

## REPORT TO THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY & SCRUTINY PANEL

**DATE OF MEETING: 11 OCTOBER 2018**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) – ENGAGEMENT WITH STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND ALSO PROGRESS WITH TRANSITION TO EHCP**

**TOWN OR PARISH:**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: WENDY PACKER, VULNERABLE LEARNERS SERVICE LEAD AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER**

**KEY DECISION: N/A**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

To consider and engage with the actions that are being taken to address the SEND strategy

#### 1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

Between 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the North Somerset local area to judge its effectiveness in implementing the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The report of this inspection was published on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018. As a result of the findings of the inspection, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) determined that a Written Statement of Action is required to address areas of significant weakness in the local area's systems and practices. North Somerset Council (NSC) and NHS Bristol North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG) are jointly responsible for submitting the written statement.

Both statutory partners are also committed to engaging with North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together, our local parent carer forum, in developing our plans to address the issues identified by the inspection team and to involving children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers directly in the activity we undertake to improve services

#### 2. POLICY

The People and Communities response to the Local Area Joint Review

#### 3. DETAILS

A statement of action is being co-produced. This document has to be submitted to Ofsted by 14 October 2018. Once it has been signed off by them it will be added to our Local Offer website and we will have a year to implement the proposed changes. The process will be monitored by the DFE and NHS England who will do 4 visits over the year.

In relation to the transfer of statements to EHC plans this has now been completed except for two, which the SEN team are in conversation with the families over the wording of the plans.

The main areas of development have been broken down into 8 sections.

- the lack of strategic direction and planning by senior leaders across the local area to implement the SEND reforms through an effective SEND strategy
- the lack of capacity within the local area to implement the SEND reforms effectively
- the standards achieved and the progress made by children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities
- the lack of a designated medical and/or clinical officer
- the variability of EHC plans, including the variable contributions from health and social care, and the processes to check and review the quality of EHC plans
- The underdeveloped arrangements for joint commissioning
- the often fractured relationships with parents and carers, lack of co-production and weak engagement and collaboration
- the lack of systems to track outcomes, including exclusions, for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities across the partnership.

The Statement of action addresses all these areas and sets out North Somerset's response to addressing these points. The statement of action is being driven forward by the SEND Board which has representatives from all stakeholders within North Somerset. The actions are all time sensitive and have identified Officers, from across the Local Authority and the CCG responsible for their delivery.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

The SEND strategy which is being co-produced.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Restructuring of the Vulnerable Learners Service to build in capacity to provide the EHC assessment service and to implement the SEND strategy for North Somerset.

##### **Costs**

Increase in staff – costs and positions still being determined

##### **Funding**

Central funding

#### **6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

Unable to complete the written statement of action and adhere to the statutory requirements of the EHC process.

**8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**10. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

N/A

**AUTHOR**

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**