
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITY STRATEGY 2017-2020

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Cyndi Hughes,
Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director –
Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adults Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report asks Cabinet to consider the content of the draft Special Educational Needs and/or Disability Strategy (SEND) 2017-2020 (**Appendix**). Although not a statutory requirement, the production of a Strategy as a strategic plan for delivering improved outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is considered to be best practice and expected as part of the SEND Inspection regime. The current draft strategy provides an overview of the Council's approach to improving outcomes for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. Further data analysis is currently being undertaken by health parties to inform the needs analysis aspects of the Strategy.

Summary

2. Once finalised in early 2018, the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability Strategy (SEND) will be a jointly developed and owned document by partners from education, health and social care, as well as parents and carers through the Parent Carer Forum and will support One Darlington Perfectly Place Sustainable Community Strategy priority of "*The best start in life for every child.*"
3. The SEND Strategy is not part of the Council's Policy Framework and will be approved by the Health and Well Being Board.
4. A range of stakeholders have been involved in developing the Strategy including key partners from educational settings, health services, social care and the local Parent Carer Forum and Darlington Association on Disability.
5. The Equalities Impact Assessment is being completed as part of the strategy development to consider the impacts of the strategy on disabled children and young people. No negative impacts are anticipated as the strategy aims are to promote opportunities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Equality impacts will be monitored alongside the annual review of the strategy.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the draft SEND Strategy 2017-2020 (Appendix).

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services

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Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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| S17 Crime and Disorder | This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder |
| Health and Well Being | The SEND Strategy will contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability in the borough. |
| Carbon Impact | There are no issues which this report needs to address. |
| Diversity | The SEND Strategy will contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability in the borough. |
| Wards Affected | Children and young people with SEND may live in any ward. |
| Groups Affected | Children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. |
| Budget and Policy Framework | This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework. |
| Key Decision | This is a key decision. |
| Urgent Decision | For the purpose of the 'call in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter. |
| One Darlington: Perfectly Placed | The report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy Priority 'the best start in life'. |
| Efficiency | There are no direct efficiencies to the Council from the information contained within this report. |
| Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers | The SEND Strategy will contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability in the borough a number of these children are Looked After Children or Care Leavers. |

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. The Special Educational Needs and/or Disability Strategy Reforms came into operation in September 2014. Under the Children and Families Act 2014 legislative framework local authorities have to:
 - (a) Work with health and social care colleagues jointly to commission services to deliver integrated support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, aged 0-25.
 - (b) Consult children and young people and their parents, and co-operate with a range of local providers across education, health and social care and voluntary sector partners to deliver the new system, including post-16 providers such as further education colleges and training providers.
 - (c) Work with local partners, parents and young people to co-produce and publish a local offer of special educational needs services and provision to assist young people in finding employment, accommodation and participating in society.
 - (d) Provide a co-ordinated education, health and care assessment for children and young people aged 0-25 and new Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that will replace the previous systems of Statements of Special Educational Need and Learning Difficulty Assessments (in further education and training).
 - (e) Offer those with EHCPs the option of a personal budget.
 - (f) Consider the transition from children to adult services and whether to use a new power to provide children's services to young people over 18 to smooth their transition.
8. This Strategy is a key document to enable all partners to understand the agreed priorities for the local area and ensure they comply with their duties under the Reforms and continue to make a positive contribution to the outcomes of children and young people with SEND.
9. Regulation of SEND is carried out jointly by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) through a framework of inspection of local areas which began in May 2016. All local areas will be inspected by 2021. As part of the new inspection framework they routinely comment on the existence or otherwise of a strategy.
10. Development of the strategy has taken place with input from a wide range of partners such as early years and educational settings, health services, Darlington Parent Carer Forum and Darlington Association on Disability.
11. The strategy has been produced at a time of relative austerity in public finances and will need to be delivered within existing resources, maximising partnership working to deliver the outcomes.
12. The strategy covers the next three years and each year will be reviewed to identify key actions based on where the greatest need is and where the biggest impact can be made.

13. The strategy outlines five key priorities with agreed actions across the partnership which will be measured through improvement in outcomes, service user feedback and the development of a suite of key performance indicators. The priorities are:
- (a) Early identification and intervention
 - (b) Pupil and parent voice
 - (c) Preparation for adulthood
 - (d) Collaboration and co-production
 - (e) Building capacity and improving outcomes for all children with SEN and additional needs
14. Monitoring of the impact of the SEND Strategy will be managed through the SEND Steering Group and progress reported annually to the Health and Well Being Board.

Outcome of Consultation

15. The draft strategy has been developed alongside our partners with input from all members of the SEND Steering Group.