

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

A review of support for children with disabilities

1. Background

The topic was agreed by the Scrutiny Management Panel at its meeting on 28 January 2019.

2. Objectives of the review

The review will consider:

- (i) How well the council supports children with disabilities and their families with the provision of community based packages of support to promote their care and wellbeing
- (ii) The appropriateness and effectiveness of arrangements for placing children with disabilities in "out of city" residential provision, including residential care homes with and without education
- (iii) The use of the in-house Beechside care home (Drayton) to provide residential short breaks for disabled children and their families

3. Witnesses

Evidence for the review will be sought from:

- (i) Children, young people and families in receipt of support from the council
- (ii) Social Work Practitioners and Managers who support children and young people with disabilities aged up to 25 (to include Adult Services)
- (iii) The Manager and residential staff at the Beechside short breaks centre
- (iv) Schools attended by children with disabilities in receipt of support from the council; likely to be special schools, in particular Mary Rose and Cliffdale Academies
- (v) Managers of health services provided to children with disabilities
- (vi) Managers of residential schools/care homes (names of schools/care homes to be advised) attended by children with disabilities from Portsmouth
- (vii) Cabinet members for Children & Families and Education

4. Timeline

Monday 15 July

Initial meeting to agree the scoping document, receive first evidence from Director of Children, Families & Education, a senior Children's Social Care social worker and agree evidence gathering programme.

October to December

Couple of meetings to gather evidence - one meeting could perhaps be a site visit and the other to hear from witnesses mentioned in section. Not everyone in section 3 has to come to all meetings.

- Panel members to visit Beechside and perhaps one or two other organisations (schools, care homes, groups) as a joint site visit.
- Hear from witnesses mentioned in section 3.

December to January

Officers write report with recommendations and conclusions.

January to February

Meeting to agree and sign off report (February/early March?).

There may be informal meetings between the formal meetings.

5. Background documents

Ofsted inspection referred to in meeting on 7 December 2018.