



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

1ST SEPTEMBER 2020

SEND AND INCLUSION STRATEGY FOR 2020 TO 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee about the SEND and Inclusion Strategy, which is a key partnership strategy to support the education, health and care needs of children and young people in Leicestershire.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The primary legislation regarding children and young people with SEND is the Children and Families Act 2014. This sets out the duties that local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups must fulfil. Since the Leicestershire SEND Strategy 2017 to 2020 was published, a SEND Local Area Inspection framework has been introduced and Leicestershire was inspected in February of this year, receiving a Written Statement of Action. The SEND and Inclusion Strategy outlines local priorities and sets out how the County Council and its partners will improve services and outcomes over the next three years. The action plan within the Strategy identifies five priority areas of activity and should be read alongside the Written Statement of Action Plan.
3. The 2020-23 Strategy is a re-refresh of the previous SEND Strategy that was taken to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 March 2018 and agreed by the Cabinet on 10 April 2018. The local authority has considered the wider system that SEND operates within and has re-configured current services with further developments to enhance the inclusion offer to the education sector. Inclusion has been reflected within the SEND and Inclusion Strategy by ensuring actions reflect the work to support schools pre and post SEND identification. Workforce development is a priority within the strategy to provide a strategic steer to ensure that parents and carers have full confidence in mainstream school staff and the wider SEND workforce.

Background

4. The SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2020 to 2023 (attached at Appendix A to this report) sets out how partners across the local area plan to support children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND or wider needs that affect their ability to access education to achieve the best possible outcomes.
5. It will provide the overarching framework for service development in SEND and Inclusion Services. The SEND and Inclusion Strategy has been developed in consultation with local area partners and parents and carers. It sets out the aspirations of the SEND and Inclusion Board for the period 2020 to 2023.
6. Implementation of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy will be monitored by the SEND and Inclusion Board reporting to the Children and Families Partnership, comprising representatives from the Lead Member for Children and Families Service; Local Authority Children and Families Service, Adults and Communities and Public Health; Clinical Commissioning Groups; Leicestershire Partnership Trust; Special, Primary and Secondary Schools; Further Education and the Parent Carer Forum.
7. The strategy is underpinned by a detailed work plan outlining the workstreams that will deliver the priorities, and which are accountable to the SEND and Inclusion Board. There will be regular reviews of progress against the action plan to the SEND and Inclusion Board, and each workstream will include reporting the progress made against outcomes and performance measures. Subsequent reports will be made to the Children and Families Partnership.
8. Progress in implementing the strategy will be communicated to key partners via their representatives on the SEND and Inclusion Board and will be published on the Local Offer. Feedback from parents/carers and children/young people will be sought on an on-going basis. The strategy will be reviewed annually.
9. In June 2020, the draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy was presented to the SEND and Inclusion 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 September 2020. Any comments made by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Cabinet. The Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum are active members of the SEND and Inclusion Board and has approved the draft Strategy.
10. An Easy Read version of the strategy will be produced by children and young people once the strategy has received final sign-off by the Cabinet.

Consultation

11. The SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2020 - 2023 has been based on a number of consultations carried out for use within the SEND Strategy 2017 - 2020 and the development of SEND resource provision across Leicestershire. Consultation for the SEND Strategy took place in the form of workshops across the County and a questionnaire to capture the views of parents and carers and children and young people. A workshop was held with the SEND and Inclusion Board members in November 2019 to examine the SEND Strategy and identify areas that needed to go forward into the refreshed strategy and any other identified

areas. The Parent Carer Forum surveyed parents and carers during the SEND inspection in February 2020, providing an update on issues faced by them. An analysis of the results found that there were a number of issues that were still being reflected that were identified during the 2017 consultation.

12. A full-scale consultation took place on the development of the SEND resource provision, capturing views of parents and carers and children / young people on the design, classroom size, facilities and provision.
13. Due to the Covid-19 Government guidance, a workshop for parents and carers and children and young people did not take place. To gather more current views from children and young people, contact was made with SEND group leads that run forums for young people aged 11 years plus. Comments from all discussions and questionnaires have been included within the strategy to form the priorities and actions.

Resource Implications

14. The strategy provides the strategic steer for the SEND and Inclusion Board. The actions are resourced through existing staffing or may form part of a programme of work, for example the High Needs Block programme, where additional resourcing has been agreed.

Timetable for Decisions

15. Comments received from the Committee will be included within the strategy and reported to the Cabinet on 18 September 2020.

Background Papers

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2017-2020 – Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 5 March 2018 - <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1043&MIId=5322&Ver=4>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

16. A copy of this report will be circulated to all members under the Members News in Brief service.

Officer(s) to Contact

Jane Moore, Director of Children and Families Services
 Telephone: 0116 305 2649
 Email: Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk

Paula Sumner, Assistant Director Education and SEND
 Telephone: 0116 305 0546
 Email: Paula.Sumner@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix A – SEND & Inclusion Strategy 2020 to 2023
 Appendix B – Human Rights Impact Assessment screening tool

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

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