

Subject:	Update on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy development		
Date of Meeting:	Children, Young People and Skills Committee 13 January 2020		
Report of:	Deb Austin Interim Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

1.1 The report sets out the updates in developing a new SEND Strategy in the city.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That CYPS committee note the progress made towards the new SEND Strategy.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The city's current SEN strategy expires at the end of 2019 and over the previous five years the SEND landscape has changed dramatically. These changes include the introduction of new national legislation and a code of practice and a significant redesign of special education provision in the city following the SEND review. Therefore it is timely to now develop a new SEND Strategy for the city.

3.2 The city's SEND partnership board have requested a core group of members facilitate the development of a new city SEND strategy, to launch in 2020.

3.3 The purpose of the strategy is to seek a city-wide agreed vision for the commissioning and delivery of SEND services in the city, providing a framework against which provision can be measured and improved. To allow for measurement of the strategy's success, an accompanying action plan will be introduced with clear outcomes and milestones. This action plan will be overseen regularly by the SEND Partnership Board.

3.4 Principles we want to apply to this strategy development

The SEND Partnership Board have agreed to the following principles in developing and managing the new strategy.

- There will be an open co-produced approach with families, service users and all stakeholders. A co-production agreement will be drawn up with the Parent and Carer Council locally (PaCC) articulating their role and the processes of co-production in implementing the strategy.
- Voice of our service users, colleagues and stakeholders to be fully embedded
- The strategy should take a look at all ages including closer links to strategy for adults with learning difficulties
- The strategy should ensure that whatever is developed, it is an approach that works from individual needs through to providing a city-wide strategy
- It should address real issues around funding and in the needs to further build an inclusive approach in the city
- That, once launched, the strategy must remain live and relevant, it should be designed to be flexible where needed over the course of the next five years
- Create a format that enables progress to be measured and the strategy / SEND Partnership to be held to account
- Design a strategy development process that enables partners to truly engage, taking the conversations to them

3.5 Review of existing strategy

Work is underway to review the current outgoing strategy, to enable learning from that to inform the new strategy. An overview is provided in Appendix 1.

3.6 Developing the new strategy

A sub group of the SEND partnership board met and agreed the process in principle. A core group (Chair of PaCC, Lead CCG commissioner and Service Manager for Policy) hold regular discussions on approach and progress, checking in with the SEND Partnership and other key partners.

A range of early consultations have taken place with a wide group of stakeholders including parents/carers, schools, colleges, Adult LD services, early years professionals, curriculum leaders and others. Further consultations and engagement activities will take place in early 2020.

3.7 Provisional agreed priority areas for the new strategy

A large consultation event for stakeholders took place in June 2019 and helped inform the proposed provisional priority areas, shared here.

- **Inclusion** - are those with SEND included? In school or college? In the community? At work?
- **SEND Journeys/Pathways** - are people's experiences of SEND processes, services and provision good?

- **Sufficiency of SEND Services and Provision** - do we have the right support and provision available at the right times and in the right places? Can we accurately predict future need?
- **Transitions** - are changes of schools/colleges, homes, day services, employment, social workers or health care well managed?
- **Early Identification and Intervention** - are needs picked up early enough?
- **Achievement and outcomes** – can people with SEN and disabilities reach their full potential?

3.8 What needs to be done next?

Based on detailed feedback already received a full draft strategy will be developed for consultation in early 2020.

Listening to children, young people and adults with SEND is key and we will use a combination of existing feedback plus some new engagement activities to ensure this is a strategy reflecting their needs and wishes.

Engagement now needed on proposed priority areas (and draft action plans) with full range of stakeholders including children, young people, families and service providers to ensure they are right. The right time also needs to be given to ensure key partners such as the many stakeholders and colleagues in the health sector can fully contribute to the strategy development.

We have a mailing list we can use for some of this work, to communicate with interested parties, and further people can be added to this by contacting sendstrategy@brighton-hove.gov.uk email address.

3.9 Proposals on how the strategy will be kept live and held to account

- Further discussions are taking place between local authority, PaCC steering group and our health colleagues on the detailed governance arrangements for the strategy. Below are some current considerations on how the governance will work.
- The SEND Partnership Board will oversee and own the SEND Strategy and will monitor the progress of the priority areas.
- Each priority area will have an accompanying action plan, suggested template given as Appendix 2.
- Each priority area will have a focus group of professionals attached as 'priority owners'. This does not mean they hold responsibility for all progress in that priority area but they are a group who will meet regularly (bi-annually is most likely), assess what progress has been made in this area, provide challenge and support to action leads and report back to the SEND Partnership Board.
- Each focus group will also have a PaCC Steering Group representative aligned to it. This essential role is to ensure there is a built-in mechanism for parent/carers feedback and contributions at

all points of the strategy management, plus providing a 'critical friend' view over each priority area on a regular basis to hold us to account. The PaCC rep will likely join the priority area review meetings, providing challenge and asking key questions on the progress made. They will contribute to the report back to the SEND Partnership Board.

- A suggested template for reporting is given as Appendix 3.

3.10 Ways of feeding into the emerging strategy

We are looking for invites to sessions to discuss the emerging strategy with a wide range of stakeholders

We are particularly keen for ideas on how to engage with children, young people, adults who have used SEND services and their families, or to have feedback already collected shared with us. Queries and suggestions should be shared to: sendstrategy@brighton-hove.gov.uk

4. **ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Stakeholders agree that the city needs a new SEND Strategy.

5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Extensive community engagement is underway on the draft Strategy with further work scheduled for early 2020. A key principle of the development of the new strategy is to ensure that the voice of children, young people and adults with SEND are heard and incorporated.

6. **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 For Council sign off of the strategy it will be brought to a future meeting of CYPS committee and of the Health, Wellbeing Board. Our key partners will also take the strategy through their own sign off arrangements, including through PaCC steering group. The SEND partnership board will make ultimate sign off and will own the strategy. Suggestions about further engagement opportunities are welcomed.

7. **FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Future strategies and priorities will need to be considered in conjunction with available budget. As part of the Dedicated Schools Grant settlement for 2020/21 the Government has announced an additional sum of £780m nationally for high needs. For Brighton and Hove, it is estimated that this will result in an increase in the High Needs Block (HNB) allocation of c. £2.5m. This additional resource will give the LA some capacity to develop strategies.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams

Date: 28/11/19

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The proposed strategy will set out the Council's vision, principles and priorities in relation to SEND so as to ensure that it is working effectively with partners in education, health, parent carers and young people to identify and meet the needs of children and young people in Brighton and Hove with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) from birth to the age of 25 as required under the Children and Families Act 2014.

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 02/01/2020

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The ability of residents with disabilities to access services is a key consideration in the development of the new strategy

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None

Any Other Significant Implications:

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 7.5 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 7.6 None

Public Health Implications:

- 7.7 Early discussions on the new SEND Strategy development have taken place to ensure it is aligned with the city's existing Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.8 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Overview of review of existing strategy
2. Template for action plan
3. Template for action plan reporting

