

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, how families are made aware of the support that is available and how they receive money to purchase packages
- (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 provision of residential short breaks for disabled children and their families and how families are made aware of support available and receive money to purchase placements

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) Schools attended by children with disabilities in receipt of support from the council - this will include special schools such as Mary Rose, Cliffdale and Redwood Park Academies.
- (iv) Managers of residential schools/care homes (names of schools/care homes to be advised) attended by children with disabilities from Portsmouth
- (v) Cabinet Members for Children & Families and Education

4. Timeline

Monday 15 July: Initial meeting to agree the scoping document and agree evidence gathering programme.

September to December: Meetings to gather evidence

Monday 16 September - to consider first evidence from Children's Services and organisations such as Parent Voice

October: Site visit to organisations (schools, care homes, groups); perhaps meet parents

November: Meeting to consider evidence gathered at site visits and any meetings with parents and provision for young people aged 19 to 25.

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.