

Subject:	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Review	
Date of Meeting:	10 June 2014	
Report of:	Executive Director, Children's Services	
Contact Officer:	Regan Delf, Acting	
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Ward(s) affected:	All	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The report sets out the terms of a review of SEN and disability service in Children's Services, including related Health services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the commencement of the review and approves the scope, vision and aims.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 There are a number of contextual factors that make a review of SEN, disability, care and related health services a productive way forward at the current time, notably:
- 3.1.1 The government is introducing wide-ranging reforms to the way services for children and young people with SEN and disabilities are delivered through the Children and Families Act from September 2014
 - 3.1.2 New demands from the SEND reforms require local authorities to commission services jointly with our Health colleagues and to be clear about such arrangements through the LA's published 'Local Offer'
 - 3.1.3 A review of the current Section 75 commissioning agreement in relation to health service provision is being undertaken
 - 3.1.4 Families continue to feedback that SEND services are not always sufficiently well-aligned or responsive to the specific needs of their children and young people and also that choice can be limited in terms of provision, hence there is scope for further improvement

- 3.1.5 Changes to the ways schools are funded through the High Needs Block (HNB) part of the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) means that we need to ensure sustainable models of special educational provision for the future particularly for special schools and special units and facilities
- 3.1.6 For financial sustainability into the future, services and provision need to be delivered increasingly within a best value context with maximum on-going efficiencies
- 3.1.7 Our aim is to for any efficiencies to come first and foremost through integrated, innovative and flexible models of delivery that provide for young people close to home and allow choice and control for parents and young

3.2 The vision for the review is as follows:

Our vision is to provide inclusive fully integrated disability, care, health and education services to children and young people with SEND. Services will be personalised to each child and family. Families will have as much choice and control over services and provision as possible. Quality of provision will be excellent and promote measurably improved outcomes and better lives into adulthood. Streamlined well-integrated systems and efficiencies will enable the vision to be achieved within the value for money framework that the council is required to operate

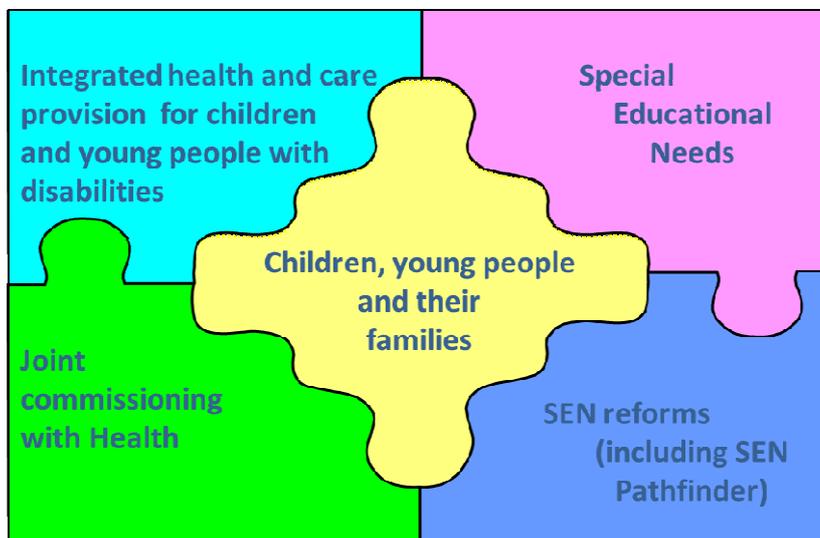
3.3 The key aims of the review are:

- To create inclusive fully integrated SEN, health, care and disability provision of outstanding quality ranging from 0-25 years
- To ensure excellent practice in identification and assessment of SEN and disability
- To provide a new framework for joint commissioning of services
- To deliver high quality provision and services within a value for money context, acknowledging need for on-going efficiencies in council spending
- To improve transition arrangements to adulthood and ensure extended assessment and provision from 19 to 25 years
- To provide choice for families and facilitate best use of integrated personalised budgets and direct payments
- To engage parents and young people effectively at all levels of strategic and decision-making forums

3.4 Four cross-cutting strategies will under-pin the review and ensure it is conducted on a secure footing:

- Engagement of children and young people and their families
- Accommodation
- Value for money and savings
- Communication and consultation

- 3.5 Governance of the review will come from a specially constituted Governance Board consisting of high level representation from Children’s Services, CCG, schools and parents.
- 3.6 The newly amalgamated SEN and Disability Board will help support and steer the work of the review and provide a reference group
- 3.7 It is proposed to engage an external consultant for a prescribed number of days to provide objectivity and support with research and review methodology
- 3.8 The proposed timeline for the review is as follows:
- End July 14 – project initiation completed
 - Key partners informed of review scope and remit
 - Initial consultation complete
 - Young person’s engagement strategy in place
 - Value for money strategy in place
 - External consultant engaged
 - End of Aug 14 – preliminary report on project first stage
 - End of November 14 – review of all providers and services concluded
 - **End of December 14 – draft final report published**
 - End of February 15 – consultation responses incorporated and final report and recommendations
 - End of March 15 – report and recommendations agreed by committee
- 3.9 The four areas covered by the scope and remit of the review are set out below with services for children, young people and families at the heart:



- 4.0 Integrated health and care provision for children and young people with disabilities includes:
- The current model of integrated service delivery via Seaside View
 - The children’s homes at Drove Road and Tudor House
 - Fostering
 - Respite and short breaks
 - Agency placements
 - Direct payments

- Potential new provision possibly linked with East and West Sussex

4.1 Special Educational Needs includes:

- Special schools including agency placements
- Special Facilities
- SEND provision in mainstream schools, PRUs and alternative provision
- Education support services
- Staff training and development

4.2 Joint commissioning with Health includes:

- New joint commissioning arrangements with CCG, Public Health and NHS England
- Review of service delivery for mental and physical health - CAMHS, therapies, specialist health services at Seaside View
- Review of jointly funded Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) contracts
- Review of parental engagement services at aMAZE

4.3 SEN reforms (including SEN national champion Pathfinder) include:

- `Local Offer` phase 2
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- 19-25 agenda and links with adult services
- Personalised budgets
- Joint commissioning
- Associated workforce reform
- National champion role

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

5.1 Key to the success of the review will be the quality of engagement of children and young people, their parents, carers and families

5.2 One of the cross-cutting strategies underpinning the review will be an engagement strategy with children and families as exemplified in the diagram above:

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 The SEND review will be set in a value for money framework and will seek efficiencies where appropriate to meet targets for council funding in future years.

6.2 The aim is for any savings to be identified through improved integration of services and provision such that streamlining of delivery can produce further improvements at lower cost.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Name Steve Williams (yet to be consulted)
Date: dd/mm/yy*

Legal Implications:

6.3 Local authorities have a statutory duty to keep their arrangements for special educational provision under review (section 315 Education Act 1996). The review proposed in this report will span the introduction of wide ranging new SEN reforms contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 which are due to come into force on 1 September 2014. Section 27 of the new Act (which will replace section 315 of the 1996 Act) is more prescriptive regarding the duties of the Local Authority when reviewing SEN provision, in particular requiring the Authority to consult with a defined list of parties, including children and young people with SEN and disabilities and their parents, academies, early years providers, children's centres and Youth Offending Teams. Local Authorities are also under a new duty to have regard to the relevant Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Strategy when carrying out reviews under this section.

6.4 Key reforms to be introduced by the 2014 Act include:

- The introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to replace Statements of SEN, to be co-constructed between families and the Local Authority
- The extension of the remit for EHCPs from 0-25 years (currently 0-19 years) and the extension of the statutory nature of Plans into all forms of further education, training and apprenticeships
- The introduction of 'personalised budgets' to be available to families where children have EHCPs attracting 'top-up' funding (i.e. above the level of delegated funding for SEN normally provided by schools)
- The requirement to publish a 'local offer' of services and provision available for SEND
- New requirement to commission education, health and social care services and provision jointly with Health (CCG, Public Health and NHS England Area Team as appropriate)

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 14/05/2014

Equalities Implications:

6.5 An Equalities Impact Assessment will form part of the review as there are significant implications for a large group of young people with special needs and disabilities.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 6.6 The draft SEN Code of Practice places new requirements on Local Authorities to consider the special needs of young people attending the Youth Offending Service
- 6.7 Increased identification of need amongst young offenders may lead to targeted provision that helps to reduce offending behaviour

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 6.8 A risk management assessment will be completed as part of the review process

Public Health Implications:

- 6.9 A representative from Public Health will be on the Governance Board for the review to ensure all implications are fully recognised

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 6.10 The review aims to further corporate priorities as follows:

- 6.10.1 Tackling inequality

- The gaps in achievement, health, well-being and longer term life chances for CYP with SEN and disabilities are far too wide still and this review aims to improve outcomes via improved sustainable and integrated service provision

- 6.10.2 Engaging people who live and work in the city

- The review will have a strategy to engage parents/ carers and CYP at its heart

- 6.10.3 Modernising the council

- The new SEN reforms in the Children and Families Bill and the need to secure a sustainable financial footing for services going forward for the future will be addressed in the review

7. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 7.1 The alternative option is to bring in the new SEN reforms and maintain SEND services within the context of a reducing council budget without a review of services and provision

- 7.2 The risk in the option above is that services and provision across agencies as they stand currently will not offer the fully integrated service to children and families required by new legislation

- 7.3. A further risk is that the status quo in provision and services for SEND may not offer best value for the public purse in a changing national and local financial context and may not therefore be sustainable into the future

8. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The report is outlining a review of services and provision for children and young people with SEND for the reasons given above.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None at this initiation stage of the review