

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Task Group

Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 13th April 2016

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Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed in their work programme for 2015/16 to undertake a review in relation to the implementation of the SEND reforms in Swindon since the reforms became law on the 1st September 2014. Eight members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to become members of the Task Group. The final/interim report is attached as Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Review and comment upon the SEND Task Group report, taking particular notice of its Recommendations.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1 The SEND reforms introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014 are a once in a generation opportunity to improve outcomes for children, young people and young adults with SEN or Disability (SEND) and their families, so they can shape the support that they need and achieve best possible outcomes in the most cost effective way.
- 3.2 The reforms aim to give children and families more control and choice from birth up to 25 years reflecting a holistic vision of development from birth right to transition into adulthood.
- 3.3 The implementation of the SEND reforms coincides with revised inspection arrangements in which Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission will undertake joint inspections to judge how effectively Local Areas fulfil their responsibilities towards disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs.

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- 3.4 A report to Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet in September 2014 highlighted the relatively high proportion, compared to national, regional and statistical benchmarks, of children and young people in Swindon subject to a Statement of SEN as well as those placed in specialist provision – special school or specialised resourced mainstream provision (SRP).
- 3.5 Opportunities for change – the reforms have been introduced because current arrangements do not work well enough for too many children, young adults and families. In Swindon, outcomes for children and young people with SEND are no better and often less positive than those achieved by children and young people with SEND in other local authorities.

Aims and Objectives

- 3.6 The SEND Task Group's aim was to review the impact of the SEND reforms with a specific focus on their implementation in Swindon. The review process involved engagement with key stakeholders including SBC Officers, Special Education Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO's), health professionals, Head Teachers' as well as parents'/carers', children, young people and young adults.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee could choose not to undertake Task Groups to investigate issues of particular interest to the Committee.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.2 There are no other implications arising as a direct result of this report.

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Impact Assessment

5.3 None.

Risk Management

5.4 None.

6. Consultees

6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Implementing a new 0 to 25 special needs system: LA's and partners – DfE (March 2015).

7.2 Specialist Provision for Special Educational Needs in Swindon – SBC (2015)

7.3 Swindon SEND Strategic Board Vision Statement – (June 2015)

7.4 Swindon SEND Strategic Board High Level Strategic Plan 2015-2017

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 - Interim report of the SEND Task Group.