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Title of meeting:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Subject:	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy
Date of meeting:	3 rd February 2021
Report from:	Alison Jeffery, Director of Children Families and Education
Report by:	Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion
Wards affected:	All

1. Reason

- 1.1 A regular update is provided for the Health & Wellbeing Board. The last update was in February 2020.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To seek approval of the updated SEND Strategy for 2019 to 2022.
- 2.2 To update the Health & Wellbeing Board on the progress made since the Local Area SEND Inspection in July 2019.
- 2.3 To seek endorsement of progress towards Portsmouth's aspiration to become an even more inclusive city.
- 2.4 To seek endorsement of the SEN accommodation strategy.

3. SEND Strategy

- 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 appendix 1 at the end of this report.

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- 3.3. The strategy states that:

'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 to jointly 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 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 2020, page 5)

- 3.4 The SEND Strategy has been refreshed and updated to include updated delivery plans for all of the priority workstreams, as summarised below:

3.5 Removing Barriers to Inclusion

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

- 3.5.2 We want children receiving SEN Support to make good progress.

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

3.6 Social emotional and mental health (SEMH)

- 3.6.1 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

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outcomes. Services and support for 18-25 year olds will be strengthened in line with funded national expectations.

3.7 Preparing for Adulthood

- 3.7.1 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.

3.8 Autism and Neurodiversity

- 3.8.1 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

3.9 SEND 0-25 Joint Commissioning and Performance

- 3.9.1 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.

3.10 Co-production and Communication

- 3.10.1 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.

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

3.11 Workforce development and Practice

- 3.11.1 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.

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

- 3.11.3 A full copy of the updated SEND Strategy can be found as appendix 1 to this report.

4. Progress since the Local Area SEND Inspection

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- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Portsmouth was one of a minority of local areas to receive an inspection report which did not require a Written Statement of Action to address concerns identified as part of the inspection process. In fact a number of strengths were identified, including:
 - 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
- 4.3 The narrative inspection report also identified a number of areas for further improvement. A post-inspection action plan was developed to show progress since the inspection to address these areas for development. The update from November 2020 has been RAG rated to demonstrate progress (Green indicated achieved, Amber indicates in progress, Red indicates not yet achieved).
- 4.4 The Post-inspection Action Plan can be found in Appendix 2.
- 4.5 All of the actions set out in the table have been incorporated into the refreshed SEND Strategy for 2019 to 2022, which is included as appendix 1 to this report.

5. SEND and AP accommodation strategy

- 5.1 The SEND Strategic review, carried out in 2017-18 highlighted the need to change the way that we forecast need and demand for specialist school places as the need and demand was predicted to increase much more than previously forecast.
- 5.2 Based on the revised methodology, the most significant area of increase is for children with learning difficulties and Autism/neurodiversity.
- 5.3 This led to a number of actions including:

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- The successful bid for external ESFA funding for the Wymering special free school which is due to open in Sept 2022.
- The revision of admission criteria for the inclusion centres at Devonshire, Southsea, Portsdown, Victory, Milton Park and Trafalgar to include pupils with communication and interactive needs, including Autism/neurodiversity.

- 5.4 In January 2020, building on the previous work, an accommodation review commenced to consider the current provision of SEND and AP accommodation in Portsmouth in terms of capacity and suitability to meet the future needs over the next 5 years. This work concluded in October 2020.
- 5.5 The findings of this accommodation review can be summarised as follows:
- There is limited 'spare' accommodation in mainstream schools and no 'spare' accommodation in special schools which can be utilised as new SEND accommodation to create pupil places. There is also very limited scope to extend existing inclusion centres.
 - The additional accommodation required for the forecast increase in SEND places will therefore need to come from either extensive refurbishment or new build projects
 - There is an associated time lag with the provision of new accommodation through these routes. Options will therefore have to address the need for spaces year on year, until such projects are completed. Temporary accommodation may be required in the interim period.
 - All projects, and especially the provision of SEND places within new inclusion centres in mainstream schools, will need to allow for the staged filling of places over a number of years. This is to ensure an even spread of pupil ages and avoid bulges in year groups. A large number of projects will therefore need to start simultaneously in order to facilitate this.
 - This staged approach will take a number of years to build up the proportion of SEND pupils in mainstream settings. In the interim period, a greater proportion of places will need to be created in the existing special schools to meet the year on year increase in places.
 - A small surplus in the number of pupil places across the city is usually required to ensure there is flexibility in the system to be able to correctly place pupils in the right setting. As all SEND accommodation is at maximum capacity, additional numbers of places over and above the forecast need to be factored in.
- 5.7 In the light of this, a 5-year plan have been developed to ensure that sufficient SEN school places are available to meet the growing need and demand in the city.

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5.8 A capital bid is now being put forward for the first instalment of additional funding required for the following 5 year programme to meet the full need according to our rigorous forecasts.

5.9 In order to meet the full forecast demand for SEND places the additional accommodation is required:

2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
Inclusion Centre on mainstream Primary school site	Cliffdale Primary Expansion £3.97m Project (Pre start costs 20%) Flying Bull Inclusion Centre expansion Feasibility for expansion of Redwood Park required for September 2024.	Cliffdale Primary Expansion (80% of project cost) The Lantern expansion and initial changes at Redwood Park to accommodate Year 6 pupils.	Redwood Park extension to provide all through provision plus post 16	Inclusion Centre on mainstream Primary school site
24 pupil places	18 pupil places	24 pupil places 20 pupil places	112 pupil places	48 pupil places
£1,157,720	£2,057,406	£4,426,608	£7,349,770	£3,971,960
Inclusion Grant £100,000	Inclusion Grant £100,000	Inclusion Grant £100,000	Inclusion Grant £100,000	Inclusion Grant £100,000
£1,257,720	£2,157,406	£4,526,608	£7,449,770	£4,071,960

5.10 This plan enables sufficient specialist places to be commissioned to meet the growing need, whilst also remaining consistent with the stated aim that Portsmouth becomes an even more inclusive city. Around half of the additional specialist educational places to be created are in Inclusion Centres attached to mainstream schools. In addition, a bid has been put in for capital funding to create an annual Inclusion grant to support mainstream schools to develop their accommodation to achieve greater inclusion and improve outcomes. The full bid that has gone to council members is for the first instalment (up to 2023) of additional funding required for a 5 year programme of works as shown above and is subject to approval by Full Council in February of this year. With some funding already identified and available

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within the education capital programme, the initial funds required to meet the projects identified above to 2023 is £3.4m.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
HWB - List of post inspection actions	
SEND Strategy - Sept 2019 FINAL	