

SEND and Inclusion Strategy

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
31 January 2024

Presenter:

Helen Bakewell
Head of SEND and Inclusion

Recommendations for action or decision

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. endorse the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy 2024-27 (appendix 2) and recommendations detailed in cabinet report (appendix 1).

Key Questions for Scrutiny to consider:

1. Are Scrutiny Panel satisfied that the SEND and Inclusion strategy will meet the needs of the correct target audience?
2. Do Scrutiny Panel agree with the agreed priorities as defined within the strategy?
3. Delivering the strategy will require some changes to how the high need block budget is spent. Are Scrutiny Panel in agreement with the revised approach in order to deliver the priorities?

Purpose and Background

- The strategy enables the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duties
- The strategy reflects the changes brought about by the Government's SEND and AP Improvement Plan
- Public consultation between October and November 2023.
 - 85% of agreed or strongly agreed with the 5 priorities
 - 80% agreed or strongly agreed with how it would be delivered
- SEND and Inclusion Improvement Plan to be developed.

Key information for Scrutiny

Key aims of HM Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan:

1. A national system underpinned by National Standards
2. Successful transitions and preparation for adulthood
3. A skilled workforce and excellent leadership
4. Strengthened accountabilities and clear routes of redress
5. A financially sustainable system delivering improved outcomes

Key information for Scrutiny

- The SEND and Inclusion Strategy focuses on children, young people and young adults with SEND and those with potential unmet SEND or social educational needs.
- It is based on a shared understanding that supporting the needs of children, young people and young adults regarding SEND and inclusion is 'everybody's business'.
- A wider focus around inclusion has been incorporated into the SEND and Inclusion Strategy, enabling children and young people to have their needs met at the earliest point and where possible within local settings.

Key information for Scrutiny

- It is intended that the delivery of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy will meet the unique needs of the children and young people with SEND in the city of Wolverhampton.
- The outcomes within the SEND and Inclusion Strategy are in line with the requirements of the SEND Inspection Framework.
- There are continuing and growing pressures locally and nationally on high needs block funding.
- The strategy is intended to support a more inclusive approach to meeting needs across all partners.
- Regular updates on delivery progress will be provided through sharing of the updated SEND and Inclusion Improvement Plan.

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