

Individual Executive Decision Notice

Report title	Consultation on the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020	
Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	
Wards affected	(All Wards);	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director for Children's Service	
Originating service	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Service	
Accountable employee	Nicola Harris Email	SEND Support Officer nicola.harris@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to has been considered by	Children and Families Together Board	5 March 2020
	SEND Partnership Board	24 June 2020
	Directorate Leadership Team	8 July 2020

Summary

This report presents the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2020 for formal consultation.

Recommendation for decision:

That the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services:

1. Having considered the Draft SEND Strategy, approve public consultation on the document from 14 July to 21 September 2020.

This report is PUBLIC
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Signature

Date:

Signature

Date:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Local authorities **must** place children, young people and families at the centre of their planning, and work with them to develop co-ordinated approaches to securing better outcomes, as should clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). They should develop a shared vision and strategy which focuses on aspirations and outcomes, using information from Education, Health and Care plans and other planning to anticipate the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and ensure there are pathways into employment, independent living, participation in society and good health. Where pathways need further development, local authorities and CCGs should set out clear responsibilities, timescales and funding arrangements for that work. This strategic planning will contribute to their:
- Joint commissioning
 - Local Offer, which **must** include support in preparing for adulthood
 - preparation of Education, Health and Care plans and support for children and young people to achieve the outcomes in their plan

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 A proposed SEND Strategy has been developed by The Wolverhampton SEND Partnership Board and links to strategic recommendation in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). To develop the strategy findings and recommendations were drawn from many areas including Community Health SEND Engagement, SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2019, Voice for Parents Annual Survey 2019 feedback, Spotlight on SEND feedback, Local Area SEND Self Evaluation and the Ordinary Lives White paper.
- 2.2 On 5 March 2020 an update on the progress of the 2020 – 2025 Local Area SEND Strategy was provided to Children and Families Together Board. At this meeting it was agreed that SEND Partnership Board proceed with the consultation.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 If approved, formal consultation will take place from 14 July 2020 to 21 September 2020.
- 3.2 The results of consultation will be used to develop the final Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020.
- 3.3 During October 2020 the strategy will be submitted to Children and Families Together Board for approval for publication.
- 3.4 On 2 November 2020 the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 will be published.

4.0 Reasons for decision

4.1 Effective consultation will allow the SEND Partnership Board to make informed decisions on the finalisation of the strategy, improve delivery of SEND services, and to improve the accountability of SEND Partnership Board.

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 The Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 could be published without formal consultation. This would not allow stakeholder views to be incorporated into the final strategy.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 Due to current operational circumstance due to Covid-19 measures consultation will be hosted online at minimal costs.

[TS/09072020/S]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 The SEND Code of Practice 2015 states 'Partners should use their joint understanding to determine the shared outcomes they seek to achieve, for example improvement in educational attainment, levels of mental health and wellbeing and reductions in health inequalities. They should draw on national priorities (for example, those set through the NHS Outcomes Framework), local priorities (for example, the JSNA and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy). This should be a transparent process – the local community should be aware both of what the shared outcomes are and the plan to achieve them.'

[TS/09072020/W]]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 An initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be undertaken. Further iterations of the EqIA will be informed by the outcomes of consultation and be reported to decision makers.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

9.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate Landlord implications

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

12.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

13.0 Covid Implications

13.1 The level of consultation to be carried out will be impacted by Covid measures, as usual face to face focus groups will need to be carried out online.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 5 March 2020 – SEND Strategy Update – Children and Families Together Board.

15.0 Appendices

15.1 Appendix 1: Draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020