

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>9 December 2020</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23 Publication	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Education and Skills	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children's Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Robert Hart	Head of Service, Inclusion and Empowerment
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board	21 October 2020
	Children and Young People Leadership Team	22 October 2020

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**Recommendation for decision:**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Endorse and support the implementation of the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23 (appendix 1), as approved by Children and Families Together Board.

**Recommendations for noting:**

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The publication of the easy read version of the Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23 (appendix 2)

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper seeks endorsement of the published Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2020-2023 and support for its implementation.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The current Special Educational Needs and Disabilities strategy comes to an end in 2020.
- 2.2 On 24 September 2020 Children and Families Together Board approved the publication on the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23.
- 2.3 The SEND Strategy has been developed by the SEND Partnership Board and demonstrates their commitment to making sure children and young people with SEND and their families have an equal opportunity to achieve a good quality ordinary life. It supports our ten-year Children, Young People and Families Plan which aims to improve the resilience, health and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and families in Wolverhampton.
- 2.4 The strategy has been developed in co-production with children and young people, their families and a range of professionals. It also draws upon data from:
- What families and young people said at the Spotlight on SEND event 2019
  - What families said in the Voice 4 Parents Annual parent Survey 2019
  - What families, young people and professionals said in the Citizen Lab events in 2019
  - What children and young people said at the Real Talk event 2018.
  - Feedback of families, young people and professionals during the consultation on the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Community SEND Health Strategy.
  - Responses to the consultation on the draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023, held from 14 July 2020 to 21 September 2020.
- 2.5 The SEND Visioning Day was held on 4 October 2019. The aim of the SEND visioning day, 'Spotlight on SEND', was to help us understand the lived experiences of families and to find out what's working well and where improvements can be made. This feedback, along with other information and performance data, will help to shape our priorities over the next five years so that professionals and the people who use services, can work together to create services and support that families need, enabling them to live ordinary and fulfilling lives. The event was designed and delivered with young people, parents, carers and representatives of the Council (CWC) and CCG. 120 places were made available for
- 50 parents and carers

- 15 young people
- 45 professionals from education, health, and social care services
- 10 people from other voluntary and community organisations

- 2.6 Voice4Parents distributed their annual parent survey to 110 of their wider group members and also promoted the survey via social media, at the Gem Centre and in Wolverhampton's special schools, inviting all parents and carers in Wolverhampton to complete it. The survey closed in September 2019 and received responses from 89 parents and carers.
- 2.7 Between January and November 2019, City of Wolverhampton Council has worked with Birmingham City University and University of Wolverhampton on to undertake a "Citizen Lab" focusing on school exclusions and related issues. A Citizen Lab Workshop was held on 2-3 October 2019 bringing together approximately 80 key stakeholders, including young people, parents, people with lived experience, professionals, and academics.
- 2.8 Changing Our Lives hosted a Real Talk event In June 2018, to give young people an opportunity to influence and shape the City's future priorities around special educational needs and disability (SEND). Real Talk focused on the attitudes and expectations that young people in the City experience. At the event, young people discussed transport, preparing for the future and designing an inclusive city. Twenty-one students aged 12 – 18 years old from Wolverhampton College, Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre, Penn Fields School, Highfields School and Heath Park School attended the Real Talk event. Sixteen students had special education needs and/or disabilities and five did not have any additional needs. Three students were from BME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) communities (one Indian, two African Caribbean) and 18 were White British.
- 2.9 Wolverhampton CCG consulted on and published the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy during 2019. The strategy was developed to galvanise partners and stakeholders around an agreed direction to the development and implementation of SEND Community Health provision and joint commissioning arrangements over the next three years and is part of the City-wide SEND Strategy. As part of this consultation the views of 25 parents, eight young people and 43 professionals were considered.
- 2.10 The City of Wolverhampton Council received 96 responses, to the consultation on the draft SEND Strategy, from a range of stakeholders including, Children and young people, parents/carers, members of school staff, voluntary sector council organisations, Wolverhampton Councillors and SEND professionals. In general, the feedback was largely supportive of the vision, priorities and SEND Strategy as a whole. There were some recommendation made to strengthen, clarify and amend the SEND Strategy which were approved by Children and Families Together Board and incorporated in the final version of the strategy prior to publication. A summary of the responses to the SEND Strategy Consultation is available in appendix 3.

2.11 In order to understand the needs and priorities for the strategy, SEND Partnership Board also drew from a number of other sources of information, including:

- Wolverhampton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Children and Young People with SEND 2019
- The Children, Young People and Families Plan for Wolverhampton 2015-2025
- City of Wolverhampton Council Plan 2019-2024
- Wolverhampton Challenge Board's Ordinary Lives White paper 2017
- Recommendations from the Changing Our Lives Quality of Life Review 2019
- Recommendations from the Children's to Adults Services Case File Audit 2019
- Recommendations from Short Breaks Review 2019
- Recommendations from Alternative Provision Review 2019
- Wolverhampton SEND Partnership Board Self-evaluation.

### **3.0 Overview of Wolverhampton's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023**

3.1 Governance of this strategy will be held by SEND Partnership Board and overseen by Children and Families Together Board.

3.2 The strategy reflects the vision that Wolverhampton is an inclusive City where we work with children, young people, and their families with SEND so that they have a good quality 'ordinary life' and achieve their full potential.

3.3 The strategy recognises that all children with SEND are individuals with aspirations to lead their own lives. While life for a child or young person with SEND and their family is anything but ordinary, the ordinary life principles are what extraordinary achievements are built on.

3.4 This strategy signifies a commitment by all SEND Partnership Board partners to work together to achieve the vision and ensure that:

- Children, young people and their families are empowered and well supported
- Wolverhampton is an inclusive city
- Young people are well prepared for adulthood.

3.5 Some of the key activities that will support the delivery of the SEND strategy include:

- Implementing a new system of allocating high needs funding to education settings that is based on children and young people's individual needs and helps to support inclusion.
- Planning to ensure the city's education estate meets the needs of all our children and young people.
- Improving processes for assessing and planning support for children with SEND that embed person-centred and joint working for SEND support and for those with an EHC plan.

- Setting up mental health support teams in schools and implementing the CAMHS Transformation Plan and the Emotional Wellbeing Review to improve access to mental health support services.
- Improving take up of two-year health checks.
- Supporting more children and young people with SEND to be able to travel independently.
- Improving the provision of short breaks.
- Developing the offer from Strengthening Families hubs to provide better early help to families of children and young people with SEND.
- Through the Transforming Care Programme improve support for children and young people with autism or a learning disability.
- Implement the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy 2019
- Roll out the use of health passports.
- Implement the Culture of Belonging programme to improve capacity in mainstream schools to become more inclusive and ensure the right support is available to pupils at risk of becoming disengaged from education.
- Review and improve the city's leisure offer for children and young people with SEND.
- Work with education providers and the Employment and Skills Board to improve availability of and access to inclusive employment pathways and opportunities.

#### **4.0 Model of Delivery**

- 4.1 A multi-agency action plan will be developed to underpin the strategy.
- 4.2 These action plans and performance indicators against which we can measure our success will be published, every half-term, on the Wolverhampton SEND Local Offer website.
- 4.3 The SEND strategy action plan will undergo scrutiny by Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel on 13 January 2020.

#### **5.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 5.1 The approval for publication of the Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023 could have not been provided or the strategy could have been published unamended following consultation.
- 5.2 However, given the overall positive response and high level of support for the vision, priorities and aims of the strategy A decision was made to approve the draft Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023 following amendments resulting from consultation.
- 5.3 This decision supported the provision of a clear and transparent strategy to guide the future development of SEND Provision in the City and took into consideration the views of stakeholders that have participated the consultation.

## **6.0 Reasons for decision**

- 6.1 The Council has statutory duties under the Children & Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 to provide for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Implementation of the strategy contributes to fulfilling the Council's duties in this regard, by setting out the vision and key priorities that partners in the City, including parents and carers, children and young people, education, health, social care and voluntary sector agencies want to focus on to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND over the next three years.
- 6.2 Endorsement and support for the implementation of the Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023 would ensure council wide buy-in to a clear and transparent strategy to guide the future development of SEND Provision in the City.

## **7.0 Financial implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023. The financial implications of any recommendations from the SEND Strategy will be detailed in future reports, alongside approval to implement the change.
- 7.2 The 2020/2021 High Needs Bock Budget Designated School Grant Allocation was £36,186,396 although the £292,959 2019/2020 overspend has been offset against this, leaving £35,893,437 available.
- 7.3 £500,000, of the available budget, has been identified for system support and transformation, from the 2020/2021 High Needs Budget, and approved by Schools Forum in February 2020. The purpose of this fund was to support:
- improvements in central systems, e.g. Capita and the Education, Health and Care (EHC) Hub
  - improvements financial processing and efficient funding of high needs places.
  - modelling and implementation of the High Needs Funding Review
  - implementation of the Alternative Provision review and education elements of the SEND Strategy.
- 7.4 £456,547, of the available budget, has been identified for transitional protection.  
[TS/22102020/E]

## **8.0 Legal implications**

- 8.1 Implementation of the SEND Strategy will enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duties for Children and Young People with SEND in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 and secure a continuum of provision and support with partners for pupils aged 0-25 with SEND.  
[SB/23102020/W]

## **9.0 Equalities implications**

- 9.1 This report has equal opportunities implications as the contents of the SEND Strategy and consultation principles have direct relevance to the provision of SEND services.
- 9.2 An initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken and the overall conclusion of these assessments is that the implications are either positive or neutral.
- 9.3 The equalities implications will be kept under review and updated for any implications of the implementation of the SEND Strategy.

## **10.0 Climate change and environmental implications**

- 10.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from this report. Human resources implications.

## **11.0 Human resources implications**

- 11.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report. However, the implementation of the strategy may impact ways of working.

## **12.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 12.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report. The Corporate Landlord implications of any recommendations from the SEND Strategy will be detailed in future reports, alongside approval to implement the change.

## **13.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications**

- 13.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications from this consultation. However, the delivery of the SEND Strategy will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people with SEND and their families.

## **14.0 Covid Implications**

- 14.1 Due to restrictions in place due to Covid-19, the consultation and launch of the SEND Strategy was limited to electronic communication methods.

## **15.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 15.1 Children and Families Together Board - 5 March 2020  
2020 - 2025 Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Strategy
- 15.2 Children and Families Together Board - 24 September 2020  
Draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2020 – 2023

## **16.0 Appendices**

- 16.1 Appendix 1 - Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023

- 16.2 Appendix 2 – Easy read version of the Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23
- 16.3 Appendix 3 – Summary of the responses to the SEND Strategy Consultation.