

REPORT TITLE	Summary of the Independent Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Review by the Premier Advisory Group
REPORT OF	Corporate Director of Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report supports a summary presentation of the findings and proposed options from independent review of SEND provision conducted by the Premier Advisory Group (PAG). On November 26th, 2019 PAG met with representatives from the Schools Forum High Needs working party and later with elected members to provide initial proposals around five potential options. Having considered the comments and feedback PAG produced the SEND review document.

PAG sent the local authority a SEND Review: Final Report on Friday, 13th December 2019. The local authority received the following six documents:

The Main Report

- Option 1 – Development of the Kingsway Site
- Option 2 – SEMH Secondary Schools
- Option 3 – Wirral Hospitals' School
- Option 4 – Expansion of Resourced Bases
- Option 5 – PMLD/SLD Secondary Schools

The Presentation will outline each option.

1. 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 the proposed options. However, there are opportunities to determine through consultation whether any of the options should be progressed.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to approve the request for further consultation to determine and prioritise options.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The SEND High needs budget has a projected overspend so work needs to be undertaken to determine whether efficiencies can be made. There is increasing demand for places in special schools is becoming more than places available.

2.0 Other Options Considered

No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Insight shows that there are an increasing number of children and young people with SEND.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from the PowerPoint, but there will be if options are progressed.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

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

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

The proposals will be shared with all key partners and school leaders in the Local Area who have all had the opportunity to contribute.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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APPENDICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date