially around social, emotional and mental health
 - new legislation stipulates that the Council must now plan support for some young people with SEND until the age of 25 years.
4. The SEND Policy's vision is for Nottinghamshire to be a place where *children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will be safe, healthy and happy, have a good quality of life and opportunities to fulfil their aspirations, develop their independence and make a positive contribution to society.*
5. The Nottinghamshire SEND Strategic Plan and the Nottinghamshire Integrated SEND Commissioning Strategy have both been developed to support the implementation of the

SEND Policy. As with SEND Policy both these documents have been developed with key stakeholders including the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum, Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG.

6. The SEND Policy identifies six key areas for development in Nottinghamshire required over the next few years to deliver the vision:
 - SEND Partnership
 - SEND Provision
 - SEND Systems
 - SEND Achievement
 - SEND Workforce
 - SEND Communication.
7. The Nottinghamshire SEND Strategic Action Plan outlines why each of these key areas are a priority for the Local Area and activities that the partnership will take over the next couple of years to achieve them. The Action Plan identifies a named lead for each of these activities and the organisations to be involved in their delivery. The Action Plan also provides a timescale and the indicators for successful delivery.
8. The SEND Strategic Action Plan will be owned and monitored regularly by the Nottinghamshire SEND Accountability Board. An annual progress report will be provided to the Children and Young People's Committee.
9. The Children and Families Act 2014 required Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups to make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEND (Section 26 of the Act). The Nottinghamshire Integrated SEND Commissioning Strategy sets out the joint commissioning arrangements and priorities between the County Council, Bassetlaw CCG and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG.
10. Both the County Council and the CCGs face financial challenges which mean it is increasingly important to work closely together to eliminate duplication and ensure value for money through effective commissioning, whilst striving to improve quality and outcomes for our children and young people.
11. The Strategy has been developed during the period of Covid-19 which has inevitably influenced the final priorities for the Local Area. The Local Authority and CCGs have had to adapt to the challenges presented by Covid-19. Many of the new ways of working have been positive, including improved communications between organisations and with service users. These changes will continue to be embedded in the delivery of this Strategy.
12. The Strategy describes how working together to collaboratively commission services which will improve health, social and educational outcomes, and reduce inequalities for Nottinghamshire's children and young people with SEND. A person-centred approach ensures the ambitions of children, young people and their families are identified and considered as part of the commissioning process. The Strategy is cross referenced in the Nottinghamshire SEND Strategic Action Plan.
13. The Strategy identifies a number of priority areas for 2021-2023 in order to ensure that:

- children and young people with SEND are not disproportionately impacted during national emergencies, for example Covid-19
 - children and young people with SEND related communication needs are met both at home and at school
 - parental confidence is improved regarding decisions around placements and provision to support more children and young people with SEND to remain in their home communities
 - the social, emotional and mental health of children and young people with SEND is improved
 - access to therapy services across education, health and social care is improved
 - a joint understanding and approach across the Partnership about the criteria and process for continuing care is developed.
14. The Integrated SEND Commissioning Strategy will be reviewed and monitored regularly by the Nottinghamshire SEND Accountability Board and the CCGs.

Other Options Considered

15. These two documents support the successful implementation of the Nottinghamshire SEND Policy (2020-2023). No other options have been considered.

Reason for Recommendation

16. The SEND Strategic Action Plan and Integrated SEND Commissioning Strategy enables the Council together with its key stakeholders to respond effectively to the changes in the SEND landscape, and to improve the confidence of parents and carers in the related processes and provision as outlined in the Nottinghamshire SEND Policy.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. 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

18. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Implications for Service Users

19. The implementation of the SEND Strategic Action Plan and Integrated SEND Commissioning Strategy will result in improved support, provision and outcomes for children and young people with SEND, as well as the improved confidence of their parents and carers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Committee approves the proposed the Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategic Plan (attached as **Appendix 1**), and the Nottinghamshire Integrated SEND Commissioning Strategy (attached as **Appendix 2**).

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 15/12/20)

20. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 11/12/20)

21. There are no financial implications arising directly from this 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.

[The Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy \(2020-2023\) – report to Policy Committee on 30th September 2020](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1427