

Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director (Children and Public Health)

To

Name of Meeting

On

Date

Report prepared by: Gary Bloom – Head of Special Needs
and Disabilities (SEND)

Agenda
Item No.

Southend SEND Strategy 2022-2025

People Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Councillor Burton
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

To gain Cabinet approval to publish the Southend SEND Strategy 2022-25 in a range of accessible media including print, electronic and video.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet agree the format and content of the Southend SEND Strategy 2022-25 and approve that these can be passed to the Council's graphic design partners to produce an accessible and engaging document, which can be shared in a variety of formats.

3. Background

The previous SEND Strategy "Success for All" covered the period 2016-19 which spanned the Joint Area SEND Inspection undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in October 2018. As a result of the Inspection the Council and the then named Clinical Commissioning Group (now Integrated Care System) were required to prepare a joint Written Statement of Action determining how the SEND Partnership were going to address and measure the impact of four areas of weakness. This Written Statement of Action outlined the Three Year Journey for SEND that would lead to an improvement journey and resolve those four areas of weakness. The revisit in May 21 recognised sufficient improvement in three of the four areas of weakness. One of the actions undertaken to improve previous weaknesses was to strengthen the governance arrangements around SEND and to develop a new partnership strategy. Developing the new SEND Strategy began at a SEND Summit in April 21, the Partnership has ensured that coproduction is at the heart of the Strategy involving children and young people with SEND and their families at every stage, checking back frequently to ensure agreement with the way the Strategy was developing. The five identified priorities are what children and young people with SEND and their families told us was important to them and this helped determine what our core commitments were. Whilst the Strategy does identify

the key actions these will be expanded upon with more detailed success measures in an accompanying action plan. Children and young people with SEND and their families told us they wanted to access the Strategy in a variety of ways and once the content is approved work will be undertaken to make this possible.

4. Other Options

The SEND Partnership could continue to operate without a formal published Strategy or subsume the SEND Strategy into a wider Council Strategy.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

It is recommended and widely acknowledged that SEND is a joint area responsibility encompassing partners from Education, Health and Care and the children, young people and families they support and therefore a specific coproduced SEND Strategy outlining priorities for the next 3 years is recommended.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 The SEND Partnership Strategy makes a significant contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

6.2 The intention would be to deliver the Strategy from within existing revenue and capital resources, however work undertaken as part of the SEND Strategy may highlight the need for e.g. Provision development or service redesign. Any areas of additional expenditure that are identified which cannot be funded from existing available resources will be sought through identified governance routes.

6.3 No identified Legal Implications

6.4 No identified People Implications

6.5 No identified Property Implications although SEND Provision Development opportunities may be sought.

6.6 The draft SEND Strategy has already been subject to public consultation and has been updated in line with the response to that consultation.

6.7 No identified Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.8 Risk Assessment – The SEND Risk Log is reviewed regularly as part of the SEND governance process, oversight resting with the SEND Strategic Partnership Board

6.9 Financial Implications will be limited initially to the cost of designing and communicating the SEND Strategy. Any areas of additional expenditure that are identified which cannot be funded from existing available resources will be sought through identified governance routes.

6.10 No identified Community Safety Implications

6.11 No identified Environmental Impact

7. Background Papers

Draft SEND Strategy 2022-25

8. Appendices

None