

## **Children and Young People's Services Select Committee**

**11 September 2019**

### **Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) & Inclusion Strategy for West Sussex 2019-2024.**

**Report by Director of Education and Skills**

#### **Summary**

The County Council has developed a new Education and Skills strategy to support the inclusion of all children and young people, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This strategy builds on the SEND strategy for 2016-2019 and the outcomes of the 2018 Ofsted/CQC SEND local area inspection.

The new SEND and inclusion strategy for West Sussex 2019-2024 has been co-produced during the spring term 2019, with a wide representation of stakeholders, indeed more than 150 people have participated in the development workshops and events. The stakeholders have included parent carers and young people as well as education providers and other professionals from across social care, health and education to ensure it relates to other County Council strategies.

A public consultation to seek views on the content of the draft strategy has taken place.

#### **The focus for scrutiny**

The Committee is asked to consider the attached draft Cabinet Member decision report (Appendix A) and provide comment to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills prior to the formal decision being taken.

#### **Proposal**

##### **1. Background and Context**

- 1.1 In 2016 the County Council's published the SEND strategy 2016-19 which set out the aims and objectives for strengthening education for children and young people with SEND. In order to ensure the strategy reflects the future needs of children and young people a review of the existing strategy has been undertaken.
- 1.2 This review has resulted in the development of the SEND and Inclusion strategy 2019-2024 (Appendix 1) which, along with the accompanying implementation plan (Appendix 2) sets out how the County Council will

support the inclusion of all children and young people, with a particular focus on those with SEND.

- 1.3 The vision is that all children and young people in West Sussex will, irrespective of their learning needs or abilities, gain the skills and confidence to live well in their community. They will be supported and nurtured through an educational system that responds to their circumstances and prepares them for adulthood.
- 1.4 This strategy builds on the aims and objectives of the SEND strategy 2016-2019 and the outcomes of the 2018 Ofsted/ CQC SEND local area inspection.
- 1.5 The new strategy has been co-produced with parents, carers and young people, as well as education providers and professionals from social care, health and education, to ensure it complements other County Council strategies.
- 1.6 Within the Strategy three priorities have been identified:
  - Knowing our children and families well using an inclusive, person centred approach,
  - Meeting the needs of our children and young people through our schools, educational settings and services and
  - Working together towards solutions with all stakeholders having a collective responsibility.
- 1.7 Each of the priorities has clear supporting objectives and as set out in the implementation plan, are the key activities that will be undertaken to achieve these during the period to 2024. A data dashboard to show how success will be measured has also been developed.
- 1.8 The draft strategy and implementation plan have been the subject of public consultation, as detailed in section 3. The responses identified that there is a high level of support for the vision, priorities and key activities, but that this is tempered by a lack of belief that there will be the funding, resources and commitment for delivery.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that the new SEND and inclusion Strategy for West Sussex 2019-2024 is adopted. The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is therefore asked to confirm the approval of the SEND and inclusion strategy 2019 to 2024 and accompanying implementation plan for publication following its consideration by the Select Committee

## **3. Resources**

- 3.1 The summary of resources and costs is set out in section 3.4 of the draft Cabinet Member decision report (Appendix A).

## **Factors taken into account**

## **4. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked consider the attached draft Cabinet Member decision report, which has been informed by a period of engagement with stakeholders. Issues members may wish to explore include:
- a) The strategy was developed collaboratively with the participation of more than 150 stakeholders in a series of workshops and builds on the aims and objectives of the SEND strategy 2016-2019 and the outcomes of the 2018 Ofsted/ CQC SEND Local Area inspection,
  - b) A comprehensive consultation process has been followed with 177 responses. Comments and feedback have been taken on board and the strategy has been updated. The results are summarised in section 3 of the draft Cabinet Member decision report (Appendix A),
  - c) The responses to the consultation identified that there is a high level of support for the vision, priorities and key activities, but that this is tempered by a lack of belief that there will be the funding, resources and commitment for delivery,
  - d) An equality impact assessment has been undertaken. It has not identified any potential for unlawful conduct or disproportionate impact. It concludes that all opportunities to advance equality are being addressed within the strategy. Engagement responses have identified some issues which will be taken into account during the development of the detailed implementation plan. The results are summarised in section 7 of the draft Cabinet Member decision report (Appendix A),
  - e) The draft strategy, together with the implementation plan is included in Appendix 1 and 2 of the draft Cabinet Member decision report (Appendix A) and
  - f) The SEND and inclusion project objectives are set out in section 4.3 of the draft Cabinet Member decision report (Appendix A). Progress of the project against these objectives and the implementation plan and the data dashboard (ref to national and regional benchmarks), will be reported on a termly basis and made public. Successful implementation requires the full engagement of all stakeholders.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 Details of the consultation process are set out in draft Cabinet Member decision report (Appendix A). Proposals have been published in the County Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions and the draft Cabinet Member report sets out the methodology and process of engagement that has been undertaken with stakeholders.

## **6. Risk Management Implications/Other Options Considered/Equality Duty/Social Value/Crime Disorder Implications/Human Rights Implications**

- 6.1 These sub headings are addressed in the draft Cabinet Member decision report (Appendix A).

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Appendix A: Draft Cabinet Member Decision Report