

Subject:	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2020 – 2025: draft for consultation		
Date of Meeting:	Children, Young People and Skills Committee 15 June 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 provides a draft of the city's new SEND Strategy – Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That CYPS committee note the draft SEND strategy and the planned consultation process.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The city's current SEN strategy expired 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 A sub group of the SEND partnership board have co-produced the draft strategy with a range of stakeholders with the intention to formally launch in September 2020.

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

3.4 Principles applied to this strategy development

The SEND Partnership Board agreed the following principles for developing the new strategy:

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- The voice of our service users, colleagues and stakeholders to be fully embedded
- There will be an open co-produced approach with families, service users and all stakeholders. A co-production agreement is being produced with the Parent and Carer Council locally (PaCC) articulating their role and the processes of co-production in implementing the strategy
- The strategy should lead to meaningful impact for those in receipt of services
- 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 the need to build upon the inclusive approach in the city
- 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 framework that enables progress to be measured and the strategy to be held to account through the SEND partnership board

3.7 How the new strategy has been developed

A sub group of the SEND partnership board met and agreed the process.

A range of early face to face 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.

Children and young people and adults have contributed directly to the development of the strategy.

3.7 Agreed priority areas for the new strategy

- Inclusion and Equality
- Early Identification and Intervention
- SEND Journeys/Pathways
- Achievement and outcomes
- Transitions and preparing for the future
- Sufficiency of SEND Services and Provision

3.8 Keeping the strategy live and monitoring progress

The SEND partnership board and the Adult LD Partnership Board will oversee the progress made in the strategy and an annual update report will come to CYPS Committee.

Each priority area has a strategic action plan, as set out in the main document in appendix 1. There will be a more detailed action plan, listing milestones, measures of success and key leads for more detailed actions. An update report against these more detail actions plans will be taken to the Partnership Boards for oversight, support and challenge.

Each priority area will have a linked workstream group made up of key stakeholders, who can oversee and lead the work needed in that area. Each workstream will present a highlight report (containing progress made against the actions and escalated any issues) regularly to the SEND partnership board.

Each Workstream will also have a PaCC Steering Group representative as a member. This essential role is to ensure there is a built-in mechanism for parent/carer feedback and contributions at all points of the strategy management.

The PaCC rep will join the priority area workstream meetings, asking key questions and providing challenge on the progress made. They will contribute to the report back to the SEND Partnership Board.

3.9 Consulting on the draft strategy

We will consult on this strategy throughout Summer 2020 with all partners and stakeholders, with a final version being launched in the Autumn.

A consultation process has been designed and an ongoing questionnaire will launch 20th June. A series of face to face and other consultation activities will also take place with key stakeholders to ensure their views are further captured for the final version.

The draft presented in appendix 1 has been the result of many detailed discussions with a range of stakeholders.

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

- 4.1 Stakeholders agree that the city needs a new SEND Strategy. It is best practice for a local area to have one in order to agree local priorities, commissioning arrangements and to enable success and progress in SEND services to be measured.

5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 A key principle of the development of the new strategy is to ensure that the voice of children, young people and adults with SEND is heard and incorporated. The development of the strategy has involved a large number of discussions with a range of stakeholders and interested parties. This includes parents, carers, children and young people, adult service users, parent support groups, statutory service providers, education sector, independent sector, and community and voluntary sector colleagues.
- 5.2 We are also able to incorporate learning from the wide range of other steps taken in the city to capture feedback. This includes the biannual Safe and Well at School Survey, which provides valuable feedback from pupils who are in receipt from support in school. We are also able to learn from the surveys and other activities undertaken by our parent/carer support groups in the city such as Amaze surveys and PaCC workshops.

6. **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 In order for full coproduction and the ability for all stakeholders to contribute it is important that the draft strategy now has a public consultation process.

7. **FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Future strategies and priorities will need to be considered in conjunction with available budget. In terms of Council finance, the scope of services included crosses both Council General Fund and Dedicated Schools Grant budgets. 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, this equates to 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 in line with agreed priority areas. Funding settlements beyond 2020/21 are still to be announced by government.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams

Date: 01/06/2020

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 In September 2014, the introduction of the Children and Families Act brought about major reforms to the way Local Authorities and other organisations support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 years is the related statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people. This places a duty on the Local Authority to consult children with SEND and their parents or carers when reviewing local SEN and social care provision.
- 7.3 The public consultation exercise outlined in this report will meet the common law duties in respect of procedural fairness, as well as duties set out in the statutory guidance that children, young people, their parents and carers must be consulted in determining the Council's strategy for SEND.

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 03/06/2020

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 The ability of residents with disabilities to access services and make progress is a key consideration in the development of the new strategy. Improving outcomes for all in the city with SEND is a key priority for all partners and will be monitored as part of this work.
- 7.5 A full equalities implications assessment process is being conducted alongside the strategy consultation. Certain protected characteristics feature heavily in the strategy already, such as age and disability. We are working with partners to explore the implications for some of the other areas such as pregnancy/maternity and religion/belief.
- 7.6 One of the strategic actions in the 'Sufficiency of SEND Services and Provision' priority is to carry out a city-wide SEND sufficiency project. This will involve further developing datasets and reporting we currently have around SEND Services. We will incorporate the findings from our equalities assessment work into that project.
- 7.7 Any actions identified from our equalities impact assessment work will be incorporated into the SEND Strategy priority action plans, where appropriate. This will ensure that those actions will be part of the regular monitoring of progress and scrutiny of data by the SEND Partnership Board.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.8 An agreed SEND Strategy within the city allows for more informed commissioning in this area, supporting best value for public resources.

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. Draft SEND Strategy 2020 – 2025

