

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director for People
to
Cabinet
on
18th June 2013

Agenda
Item No.

19

Report prepared by: Sandra Bingham, Group Manager
SEN and Inclusion

Outcome of the Consultation on the Special Educational Needs Strategy
People Scrutiny Committee
Executive Councillor: Councillor James Courtenay
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of the consultation on the Special Education Needs Strategy for the Borough for 2013-2016 “Early Help, Partnership, Choice and Ambition” Southend-on-Sea’s strategy for children age 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. The report sets out the final strategy and implementation plan to drive the strategy forward.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Southend on Sea’s strategy for children and young people age 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities be approved**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Draft Strategy for Special Educational Needs in Southend was produced in January 2013. The process of review and development of the Strategy was led by a Steering Group of headteachers and school representatives and partner colleagues from Health, Social Care and Adult Services. There has been a wide consultation process that ended on 15th March. This has included elected members, parents, children and young people, headteachers, SENCOs governors in schools and partner agencies.
- 3.2 The strategy was based on an analysis of information about children with special educational needs in the Borough, trends as well as provision mapping in order to identify gaps and areas for development to match the emerging needs. BESD (Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties) was identified as an area for immediate focus and development.
- 3.3 The proposed strategy had wide support particularly on the proposals to develop a College for targeted and specialist provision for pupils with Behaviour, Emotional and Social difficulties.

- 3.4 The 3 year Strategy takes account of national developments including the 2011 Green Paper “Support and Aspiration – a new approach to SEN and disability”. It also takes account of the more recently published “Indicative Draft”. The (0-25) Special Educational Needs Code of Practice which will replace the current SEN Code of Practice. It also introduces the new Education, Health and Care Plans to replace the current Statement of Special Educational Needs. This is not the final code and there will be a further draft later in 2013 whilst the Children and Families Bill goes through the Parliamentary process with a view to implementation from April 2014.
- 3.5 Southend’s Special Educational Needs Strategy reflects the intentions set out by government and builds on the outstanding practice of our settings and schools. It sets out our clear ambition for all Schools, services and partners to work together to improve outcomes for all our young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 3.6 The strategy, attached as Appendix 1, is ambitious for all children and young people with SEN. It focuses on 5 main proposals under which there are detailed action plans led by named officers.

The 5 proposals are:

1. Early Intervention and a single assessment framework so parents tell their Story once.
 2. Working in partnership with parents and carers – so they will have more say and choice
 3. Access to high quality provision and an ongoing strong mixed economy of provision in the Borough.
 4. Raise attainment and expectations and narrow the gap for learners with SEN and/or disabilities.
 5. Use resources effectively and monitor performance.
- 3.7 The strategy and detailed action plans will be monitored quarterly by the SEN Strategy and Review Group. There will be an annual report with an agreed performance framework to the Scrutiny committee in January and circulated to all Schools.

4. Corporate Implications

- 4.1 Contribution to Council’s Vision & Corporate Priorities
The Strategy contributes to the Success for All priorities of raising achievement and securing good outcomes for children and young people.
- 4.2 Financial Implications
From 2013 schools have additional resources delegated to them under section 52 funding and there is a need to monitor the use effective use of these resources. The strategy addresses this and new monitoring arrangements will be in place.

- 4.3 **Legal Implications**
The new Education Health and Care Plans and the new SEN Code of Practice will be implemented as per government guidance.
- 4.4 **People Implications**
Staff will be trained in order to meet the new requirements of the Education Health and Care Plan.
- 4.5 **Property Implications**
There will be some requirements for alternative properties to be developed to make provision for pathways for the new BESD College. This is being linked to the corporate workstream on use of buildings.
- 4.6 **Consultation**
There was a consultation on the Draft Strategy January-March 2013 and on the proposals to develop targeted and Specialist provision for BESD across the Borough.
- 4.7 **Equalities and Diversity Implications**
An impact assessment will be completed. Data is regularly monitored to ensure there is a match between demand and the provision that reflects the demography of the population.
- 4.8 **Risk Assessment**
There are a number of potential risks associated with the development of a strategy. A critical one is a lack of engagement by stakeholders such as schools, parents etc. This risk has already been mitigated through the wide consultation process where issues that were raised have been addressed through the action plans in the strategy. Another key risk is potential failure to deliver to the statutory assessment timescales- this has been addressed through the planning for the introduction of the new Education Health and Care plan and the training programme that will be put in place. Another key risk that was identified was in the introduction of the new funding arrangements for SEN from April 2013. Consultation and planning was initiated well in advance with schools resulting in the arrangements being in place and approved by the Schools Forum together with plans in the strategy to monitor the effective use of resources in schools.
- 4.9 **Value for Money**
Monitoring the use of the SEN resources in schools is part of the Strategy. There will also be economies of scale realised in the establishment of the new college for BESD with cross college roles and responsibilities.
- 4.10 **Community Safety Implications**
None
- 4.11 **Environmental Impact**
None
- 8. Background Papers**
DfE Indicative Draft (0-25) Special Educational Needs Code of Practice March 2013.



sen code of practice
indicative draft for co

DfE Green Paper “Support and Aspiration” 2011.



Green-Paper-SEN
Background paper.pdf

Proposal to reorganise Targeted and Specialist BESD provision in Southend –
consultation document January 2013.



BESD PROPOSAL
final (3).docx

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – “Early Help, Partnership Choice and Ambition” Southend-on-Sea’s Strategy for Children age 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.