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## **Health and Wellbeing Board Report**

21 September 2016

### **Title**

Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

### **Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

This is not a key decision

### **Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director, Children & Young People's Services (CYPS)

### **Report Author(s)**

Nicole Chavaudra, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

Paul Theaker, Operational Commissioner, CYPS

Emma Royle, Senior Commissioning Manager, Rotherham NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.

### **Ward(s) Affected**

All wards

### **Executive Summary**

This report presents the Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). The Strategy provides an overview of how the joint commissioning of services for children and young people with SEND in Rotherham will be developed and implemented in line with the requirements of the Children's and Families Act 2014 and the associated Code of Practice for SEND.

The Strategy, through a mapping exercise, consultation and a review of transitions with parents/carers and stakeholders, has identified nine priority areas of work that will be implemented over the next three years. The Strategy has been previously approved by the Clinical Commissioning Group's Operational Executive, the Council's Children and Young People's Services leadership team and the Children

and Young People's Partnership Board, and endorsed for sharing with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board endorse the Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

### **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 - Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

### **Background Papers**

Children and Families Act 2014

Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People – Our Journey to Excellence – August 2015 to August 2018.

### **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None.

### **Council Approval Required**

No

### **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

# **Title: Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)**

## **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board endorse the Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The biggest education reforms in a generation for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) became law in September 2014, following the Children and Families Act 2014. The requirements of the Act, and associated Code of Practice for SEND, include extending provision from birth to 25 years of age and giving families greater choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met. The new system extended rights and protection to young people by introducing a new education, health and care plan.
- 2.2 The SEND Joint Commissioning Group, which includes representation from education, health and social care services, and the Parents' Forum, undertook a mapping exercise of both Local Authority and Health SEND provision in Rotherham. This included consultation with parents, carers and stakeholders from across education, health and social care, in relation to what works well and not so well around SEND provision.
- 2.3 Furthermore, a review of Transitions, which completed in 2016, provides insights and recommendations into how the Rotherham system could work in a more integrated way to better prepare children and young people for adulthood.
- 2.4 The mapping and consultation work, and the review of transitions, informed the development of the Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). This Strategy provides an overview of how the joint commissioning of services for children and young people with SEND in Rotherham will be developed and implemented in line with the requirements of the Children's and Families Act 2014.
- 2.5 The Strategy outlines what is joint commissioning, the partners involved in the arrangement, the governance structure, the current Rotherham SEND Local Offer and the Strategy will be implemented.

## **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 The implementation of the Strategy will require a phased approach to move from the current position. There are nine priority areas of work, which will be taken forward over the next three years, and are described in section 4 of this report.

- 3.2 Work has commenced in taking forward a number of the priority areas, namely, considering how a joint SEND Hub can be created, the re-modelling of services that provide support for children and young people with challenging behaviour, the development of personal budgets, the development of aligned service specifications for education, health and social care services, and the development of pathways to adulthood.
- 3.3 The development of an SEND Assessment Hub is key to improving the co-ordination of SEND provision, as well as formalising joint working arrangements and the streamlining of assessments. The preferred option for the SEND Assessment Hub is Kimberworth Place, as a number of SEND services are already based there and therefore the number of services moving bases would be minimised.

#### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 4.1 The nine priority areas of work contained within the Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND are as follows:
  - 4.1.1 Create a joint SEND Education, Health and Social Care Assessment hub at Kimberworth Place.
  - 4.1.2 Review and re-model services that provide support for children and young people with challenging behaviour.
  - 4.1.3 Develop a performance and outcomes framework that will be applied across all local authority and CCG SEND provision.
  - 4.1.4 Align local authority and CCG specifications for SEND service provision, so as to facilitate commonality of practice and a consistent approach (thus reducing duplication, improving efficiencies and developing clearer pathways).
  - 4.1.5 Audit the Education, Health and Care Planning (EHCP) process to look at how the assessment process (including the decision making process/panels and allocation of resources) can be streamlined, so as to reduce the multiple assessments that young people and their families have to undertake.
  - 4.1.6 Ensure that there is a co-ordinated joint workforce development plan.
  - 4.1.7 Develop and implement Personal Budgets.
  - 4.1.8 Develop pathways to adulthood.
  - 4.1.9 Develop approaches to improving life experiences.

- 4.2 The priorities outlined in section 4.1 are detailed, along with comments from parents/carers and stakeholders, on pages 11 to 17 of the Strategy and the in the associated joint commissioning plan from page 20 onwards.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 There was consultation with parents/carers, staff within SEND provision and wider stakeholders as part of the development of the Strategy and the nine priority areas of work were based on the feedback from consultation.
- 5.2 The draft Strategy was consulted upon with the Rotherham Parent and Carer Forum, staff within SEND provision and wider stakeholders. The feedback from this consultation was taken into account when refining the Strategy.

## **6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 6.1 It is anticipated that should the Strategy be endorsed by CYPS DLT, it will be submitted to the Children's Partnership Board meeting in May 2016 for consideration and then to the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in June 2016 for approval.

## **7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

- 7.1 The financial implications arising from implementing the Strategy will be fully explored and identified as part of developing the nine individual priority areas of work.
- 7.2 The financial costs relating to the development of an SEND Assessment Hub at Kimberworth Place will primarily be for moving staff into the building from Riverside House and Rockingham Professional Development Centre and IT costs. Further reports will be submitted to the relevant organisational governance bodies setting out the detailed arrangements for the new hub.

## **8. Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no identified legal implications.

## **9. Human Resources Implications**

- 9.1 Any human resource implications that are identified as part of the development of the priority areas of work will be fully explored and contained within future reports to CYPS DLT.

## **10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 10.1 The Strategy aims to impact positively on children and young people, through maximising SEND resources to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.

## **11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

11.1 The Strategy focuses on children and young people with disabilities, which is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The Strategy seeks to mitigate the disadvantage faced by children and young people with disabilities.

11.2 Furthermore, the analysis of findings from the mapping exercise identified other equalities issues in relation to age, which is also a protected characteristic. In particular, a gap in services and support for young people with SEND who are approaching adulthood was identified, and ameliorating this gap is a priority for the Strategy. In addition, a lack of clinical speech and language therapeutic provision for over 11s was identified, which will need to be addressed as part of a 0-25 SEND service.

## **12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

12.1 The priority areas of work arising from the Strategy have implications for Rotherham MBC, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group, RDASH CAMHS, Rotherham Foundation Trust, Schools, FE Colleges and the Voluntary and Community Sector. The services that form part of the SEND Local Offer are within scope and are outlined on page 8 of the Strategy.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 Failure to gain endorsement and subsequent approval of the Strategy may result in a delay in implementing the priority areas of work within reasonable timescales.

13.2 There is a risk that the full range of SEND services as outlined in section 12.1 do not fully engage in taking forward the Strategy. This will be mitigated through a robust communication and engagement plan.

## **14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Nicole Chavaudra, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance & Quality

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services – Joanne Robertson 3.5.16

Director of Legal Services - not applicable

Head of Procurement - not applicable

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