

**SOUTHEND ON SEA CITY COUNCIL**

**People Scrutiny Committee Meeting**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Question 1. from Mr Webb for Cllr Burton (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and SEND)**

What strategies are the Southend Council SEN team adopting to ensure adequate support for primary and secondary school pupils who suffer with Dyslexia?

**Response:**

**The Central Specialist Teaching Service established in 2024 aims to empower schools to identify and support presenting needs, recognising that students rarely align with a linear profile. This month Universal Strategy Kits were launched for every classroom in Southend. These resources are structured around presenting difficulties, such as challenges with literacy or numeracy, rather than focusing on labels like Dyslexia.**

**The goal is to establish a consistent, high-quality offer across Southend schools. Additionally, we provide tailored resources for scaffolding, interventions, and other supports. To complement these, we now offer weekly live training sessions to model and demonstrate practical strategies for staff. For those students who require additional or more personalised support, the Specialist Teacher works collaboratively with staff, families, and the student to develop a bespoke plan.**

**Support for children with specific learning difficulties, of which Dyslexia is one, is also provided at the school level. Staff within schools are able to provide appropriate intervention to support these needs but can access additional more specialist support via the SENDCo in school, or external via the LA through consultation around particular cases or training with the Specialist School Support Services, of which specialist teaching and Educational Psychologists are a part.**

**There is guidance in place for schools from Southend City Council that lays out expectations around examples of provision that children and young people are expected to receive across the**

**Graduated Response. This is called 'Southend SEND Provision Guidance'**