

**PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY PROJECT 2022/23**

TOPIC: 'PROVIDING FIRST CLASS SERVICES FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES'

FRAMEWORK FOR SCRUTINY/SCOPE OF PROJECT:

With a focus on the experiences of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, review what has already been done and undertaken following the LGA Peer Review of the Council's SEND services. This will include assessing the impact of the 15 recommended actions set out in the plan established to respond to the findings and recommendations from the review of the Council's SEND service and what has and has not worked well, based on those recommendations.

Specifically:-

- (1) Identify any improvements in the SEND offer, the impact the improvements have had on children, young people, and their parent / carers, what has not been successful and as a result where further focus is required to improve the offer and outcomes for SEND service users and their families.
- (2) Review the current process and approach to transition from Children's into Adults' services. Specifically,
 - When are young people with care and support needs flagged with adult services.
 - What is the process of engagement with Adult Services before the age of 18?
 - How is the young person involved in the process?
 - How are their parents involved in the process?
- (3) Clarify the difference between transferring and transitioning. Specifically clarify
 - How is this applied by different services?
 - The respective legislation and guidance that different services operate within.
 - The circumstances in which children or young people move out of Southend and the respective roles/responsibilities of the Council following any families moving out of or into Southend.
- (4) Review and identify what is needed to enable Councillors to respond effectively to enquiries from their residents / families with Children with special educational needs and/or disability. Specifically:-
 - Review how councillors currently respond to issues raised by families with children with a special educational need and/or disability.
 - Review the current training offer to Councillors on SEND.
 - Review how the Local Offer works.

METHOD: Through Project Team meetings, witness sessions and/or

TARGET DATE: April 2023

workshops.

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillors: T Cox, T Cowdrey, A Dear, N Folkard, K Murphy, M O'Connor, M Stafford, and A Thompson

OFFICER/PARTNER SUPPORT

To be identified...

Other officer support to be identified as appropriate or required for elements of the project.

SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

The evidence base will be:

- (a) Relevant strategies, documents, reports, and plans.
- (b) The SEND service action plan responding to the LGA peer review
- (c) Relevant legislation
- (d) A sample of SEND Cllr queries
- (e) A sample of complaints about the Council's SEND offer (consent needed)
- (f) A sample of EHCPs (consent needed)
- (g) Feedback from the current survey being undertaken with parents and carers
- (h) The Local offer
- (i) The current training offer to councillors

POTENTIAL WITNESSES:

- (a) Parents / carers and service users
- (b) Parent / carer groups and advocacy groups
- (c) Councillors
- (d) Council officers
- (e) Representatives from partner agencies

The scrutiny process is structured to add value and is supportive of the challenges already set to be delivered, but has limited resources, which need to be focused on providing front-line services and the priority outcomes for the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To make appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet.