

Report to: Health & Wellbeing Board

Subject: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy

Date of meeting: 5th February 2020

Report from: Alison Jeffery - Director Children, Families and Education

Report by: Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update the Health & Wellbeing Board on the outcome of the Local Area SEND Inspection in July 2019.
- 1.2 To endorse the SEN Strategy for 2019 to 2022, noting links with wider health and care strategy, particularly around mental health support for 18-25 year olds. .
- 1.3 To seek endorsement of Portsmouth's aspiration to become an even more inclusive city.
- 1.4 A regular update is provided for the Health & Wellbeing Board. The last update was in February 2019.

2. Local Area SEND Inspection

- 2.1 Portsmouth was subject to the Local Area SEND Inspection from 1st to 5th July 2019. This is a joint inspection carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. The inspection framework focuses on how well local leaders know the effectiveness of local area SEND services across health and the local authority in identifying special educational needs and disabilities, meeting needs and improving outcomes.
- 2.2 The inspection process focuses on the views and experiences of children and young people (aged 0-25 years) with SEND and their parents and carers about the effectiveness of the services available to meet their needs.
- 2.3 The inspection is broad-ranging, providing feedback on the effectiveness of the overall SEND system, across education, health, care and the voluntary sector. The inspection results in a narrative judgement about the how

effectively the local area has implemented the SEND reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

- 2.4 All local areas in the country will be inspected under the current framework. So far around 100 out of 151 areas have been inspected. Of these over half of the inspections have resulted in a Written Statement of Action.
- 2.5 Portsmouth Council and CCG received the inspection report in September 2019. The full report is included as an appendix at the end of this report. The inspection identified the following strengths:

- Strong leadership of SEND across the local area
- Co-production with children, young people and their parents and carers
- Partnership working across services and agencies
- Joint commissioning
- Support for vulnerable groups
- Inclusive practice in schools
- The impact of the Designated Clinical Officer
- Quality and timeliness of Education Health and Care Plans
- Improving information advice and guidance
- Improving educational outcomes

‘Strong leadership in the local area is leading to successful implementation of the SEND reforms . . . Leaders and professionals across education, health and care (EHC) share the same ambitious vision for children with SEND. Leaders’ well constructed plans for further improvement successfully encourage a collaborative approach. One leader summed this up by saying: ‘In Portsmouth, we work together to make things happen.’ As a result, the outcomes for children and young people with SEND are improving.’

- 2.6 A number of services and organisations were highlighted in the report as demonstrating particularly effective practice, including:
- 'Shaping Better Futures Together' (parents coproduction group)
 - Dynamite (young people's coproduction group)
 - School nursing, the specialist health visiting service and ECHO
 - Integrated therapy service
 - CAMHs and CAMHs-LD
 - Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) in schools
 - Integrated adult learning disabilities service
- 2.7 In addition, a number of examples were highlighted in the report of innovative practice, including:
- Coproduction and person-centred annual reviews for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
 - Use of Ordinarily Available Provision guidance and the Schools Therapy Pack
 - Collaboration via the Portsmouth Education Partnership

- Work to reduce school absence and fixed term exclusions, including use of restorative practice
- Training and professional development e.g. via the SEN Support project and SENCo network
- Portsmouth's promotion of a 'needs-led' approach

'Children and young people in Portsmouth have speedy access to the help and support they need without having to wait for a formal diagnosis. The local area promotes a '**needs-led' approach**, for example by focusing on neurodiversity, rather than a diagnosis of ASD. Professionals are successfully using innovative approaches to support the clear identification of children's needs, so that the right support can be put into place.'

2.8 The report identifies a number of areas for further improvement, including:

Identifying needs:

- Neurodevelopment assessment pathway delays
- CAMHs/CAMHs-LD waiting times
- Post-diagnostic support for Autism
- Integrated assessment of child's developmental progress
- Annual GP health checks
- Health and dental assessments for looked after children

Meeting needs:

- Support for families
- Support for sensory processing needs
- Specialist short breaks provision
- Better communication of changes to services
- The need for aspirations to influence outcomes in EHCPs
- The transition to adult health and care services including the need to meet the statutory requirement for a dedicated clinical officer role within the CCG for young people aged 18-25
- Re-referrals to CAMHs
- Access to Information, Advice and Guidance

Improving outcomes:

- Educational outcomes for those on SEND Support
- Opportunities for supported employment and the range of employment opportunities for young people with SEND
- Information about the proportion of young people with SEND in independent or supported living
- Transition between paediatric and adult health services

All of the identified areas for further development have been incorporated into the refreshed SEND Strategy for 2019 to 2022.

3. SEND Strategy 2019 - 2022

- 3.1 The SEND Strategy continues to be a priority within the Children's Trust Plan. Progress is monitored by the SEND Board, which meets quarterly. An annual report is provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.2 The aim of the SEND strategy remains to promote inclusion and improve the outcomes for Portsmouth children and young people aged 0-25 years with SEND and their families. The full document is included as an appendix at the end of this report.
- 3.3 The strategy states that:
 - 3.3.1 *'In order to improve outcomes, we aim to ensure that there are in place a continuum of high quality support services that contribute to removing the barriers to achievement for all Portsmouth children and young people, in particular those with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes enabling children and young people to lead healthy lives and achieve wellbeing; to benefit from education or training, with support, if necessary, to ensure that they can make progress in their learning; to build and maintain positive social and family relationships; to develop emotional resilience and make successful transitions to employment, higher education and independent living.'*

It is our ambition in Portsmouth that children and young people's special educational needs will be identified early so that a high quality and co-ordinated offer of support can be put in place that meets the child's needs and enables them to achieve positive outcomes as they prepare for adulthood.

In order to achieve this, we will work in partnership jointly to offer a comprehensive continuum of support for children and young people across education, health and care. This offer of support will be published as the Portsmouth 'local offer' at www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/

We aim to work in coproduction with young people and their parents and carers to co-design this 'local offer' of support, and keep it under review to ensure that it continues to meet local needs and makes best use of the resources available' (SEND Strategy 2019, page 5)

- 3.4 The SEND Strategy has been refreshed and updated to include all of the areas for development identified in the Local Area SEND inspection report. The priority workstreams within the refreshed strategy are summarised below:

3.4.1 Inclusion

We want Portsmouth to become an even more inclusive city, where inclusive schools are recognised and celebrated.

We want children receiving SEN Support to make good progress.

We want to increase school attendance and reduce exclusions from school.

3.4.2 Social emotional and mental health (SEMH)

We want children with SEMH needs to receive the right support at the right time to enable them to develop resilience and achieve the best possible outcomes. Services and support for 18-25 year olds will be strengthened in line with funded national expectations.

3.4.3 Preparing for Adulthood

We want young people to develop independence, achieve good health, make and maintain positive relationships, be included in their local community and receive support, where necessary to successfully prepare for employment.

3.4.4 Autism and Neurodevelopment

We want children and young people with autism and neurodiversity have their needs identified early so that the right support can be put in place to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes

3.4.5 SEND 0-25 Joint Commissioning

The Council and Clinical Commissioning group will work in partnership with families to identify what services and support should be available in the city: our 'local offer', to monitor the effectiveness of services in meeting needs and improving outcomes. A statutory dedicated clinical officer role for the 18-25 age group will be created.

3.4.6 Co-production and Communication

We will ensure that parent/carers and young people have access to the information, advice and guidance they need to make informed decisions about their support.

We will embed coproduction with parents/carers and young people as the way that we work in the city.

3.4.7 Workforce and Practice

We will ensure that professionals have the knowledge and skills they need to work effectively to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families.

3.5 The governance of the SEND Strategy is by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. Portsmouth's aspiration to become and even more inclusive city

4.1 The Local Area SEND Inspection report highlighted inclusive practice as a strength in the city:

*'Professionals across EHC work well in a joined-up way to promote **inclusive practice**. Schools make effective use of the helpful ordinarily available provision documentation that described clearly what schools and settings should provide for all their children and young people with SEND. Many professionals explained how they use this material to plan support and hold each other to account. As a result, provision for children and young people with SEND is becoming more consistent.'*

4.2 Our strategic direction remains a commitment to inclusion, as set out in the SEND Strategy. The SEND Strategy states that we aim to ensure a continuum of high quality educational provision is in place so that children and young people with SEND can attend a local mainstream nursery, school or college wherever possible.

4.3 This means that we need to ensure mainstream providers have the resources, skills and competence to meet the needs of a wide range of children and young people with SEND. In addition, we want to commission high quality specialist provision so that children and young people can be successfully educated within the city.

4.4 We are continuing to see increasing need and demand for specialist SEND provision in Portsmouth, as highlighted by the SEND Strategic Review carried out in 2017-18, which predicted that:

'the number of EHCPs will increase, at a minimum, in line with population increases and increases in prevalence, but potentially also as a result of increased expectations and demand. This increase is expected to be most significant in the numbers of children with severe learning difficulties and complex needs which has already put pressure on special school places.'

'The need and demand for Special School places is predicted to increase year on year due to increasing numbers of children and young people with severe and complex needs and autism and the increase in age of statutory protection' (SEND Strategic Review, page 96).

4.5 One of the responses to this increase in need and demand is for Portsmouth to become and even more inclusive city, with special school places being prioritised for those with the most complex needs, the admissions criteria for Inclusion Centres being changed to focus on those with more complex

needs, and support being provided (e.g. by an enhanced Outreach offer) to enable the inclusive practice of all mainstream schools to match that of the most successfully inclusive.

- 4.6 This paper seeks the endorsement of the Health and Wellbeing Board to this vision of a more inclusive city in order to ensure that we can meet the need and demand within the resources available and achieve the best outcomes for all children.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1 Not required, report is for information only

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 Not required, report is for information only.

7. Director of Finance Comments

- 7.1 Not required, report is for information only.

Signed by: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendices:

- I. Local Area SEND Inspection report
- II. SEND Strategy 2019-2022