

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
17 DECEMBER 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director, People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynn Ayres. Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University	
Contact Officer(s):	Toni Bailey, Assistant Director: SEND / Inclusion Sheelagh Sullivan – Head of SEN and Inclusion Services	Tel. 07592612380

UPDATE REPORT ON SEND LOCAL AREA INSPECTION & SEND JOINT STRATEGY

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Toni Bailey, Assistant Director: SEND / Inclusion	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee note</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The latest position regarding the findings of the SEND Local Area Inspection and the associated Written Statement of Action as attached in Appendix 1 (prior to amendments recommended by Ofsted / CQC) 2. Endorse actions taken so far in regard to the development and launch of the joint SEND Strategy across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report originated at the request of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report is being presented to:

- Feedback on findings of the SEND local Area Inspection and progress on the associated Written Statement of Action
- Share the progress in regard to the development and launch of the joint SEND strategy across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and scrutiny functions, Paragraph 2.1 Functions determined by the Council:

Education Including:

(d) Special Needs and Inclusion

2.3 This report links to the Corporate Priority – To Improve educational attainment and skills

2.4 This report links to the Children in Care Promises:

- *Support you to have a good education*
- *Make sure you are treated at school like any other pupil*
- *Support you to learn and achieve your full potential*
- *Help you to get skills so that you can care for yourself when you are older*

2.5 This report links to the Children in Care pledge: Support Children in Care to have a good education.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	n/a
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 **Statutory duties**

The Council and its partners has a number of statutory duties that are outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014 which includes the duty to produce Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's).

4.2 **SEND Local Area Inspection Context**

Between 10th June 2019 and 14th June 2019 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), conducted a SEND inspection of Peterborough local area to judge the effectiveness of the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms in the Children and Families Act 2014 and to review the area's provision for children and young people with SEND.

Three inspectors were involved: Heather Yaxley HMI, Deborah Mason, Ofsted and Paula Morgan, CQC. As part of their work the inspectors reviewed documentary and published evidence, the Local Offer website and information from a 'webinar' with parents/carers which took place in the week before the inspection. The inspectors carried out the on-site inspection over 5 days with formal verbal feedback provided on the fifth day. Inspectors spoke with children and young people with disabilities and/or special educational needs (SEND), parents and carers, local authority and NHS officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the special educational needs reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

4.3 **SEND Local Area Inspection – Findings – Areas of Strength**

The strengths identified are:

- Co-production of plans and services is well established. Children, young people, parents, carers and professionals work well together to improve services.
- Leaders use a variety of methods and opportunities to engage with families.
- SEN coordinators and SEND Hubs were praised for their proactive approach in responding to feedback and meeting the training needs of staff in settings across the city and therefore staff are becoming better informed and confident to pick up early identifications of SEND.
- The new SEND strategy and provision for short breaks are good examples of meaningful and thorough co-production between professionals and parents and carers.
- Supported internships offer an increasing number of young people with SEND paid employment.
- Children and young people with complex health conditions get good support from the well-established children's community nursing service.

4.4 **SEND Local Area Inspection – Findings – Areas for development**

Ofsted and the CQC published the final report on 13th August 2019. The report indicates that the inspectors agreed that their findings chimed with Peterborough's own self evaluations and many areas of strength were identified. However, they had significant concerns about the need for improvement in the 5 areas set out below:

1. Joint planning, including commissioning, and intervention are not sufficiently well established to make sure that all agencies and services play an active role in meeting the requirements of 2014 disability and special educational needs reforms.
2. There is no quality assurance framework for the local area's work for children and young people with SEND. Intended outcomes for children and young people are not targeted, measured or evaluated well enough to inform leaders about the impact of the work to implement the reforms effectively.
3. The current arrangements for the DCO in relation to the implementation of the reforms do not allow the post holder to fulfil the obligations of the role sufficiently.
4. Early support is well embedded for children in early years but does not follow through in all areas of the lives of children and young people as they get older. It takes too long for children, young people and families to get the support they need.
5. The provision for young people aged 18 to 25 is not sufficiently developed to make sure that young adults have the full range of opportunities and support that they need as they move through into adulthood

4.5 **Written Statement of Action**

We are required to produce a Written Statement of Action (WSOA), which will address the areas of development outlined in the report shared by Ofsted and CQC.

This WSoA has been co-produced by a working group that consists of partners from education, health, social care and our parent / carer forum.

This report was delivered within the required deadline of 15th November 2019 and was completed by a working group, who received advice and guidance directly from the DfE to support completion. On 4th December 2019 we received a letter detailing that Ofsted and CQC have accepted the WSoA as 'fit for purpose', save some additional recommendations. This included ensuring that social care leaders have a sufficient impact on actions; that the statement make adequate references to specific measures that include reviewing changes made and addressing outcomes for all aged 0-25; and to make outcomes for those aged 18-25 more specific. The updated WSoA, incorporating the recommendations from Ofsted and CQC, will have to be shared in full on the Peterborough website to enable parents, carers and young people to see how we are planning to address the challenges outlined by the inspection findings.

The WSoA highlights the following workstreams led by a **senior accountable officer** :

Workstream 1 : Joint Planning and Commissioning Including Interventions – **W. Ogle-Welbourn**

Workstream 2: SEND Quality Assurance - **J Lewis / A Bennett**

Workstream 3 : Role and Arrangements for the DCO – **Marek Zamborski**

Workstream 4 : Getting Support Early - **Raj Lakshman**

Workstream 5 : Provision and Opportunities for Young Adults aged 18-25 – **Debbie McQuade**

Each of the workstreams have a range actions and have dedicated identified delivery partners to ensure that the actions are competed and implemented to achieve the intentions and impact necessary to improve joint working across Peterborough.

Ofsted and CQC are anticipated to return to re-inspect within 18 months.

4.6 **Update on joint SEND Strategy**

The Joint strategy document sets out a vision and strategy for children and young people (0 - 25years) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The strategy is built upon a shared belief that considering and providing for the needs of children and young people with SEND should be 'everyone's business'.

The collective desire is to ensure a holistic and inclusive approach evidenced by high quality, multi-agency services and provision focused upon enabling children and young people with SEND to thrive.

The strategy was co-produced with key partners and draws upon data from:

- Feedback from children, young people and their parent/carers
- National and local data on trends in special educational needs and disability
- Information from an externally commissioned sufficiency analysis
- Peterborough and Cambridgeshire local area self-evaluations and SEND action plans
- Feedback from schools and settings
- Data from health, social care and other key agencies
- Early Years Peer review (2018)

This strategy is intended to cover the 'local area' which is defined as the geographical area of both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and includes the local authority, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Public Health, NHS England for specialist services, early years settings, schools and further education providers.

This strategy covers the issues that are common to both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local areas at a strategic level. The intention is to help us work better together, in the interests of children and young people, but it also recognises that some actions will be responsive to issues specific to Cambridgeshire or Peterborough.

The strategy recognises the need to acknowledge, and link with, other pending work across both local authorities.

4.7 **Soft Launch – Oct 2019**

A SEND communication strategy working group has been established, which has focussed on how to deliver the SEND strategy and pledge across all stakeholders and partners.

The initial launch or 'soft launch' has been focussed on the SEND pledge and incorporates an art competition that focuses of the 10 principles of our SEND pledge :

Welcome everybody
Celebrate Success
Trust Each Other
Aim High
Create Opportunities

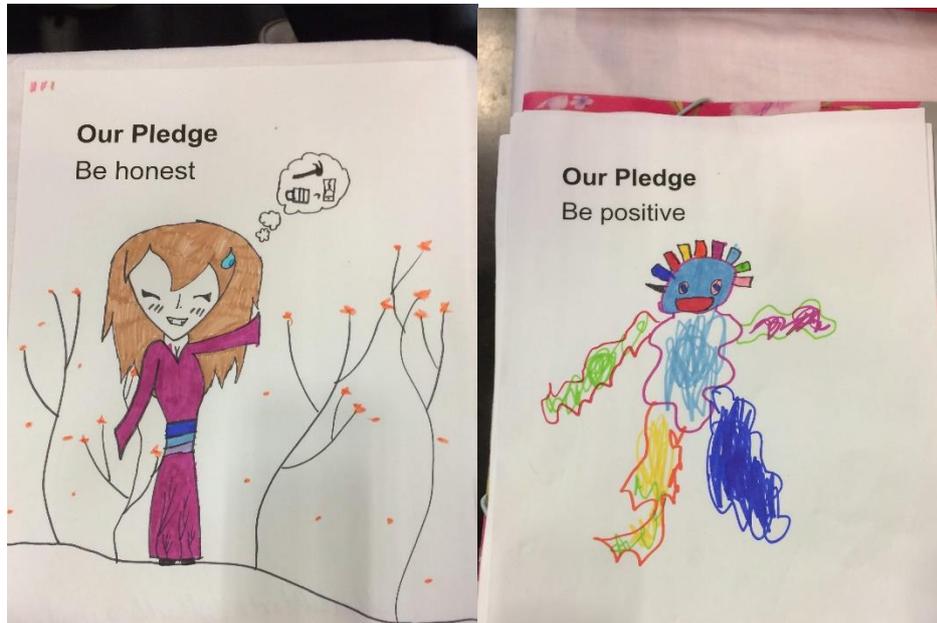
Value Individuality
Build Confidence
Be Honest
Listen
Be Positive

This competition was launched by Councillors Ayres and Bywater at the 'Feel the Force XL Day' – an inclusive Comic Con event - at the East of England Showground on Saturday 5 October and is being promoted on social media, newsletters and directly with schools.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/peterborough-and-cambridgeshire-children-invited-to-show-off-their-artistic-superpowers/>

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/news/residents/peterborough-and-cambridgeshire-children-invited-to-show-off-their-artistic-superpowers/>

examples of entries submitted so far :



A SEND pledge badge has been designed which will be used on documentation but also by other individuals and organisations who want to show their support. These have been produced as stickers so that people can show their commitment to the aims of the SEND Strategy.



4.8 Hard Launch – Jan 2019

The SEND communication strategy working group have proposed to coincide the full or 'hard launch' with the closing date of the competition. This will be supported by an event that celebrate the entries and winners and involve media and press coverage.

The competition (soft launch) will close in January 2020, so the proposal, to be agreed by the Joint SEND Executive Board, is for a full launch will take place before the end of January 2020.

The SEND Communication strategy working group have also proposed to share the completed strategy on line before the end of November 2019, and aim to support this by sharing updates on up to 3 key areas of the SEND action plan by the end of December 2019. This will also need to be ratified by the Joint SEND Executive board facilitated by guidance from the chair.

The shared vision for the SEND Strategy is for children and young people to:

- lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives, having choice and control over decisions about their health, education, employment, friendships and relationships
- achieve in line with, or better than, expectation in their early years, school, further education and training
- successfully participate in the community and access meaningful occupation, employment and life-long learning opportunities

We want everyone to dream big, achieve well, have choice, control, and lead happy, fulfilled lives.

The principles of the strategy are to ensure that:

- SEND is everybody's business - embedding the vision of the SEND Strategy into the practice of everyone who works with children and families in ways that strengthen families
- Identify and respond to needs early - a holistic and joined up early identification of and graduated response to needs
- Deliver in the right place at the right time - improving outcomes for children and young people through making best use of resources, ensuring a graduated response and high quality local support and provisional multi service integrated approach that ensures child and family are engaged and families and carers feel they only need to tell their story once.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There is on-going consultation, as part of a co-production routine throughout the work streams for the Written Statement of Action and the strategy launch.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 The intended outcomes covered by this report are focussed on improving the provision for SEND by maintaining standards that are recognised as good, or better by Ofsted and CQC and by delivering a joint strategy for SEND across both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire which enables our pledge to 'Make SEND everybody's business' to widen awareness and knowledge of how support services can improve outcomes for all across the community.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial Implications

The SEND communications strategy working group have proposed the funding for a prize that is connected to the winning entries for the art competition.

The proposed budget for these prizes will be £1000. (£100 per focus area split into £25 for the individual and £75 for the school or provision in the form of vouchers for art materials)

There are potential financial implications for the launch event to cover printing, framing and refreshments, but these costs are yet to be ascertained.

7.2 Legal Implications

There could be delays created by a general election and associated purdah period.

7.3 Equalities Implications

None

7.4 Rural Implications

None

8. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Written Statement of Action, as sent to Ofsted / CQC

Appendix 2 - Letter confirming Written Statement of Action is 'fit for purpose' from Ofsted / CQC