

IMPROVING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Briefing for Health and Well-Being Board

Date: May 2020

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Purpose of this report

There is a clear remit for HWBBs outlined in the [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Statutory Code of Practice](#) in terms of disabled children. This briefing:

- provides an update on progress and future plans to complete the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) as a result of the SEND Area inspection in October 2018
- seeks HWBB views on future proposals, specifically around leadership, governance, and strategic oversight
- asks the HWBB to consider how its role can meet the statutory requirements

Background Review and objective

There has been much activity and success since October 2018 following the SEND Area Inspection and the subsequent WSOA plan agreed in May 2019. However several factors, including capacity and the impact of Covid-19, have meant that some actions in the WSOA have not been achieved in a timely manner. A recent desktop review of current plans and key documents by Southend Borough Council (SBC) Children's Services Independent Adviser included recommendations for reviewing our, the Local Area's, strategic approach, and by providing additional capacity and refocussing how progress and impact of the plan are measured.

At the WSOA improvement group on 21st May, proposals and activities were agreed, which included a recommendation to brief HWBB and commence discussions about their future role in strategically overseeing the Local Southend SEND Area offer and agenda.

There are five connected activities that have commenced to further improve progress and achieve the overall objectives of good outcomes for SEND children and their families, which will be a focus of additional activity over the next three months. These are:

1. Knowing ourselves: Self-evaluation (SEF)
2. Generating improvements
3. Measuring outcomes and impact
4. Preparation for Inspection
5. SEND Leadership and governance.

In terms of the latter, the oversight of the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the local area strategic approach in terms of children with SEND relates to disabled children within the JSNA; joint commissioning; effectiveness of the local health and wellbeing strategies; receiving learning from comments about the Local Offer and child/parent views to help inform the development of Health

and Wellbeing Strategies. Further details behind these headline areas are interspersed throughout the Code of Practice, which will be expanded on as part of the work underway and potential future discussions with the HWBB.

Conclusion and Recommendations to HWBB

There is an opportunity to increase the profile of the work with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability in Southend. To effectively fulfil our statutory obligations under the SEN Code of Practice and ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND we need to refocus, reshape and improve our offer. This will need strategic oversight and challenges from key partners, many of whom sit on the HWBB. Therefore the HWBB is asked to.

1. Engage with the leadership and governance workstream to review and determine the appropriate level and role of the HWBB in the strategic oversight and governance of SEND on an ongoing basis as laid out in the SEN Code of Practice and good practice in local area leadership.
2. Recognise that SEND area partners will need to undertake a range of actions in order to ensure that the required improvements in the local offer outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Southend are met at pace.

Should HWBB approve the above recommendations, regular update reports would feature on subsequent HWBB agendas in relation to progress against the five areas identified above as part of the overarching SEND governance arrangements.