



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**  
**5 MARCH 2018**

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) STRATEGY**  
**2017 TO 2020**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to consult with Overview and Scrutiny members on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2017 to 2020.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The Children and Families Act Part 3 is entitled Children and Young People in England with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Act introduces a number of new duties Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are required to meet. The SEND Strategy outlines these responsibilities and how partners are meeting the requirements of the Act.

**Background**

3. The SEND Strategy (attached at Appendix A) sets out how partners across Leicestershire plan to support children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 to achieve their best possible outcomes, in line with the reforms and in light of the current local position and other local developments. It will provide the overarching framework for service development in respect of services for children and young people with SEND. The Strategy has been developed in close consultation with a number of key partners, professionals and parents. It sets out the aspirations of the Partnership for the period from 2017 to 2020.
4. Implementation of the SEND strategy will be monitored by the SEND Strategic Board, comprising representatives from the Local Authority Children and Families Services, Adults and Communities and Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Leicestershire Partnership Trust, Special, Primary and Secondary Schools, Further Education and the Parent and Carer Forum.
5. The strategy is underpinned by a detailed work plan that outlines the work streams that will deliver the priorities and which are accountable to the SEND Strategic Board. There will be regular reviews of progress against the strategic plan, reported to the SEND Strategic Board, and each workstream will include in its reporting the outcomes to be met, progress towards meeting these outcomes and performance measures.

6. Progress in implementing the strategy will be communicated to key partners via their representatives on the SEND Strategic Board, through twice yearly newsletters/bulletins and an annual SEND Strategic multi-agency event. Feedback from parents and young people will be sought on an ongoing basis but formally once a year. This Strategy will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis. The first review will be due in April 2019.

### **Priorities**

7. Using information gathered in the development of the strategy, four key priority areas have been identified for the period 2017 to 2020. There are a number of actions and areas of work underneath each key priority.

The priorities are to:

- Improve multi-agency working and coordination of services for children with special educational needs and disabilities:
- Improve support for and involvement of parents and carers, children young people and families and ensure they are adequately safeguarded in all settings:
- Improve the quality and sufficiency of SEND education provision and services by:
  - i. Supporting mainstream schools and settings to develop their SEND provision:
  - ii. Developing local specialist services to ensure sufficiency of places in high quality specialist provision across a continuum
- Improve the transition to adulthood:

### **Consultation**

8. Feedback from children and young people with SEND and their families, and front line practitioners working closely with them, has been sought in the development of this Strategy and used to inform the four key priority areas detailed above. The *Voices that Matter* section of the Strategy summaries their key messages.
9. In Autumn 2016, consultation took place with parents of disabled young people in the 14 to 25 age range as part of a wider consultation about the Leicestershire *Whole Life Disability* Strategy. In Spring 2017, SEND *Pop Up* Voice events were attended by parents and children and young people and during Winter 2016 and Spring 2017, the Leicestershire Parents' Forum was re-established and a SEND Family Participation post recruited. The Participation post holder sought feedback from over 100 parents and 100 young people with SEND in various settings during the Summer of 2017. In addition, an on line survey was undertaken during October 2017. Through these media, parents and young people expressed their views about the services and support that worked well for them; what it was about those services that made them successful, what did not work so well and the type of services and support they would like to see developed in the County. This information has been used to inform the priorities in this strategy.

10. During the Autumn Term 2017, consultation also took place with front line practitioners across Education, Health, Social Care, Early Help and the Voluntary and Community sector. They were asked, in respect of SEND, what worked well in Leicestershire and why, what did not work so well and what could be done to improve this.

### **Resource Implications**

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from the introduction of the strategy. However it is essential that the strategy provides the momentum to ensure that future overspend on the high needs block is avoided.
12. In respect of human resources, ICT, procurement, property and other legal implications, these will be considered by the project groups as they develop more detailed plans.

### **Timetable for Decisions**

13. In January 2018, the draft SEND Strategy was presented to the Children and Families Partnership Board and the West Leicestershire and the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups. The strategy is being presented to the Cabinet for approval in April 2018. Any comments made by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Cabinet.

### **Background papers**

14. None.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implication**

15. The Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Screening form has been completed and a decision has been made that a full impact assessment does not need to be completed.

### **Partnership Implications**

16. Key partners involved in the development of the strategy are Health, Education and the Parent and Carer Forum alongside representatives from the Local Authority Children and Families Services, Adults and Communities and Public Health

### **Appendix**

Appendix A - SEND Strategy 2017 – 2020

### **Officer to Contact**

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