

# Cabinet Meeting

## 24 February 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Linda Sanders, (People)	
<b>Originating service</b>	Disabilities and Mental Health	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Kathy Roper	Commissioning Team Manager
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	People Leadership Team	11 January 2016
	Strategic Executive Board	19 January 2016

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the final Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy for implementation over the next five years.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy for approval and implementation.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 This Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy developed by the SEND Partnership Board outlines the commitment from partners in education, health and social care in the city to making sure that disabled children and young people get the same life chances as children who do not have a disability.
- 2.2 This strategy aims to highlight the good practice already achieved in co-production with families and young people by the City Council, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other partners during the local implementation of the SEND code of practice. It also highlights the challenges emerging in the city and areas for further development.
- 2.3 There is much to celebrate but we know that there are also many challenges, in particular the increasing number of children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorder, social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH), specific and moderate learning difficulties and language and communication difficulties.

## 3 Strategy

- 3.1 This strategy is a high level document designed to highlight key strategic priorities. The implementation of the strategy will be supported by a number of detailed implementation plans that will be influenced by the information gathered during the consultation activities.
- 3.2 The vision for the strategy is that it promotes inclusion, maximizes young people's opportunities to be independent and enables young people with special educational needs and disabilities to be recognized as fully integrated citizens with the ability to contribute to their local community.
- 3.3 The strategy has been written to respond to the key priorities set out in the SEND code of practice, and highlights local strategic aims associated with each priority area for implementation. These are set out in the below:

**AIM 1:** to identify solutions to support children who need support with their mental health in partnership with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) service, with a particular priority around children under five.

**AIM 2:** to develop a full range of suitable early years provision for children with complex needs and Autistic spectrum conditions

**AIM 3:** to equip all schools with the support they need to enable them to support children with SEN aged five–ten yrs in mainstream.

**AIM 4:** To ensure Wolverhampton's School estate is fit for purpose and meets the full range of more complex needs of the children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities now being placed.

**AIM 5** to monitor and review the graduated response for children and young people with SEN/D with an emphasis on promoting inclusion through evidence-based early support and intervention, and enabling mainstream schools to meet a range of more complex needs.

**AIM 6:** to create a work force development programme that supports staff in mainstream schools in their role working with children with SEN

**AIM 7:** to develop local provision in order to reduce the number of children needing residential and out of area education health and care services.

**AIM 8:** to support all children and young people with significant special educational needs and disabilities and their families through a process of co-production to develop a person centred, outcome focused Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan where a single plan is required.

**AIM 9:** Where children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities do not transition to an EHC plan we will make sure that they have the most comprehensive support plan possible and that families are provided with appropriate information, advice, and support.

**AIM 10:** to develop a single integrated Resource Allocation System (RAS) to support eligible social care outcomes and ultimately to develop a single combined Resource Allocation System for all three elements of the EHC plan.

**AIM 11:** to review the children's equipment services and to develop a more stream line and integrated equipment service, which is responsive to the needs of disabled children, disabled adults and their families.

**AIM 12:** to increase the number of young people provided with a personal budget for their short breaks and to develop and extend the range of providers available for them to use.

**AIM 13:** to maximise the use of digital media as a way to provide up to date information

**AIM 14:** is to include a personal budget for transport as part of the creation of a single resources allocation system, and to do this in co-production with families.

**AIM 15:** to make sure there is on-going development of the Local Offer into a vibrant accessible interactive Local Offer that is up to date, easy to use and that meets the needs of local people.

**AIM 16:** to develop a supported employment pathway that support disabled young people into work and increase the number of disabled people in paid work

**AIM 17:** to make sure that we continue to provide and support the information advice and support service and make sure it meets quality standards.

- 3.4 The implementation of the strategy will be managed by the SEND Partnership Board who are accountable to the SEND strategy Group and the Children's Trust Board.

## **4 Consultation**

4.1 Consultation was undertaken from 9 December 2015 to 14 February 2016. Listening to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their carers is an integral part of the work we do, and they have told us that we should be striving for well-planned support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities from birth to 25. This means integrated services across education, health and social care, which work closely with parents and carers and where needs of the young person are identified in their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and that these are met without unnecessary bureaucracy and delay.

4.2 As a result of the consultation the strategy has been amended to include:

- A stronger commitment to work in co-production disabled young people and families
- A greater focus on the inclusion of disabled children and young people in mainstream activities
- Greater support and training for staff in mainstream services
- Greater emphasis on the support requirements of disabled children and young people who will not transition to an Education Health and care plan
- Greater emphasis on leading an ordinary life including access to housing, and transport.
- A stronger focus on support for parent/carers including the provision of information advice and support.,

## **5 Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report. The implementation plans associated with the delivery of the strategy will need to include comprehensive financial plans. The delivery of the new strategy will need to be within the existing financial resources.

5.2 The Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy outlines the City Council's and the Clinical Commissioning Group's response to the requirement set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

[GS/10022016/N]

## **6 Legal Implications**

6.1 This strategy supports the City Council and the CCG in the delivery of their statutory duties in relation to the SEND reforms as set out in Chapter 3: Working together across education, health and care for joint outcomes of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 0 – 25 years. [RB/11022016/V]

## **7 Equalities implications**

- 7.1 There are equalities implications associated with this report as it relates to disabled children and young people. Information gathered as part of the consultation has been used within the equalities analysis.

## **8 Environmental implications**

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

## **9 Human resources implications**

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

## **10 Corporate landlord implications**

- 10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications associated with this report

## **11 Schedule of background papers**

- 11.1 No background papers.