

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 1 December 2020

REPORT TITLE:	SEND - SELF ASSESSMENT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out a summary of the Local Area Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEN/D) self-assessment which has been contributed to by representatives from education, health and social care, as well as feedback from young people, parents and carers.

The Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) is a document that provides an ongoing evaluation of how successful the Local Area is at meeting the needs of SEN/D young people as well as the impact of services. Three questions are used to enable the Local Area partners, young people and parent/carers and all stakeholders to objectively reflect impact. The questions are:-

1. How effectively does each service area identify children and young people who have (SEN/D)?
2. How effectively does each service area assess and meet the needs of children and young people who have SEN/D?
3. How effectively does each service area improve outcomes for children and young people who have SEN/D?

The SEF summary also links with the four key priorities from the SEND Strategy 2020-24.

1. To improve the quality of provision and outcomes for young people with SEND. To do this the focus is on:-
2. Identifying needs at the earliest point and provide the appropriate support.
3. Ensure that young people are ready for each stage of their school life and prepared for adulthood.
4. Increase participation and engagement young people and their families. In doing so ensure that all changes to policy/processes takes account of the views of young people, their parents, and carers as well as professionals.

The matter effects all Wards within the Borough.

This report does not relate to a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is requested to note the SEND SEF Summary and request regular updates on the progress and impact to date around the key priorities.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 SEND is an important issue across the Local Area, with far-reaching implications and high cost to both the public purse and life chances. There are 2963 children/young people with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) aged 0-25. Three quarters of the young people are male. Four of the top wards with SEND young people live in are Leasowe & Moreton East, Bidston & St. James, Rockferry and Seacombe.
- 1.2 The Local Area should be held accountable for the progress made in effectively identifying SEND young people; the extent to which services assess and meet need and improve outcomes.
- 1.3 It is essential that elected members are aware of the work priorities, the work done and the impact on young people, so that the Local Area is collectively held to account for the outcomes of SEND young people
- 1.4 The work across the Local Area by all partners complements three of Council's priorities:-
 - A prosperous, inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations
 - Brighter futures for our young people and families – regardless of their background or where they live
 - Services which help people live happy, healthy, independent, and active lifestyles, with public services there to support them when they need it.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not being familiar with the key work priorities of the Local Area would lead to a lack of co-ordination and direction. This could have a detrimental impact on SEND young people's capacity and capability to lead productive lives.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Local Area has produced a Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF) annually.
- 3.2 The SEF is shared across the partnership. The key actions are evaluated regularly through the SEND Operations Group and the SEND Strategic Board.
- 3.3 The cyclical evaluative approach has resulted in improved coproduction.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The multiagency working has the potential to reduce overall spend on SEND particularly around joint commissioning. Regular evaluative data is ensuring that partners are trying to get better value for the Wirral pound.

- 4.2 Currently the High Needs budget is £1.2 million overspent with projections of the overspend increasing by an additional £1.4 million in the current financial year. As a result, the Head of SEND is working with colleagues on producing a recovery plan consultation which will be subject to approval by the Department for Education.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Local Authority has statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 regarding how services and support are delivered for disabled children and young people and those with Special Educational Needs.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 We will provide development opportunities so that the workforce can continuously improve. We will further an effective performance framework so that service areas can be appropriately held to account.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failing to deliver the actions outlined in the SEF will be mitigated through oversight and scrutiny arrangements by the SEND Operational Group and the SEND Strategic Board. Oversight of the SEND Improvement Plan will be provided by partners on a regular basis.
- 7.2 It is necessary to acknowledge the current financial pressures facing the Council and its partners as a risk. The Direct Schools Grant (DSG) is projected to be £3.0 million overspent by the end of the financial year. The Head of SEND is working with the Department for Education on a recovery plan. This could result in reduction of service delivery. Any future funding discussion must consider cost-benefit analysis and the need for invest to save approaches.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The SEF has been co-produced for the last four years. More recently it has been acknowledged that SEND young people and their parents/carers should have more opportunities to provide their feedback to improve all service areas as appropriate.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 It is recognised that a significant number of SEN young people have protected characteristics of the nine groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the strategy and delivery plan and can be found via the following link:

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental and climate implications arising from this report. It is anticipated that the SEND SEF will have no impact on the emission of greenhouse gases.

REPORT AUTHOR: Sue Talbot

(Sue Talbot, Assistant Director: Education)

telephone: 0151 666 4335

email: suetalbot@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 SEF Assessment Summary

Appendix 2 SEND Dashboard Q1

Appendix 3 SEND Dashboard Summary

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date