

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday, 11 November 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Summary of the Self Evaluation of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The attached PowerPoint is a summary of the self-evaluation undertaken by all partners working with Special Educational Needs and Disabled (SEND) young people and their families.

The local area has experienced significant changes in leadership and staffing since the implementation of the 2014 SEND reforms. To date there have been three interim Head of SEND in the Children's Service department. A permanent Head of SEND took up post in September 2019.

Leaders from the local area acknowledge that there is a SEND strategy in place. The strategy was widely consulted on and subsequent priorities agreed, aligning with the Wirral 2020 pledges "Children are ready for school" and "Young people are ready for work and adulthood."

There are plans to review and refresh the Strategy over six months taking account the new Corporate key priorities from April 2020. The planned review begins in November 2019 and will engage with all partners including parents to ensure true coproduction.

1. Children are ready for school

Children in the early years benefit from joint working practices across the multi-agency workforce. Joint working supports the 'tell it once' approach as well as ensuring that the 'right early years' service is provided at the right time for the right child'. Parents report that the support they receive from early years partners is strong and positive.

A data system exists which allows health services to alert the LA about children with significant needs who will need specific education provision. This process has been further developed for it to provide meaningful contributions to the commissioning of services and school places.

The developing role of 'specialist childminders' is leading to a more confident and varied choice of skilled providers for families with pre-school children.

2. Young people are ready for work and adulthood

The supporting measures in this pledge are: -

1. SEND services have children and their parents at the centre of all decision-making processes.
2. To ensure that all services and provision for children and young people with SEND is good or outstanding and provides high quality inclusive opportunities.
3. To ensure that progress for children with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people.
4. Commission and deliver a range of high-quality provision for all children and young people with SEND.
5. To ensure that all young people have appropriate support that prepares them for adulthood.

The verbal report provides the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a detailed analysis of the Local Area partner's self-evaluation of SEND provision.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to approve the key areas of development work which are appended to this report in a PowerPoint.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The self-evaluation contributed to by all partners in the Local Area has been produced to provide elected members with information about the progress the Local Area has made in implementing the SEND reforms 2014. Wherever possible the Local Area has evaluated the impact of work on two of the Wirral Plan pledges, Children are Ready for School and Young People are Ready for Work and Adulthood. The self-evaluation process has enabled a collective view in the Local Area to celebrate progress as well as identifying the work programme for the next twelve months.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Leaders in the local area have systems in place to check the quality and impact of their work. The evaluation of workstreams have been captured in one document the self-evaluation form (SEF). Changes to strategic governance arrangements have improved timeliness, engagement and awareness of strategic duties. The SEND Strategic Board now reports into the Health and Well Being Board. Areas for development and key priorities have been correctly identified and systems developed to drive improvement in the quality of services for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Funded by a ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant so no impact on Council budget or financial risk.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A local authority must conduct a statutory assessment of education, health and care needs when it considers that it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person (age range 0-25 years) in accordance with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The self-evaluation process is key to evaluating the impact of the current Local Area SEND strategy and SEND Policy. The increasing number of young people with an Education Health and Care plan whose parents request a place in a special school has resulted in schools having few if any spare places. This situation combined with the increasing number of SEND young people attending out of borough places has resulted in a considerable overspend of the High Needs budget.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Corporate Risk Register will be refreshed in line with the new Wirral Plan and SEND strategy to ensure that any risks to delivery are understood and mitigating actions are put in place as appropriate.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The self-evaluation has been shared with all key partners the Local Area who have all had the opportunity to contribute.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Yes and impact review can be found via the following link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017-1>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none arising from this report.

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APPENDICES SEND SEF PowerPoint

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date