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| <b>Subject:</b>          | The New SEN Partnership Strategy 2012-2017             |                    |  |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>  | 12 November 2012                                       |                    |  |
| <b>Report of:</b>        | Jo Lyons - Lead Commissioner, Learning and Partnership |                    |  |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>  | <b>Name:</b> Regan Delf, Head of SEN                   | <b>Tel:</b> 293504 |  |
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| <b>Key Decision:</b>     | Yes  |                    |  |
| <b>Ward(s) Affected:</b> | All  |                    |  |

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Brighton and Hove's new Special Educational Needs (SEN) Partnership Strategy (draft) is presented here as part of this report.
- 1.2 Following the completion of the consultation and the launch, detailed action plans will be written in order to implement the strategy and monitor progress.
- 1.3 The key focus is on improving outcomes for our children and young people with SEN, rather than on processes.
- 1.4 To promote partnership between all stakeholders in the area of SEN, the Local Authority has set up an SEN Partnership Board with Jo Lyons, Lead Commissioner, Learning and Partnership as Chair. The aim of the Board is to steer the educational provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities across the City. The Board includes head teachers, governors, voluntary sector partners, and Health and Social Care colleagues.
- 1.5 The SEN Partnership Board has lead and overseen the development of this Local Authority's new SEN Partnership Strategy 2012-2017.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Council agrees to the publication of the final draft of the new SEN Strategy 2012-17.

**3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- 3.1 The previous Local Authority SEN Strategy achieved many successes, notably:

- Significantly improved academic outcomes for pupils with SEN in Early Years and at all Key Stages
- A significant narrowing of the gap in attainment between pupils with and without SEN
- A significant reduction in numbers of pupils requiring special schooling and an increase in the percentage of pupils with complex needs successfully educated in mainstream
- A substantial reduction in the numbers of pupils requiring Statements of SEN
- A substantial reduction in the number of pupils requiring independent and non maintained (agency) special school placements with a corresponding significant reduction in budget costs for this type of provision
- The development of a range of quality SEN provision including successful special schools across the city for children and young people with SEN.

- 3.2 The new strategy has been developed in the context of much strengthened partnership between the LA, schools and school governors, parents and other agencies and services in health and social care.
- 3.3 The new strategy has been developed in the context of a changing national landscape with regard to SEN. The government has published draft proposals for new legislation to be introduced in the spring of 2014 which will have a significant impact on all areas of work.
- 3.4 In addition, new funding arrangements for SEN via the High Needs Block to be introduced from April 2013 will have an impact on current practice.
- 3.5 As a consequence of 1.6 and 1.7 above, some detail of plans and actions over the next five years will have to be developed over time and an element of flexibility in terms of priorities and actions will need to be retained.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The vision and key priorities for actions in the new strategy were subject to wide consultation over the summer of 2012. Feedback on the draft circulated was positive overall and where appropriate changes and additions have been made as a result of comments from all stakeholders, including parents and young people.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 5.1.1 As outlined in paragraph 3.4, the Department for Education (DfE) is implementing new national funding arrangements for SEN from April 2013. The Government's approach to reform of high needs funding includes not only high needs pupils in the schools sector, but also high needs students in the further education sector.

The new funding arrangements mean that a notional block for High Needs will be identified within the Dedicated Schools Grant allocated to the Local Authority. Alongside this, a new place-plus approach to high needs funding will ensure that all providers are funded on an equivalent basis. The new SEN strategy will need to link closely to these changes, and the Local Authority will engage with stakeholders to ensure available funding facilitates and supports the objectives of the SEN strategy.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams*

*17/10/12*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that the needs of children and young people with SEN and disabilities are met and to publish the arrangements for meeting those needs. The Authority must also ensure that it complies with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that disabled children are not discriminated against.

Members should also be aware that the Government is proposing new legislation in the form of the Children and Families Bill, which if passed through Parliament is expected to come into force in Spring 2014. This legislation will significantly change current SEN practice and procedure, particularly in relation to the assessment process

*Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston*

*Date: 10/10/12*

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The LA is committed to fair, equitable and transparent processes in relation to assessment, funding and decision making for pupils with SEN. A new multi-agency Scrutiny Panel established this term will have the job of scrutinising LA decision-making processes to ensure they are providing equal access for all pupils with SEN and disabilities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no specific sustainability implications

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 A key focus in the strategy is on improving outcomes for young people with Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD). Many of these young people are or will become involved in crime and substance misuse without effective interventions.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Elements of the budget for SEN and disabilities are demand-led and come under sustained pressure. It is vital that our strategy promotes good outcomes and high quality provision alongside best value.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 It is important that this opportunity is taken to ensure that every child gets the best start in life. Provision of effective support for SEN and disabilities will

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The success of the strategy depends on the quality of the LA partnership arrangements. Support for young people with SEN and disabilities extends much beyond education and it is vital that any policy incorporates health, social care and voluntary services needs plus support\_for the transition into adult services.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Draft SEN Partnership Strategy 2012-2017