

BRIEFING PAPER FOR IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

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| 1. | Date of meeting: | Tuesday 18th September 2018 |
| 2. | Title: | Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) update |
| 3. | Directorate: | Children and Young People's Services |

4. Introduction

- 4.1 A presentation on the reform of service and provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) was given to the Improving Lives Scrutiny group in March 2017. An update on progress has been requested.
- 4.1.2 Rotherham has identified 5 priority strategic outcomes for meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability between 2018-2021.
- I. Co-production and Communication:
 - Families and services working together to produce better outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs
 - There is clear and strong communication, participation, engagement and co-production with children, young people, families, practitioners and partners.
 - II. Joint Commissioning:
 - There is a collective responsibility and a streamlined approach for children, young people and their families when accessing relevant assessments, services and support.
 - III. Sufficiency of Provision:
 - There is sufficiency of provision to meet the range of needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and /or Disability.
 - Wherever possible, this should be within line with their choice or that of their parents, and within Rotherham.
 - IV. Assuring Quality:
 - All provision made through the graduated response and /or an Education Health and Care Plan, should be of the highest quality to enable the best outcomes for children and young people.
 - This area will include developments in the specific areas of Autism, Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs
 - V. Value for Money:
 - Provision made should be delivered early, involve timely assessment and ensure the best use of funding available.

4.1.3 A SEND Strategy has been co-produced with children, young people, families and partners; it details the work to be done in these areas and is currently at consultation with all stakeholders. The final version is due in November 2018.

4.2 Co-production and Communication

4.2.1 The co-production of services with children, young people and their families is gathering momentum across the Rotherham borough and Local Authority departments. Embedding co-production to shape provision is a key priority included in Rotherham Local Area's CYP (Children and Young People) Partnership, SEND Transformation, SEND Project and SEND Joint Action plans. This area has nationally recognised good practice regarding co production within Inclusion. There is currently a more cohesive approach and Charter mark with parents, but a number of developments are taking place in the area of hearing the voice of children and young people. A 'Voices' event took place in October 2017, and there is a Voices Action Plan which details the actions that have been agreed in partnership with young people.

4.3 Joint Commissioning

4.3.1 Relationships between Rotherham Council, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and Rotherham Parent Carer Forum (RPCF), are strongly developed and this has enhanced the ability to work collaboratively on joint commissioning activity at individual, operational and strategic level

4.3.2 Jointly funded posts and services are in place (jointly funded Assistant Director for Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, jointly staffed Autism Family Support Team).

4.3.3 There has been some streamlining of staff and team management within the Education Health and Care Planning Team which are an education service. The new manager also manages the Children With Disabilities Team within Children's Social Care.

4.3.4 There is a 'Health Focus Group' operating to support preparation for SEND Inspection and they are also developing a number of areas where health hold a key role in SEND provision

4.4 Sufficiency of Provision

4.4.1 All projects included in year one of the SEND Sufficiency Plan have begun. Four out of seven of these projects have been completed, with the outcome that approximately 50 children will be in Rotherham provision from September 2018 rather than outside the Local Authority. This has avoided them leaving Rotherham and reduced costs to the High Needs Budget.

- 4.4.2 One project at Rowan Centre will mean that 15 children will be identified to return to Rotherham after Christmas 2018 when the building work is complete. The remaining two projects have already begun and are expected to deliver on time and within budget.
- 4.4.3 A further two smaller SEND sufficiency projects have been actioned since April. A 19-25 College within Rotherham and a small residential provision that can offer education onsite for five young people with High Cost needs. It is expected that these will be completed during the new academic year and they will result in significantly reduced costs.
- 4.4.4 The Health Focus Group is currently completing a similar sufficiency study of health services that relate to SEND.

4.5 Assuring Quality

Education Health and Care Planning

- 4.5.1 All conversions of statements to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) have been completed and 97% were completed by the statutory deadline of 31st March 2018.
- 4.5.2 The Education Health and Care Assessment Team had ignored capacity in place using SEND Reform Grant which ends 31st March 2019. The team are currently undergoing a permanent restructure to create a 'fit for purpose' permanent team which will be complete by 1st October 2018.
- 4.5.3 A staggered performance target has been set to ensure the team are completing at least 90% of new EHCPs within the statutory timescale of 20 weeks by the end of the reporting period; March 2019. This will then be in line with the national figure. The team are performing above the current quarterly target of 60% and during July completed 72% of new EHCP assessments within 20 weeks.

Autism

- 4.5.4 An all age Autism Strategy is in draft and will be shortly presented to the Directorate Leadership Teams in Children's and Adult Services. This is due in Autumn 2018.

Social Emotional and Mental Health (please see Appendix 1)

- 4.5.5 A new primary outreach team is in development, with the agreement of schools forum, to support primary schools in developing the skills to maintain children on site with support from specialist staff and offsite sessions where appropriate. This is due to be in place by April 2019.
- 4.5.6 The Rowan SEMH Centre has been inspected by OFSTED and received feedback describing a solidly 'good' rating

- 4.5.7 Permanent exclusions in Primary Schools have reduced from eight to three during the last academic year and but secondary figures have risen from 30 to 41. There has been one permanent exclusion from a special school and none from Aspire or Rowan. Overall permanent exclusions have risen from 38 to 45.
- 4.5.8 Fixed term exclusions in Primary Schools have risen from 357 to 408 but have fallen in Secondary from 3083 to 3068. The special school figure has risen from 1 to 5 and the most significant fall has been in Aspire and Rowan where fixed term exclusion figures have virtually halved from 138 to 67. There is a slight overall reduction in fixed term exclusions from 3570 to 3550
- 4.5.9 There has been a significant rise in Aspire's GCSE results over the past three years since the leadership was held to account and work to produce SEMH partnerships began. Although direct comparison is problematic, from 2015-2018, children meeting national targets (now grades 1-9) has risen from 46% in 2015 for English to 75% in 2018 and from 50% in Maths in 2015 to 70% in 2018.
- 4.5.10 The Local Authority has received three offers of SEMH mainstream resource provision from multi academy trusts which have been made within the last two months and are currently being discussed.
- 4.5.11 Colleagues across education, health and social care services are currently working together to submit a 'Trailblazer' bid which if successful will release funding from central government to enhance the work currently underway through greater first tier mainstream support.
- 4.5.12 Excellent co-production and engagement has taken place across education, health, social care, schools, early years, adults and parents for a borough wide SEMH Strategy. The remit for the Strategy has widened through discussion to a Well Being Strategy and plans are to be discussed at Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission.
- 4.5.13 Whole service events have taken place to produce two actions plans - Turning the Curve on Exclusions and Turning the Curve on rising EHCPs.

Preparation for Adulthood

- 4.5.14 A Preparation for Adulthood Strategic Board has been established to be co-chaired by an Assistant Director within Adult Social Care and the Strategic Lead for Rotherham Parents Forum.

4.6 Value for Money

- 4.6.1 The Sufficiency work has meant that many more children are being educated within Rotherham which is not only more desirable for the children but is avoiding costs for the High Needs budget.

4.6.2 The number of schools aged children and young people with SEND educated outside Rotherham has fallen from 163 to 134 with 13 possible leavers and a further 17 possible starters at the time of writing.

4.6.3 There has been significant cost avoidance to the High Needs Budget through the creation of more places through the sufficiency strategy. However, Rotherham's position, like that of many local authorities, remains that the High Needs Budget is overspent. The SEND Strategic action plan will continue to seek to address this.

5. Key Issues

5.1 Co-production and Communication

5.1.1 There needs to be greater genuine co-production with children and young people to effect provision, which will be addressed through the Voices Action Plan. There has been detailed consultation with children and young people on the SEND Strategy has been which has given great insight and led to action points. The key messages are;

- Relationships is the key and staff need to be give support to do this well
- Young people should be involved on their 'terms and turf', rather than invited into meetings in council buildings.
- In mainstream schools there need to be more adaptations, reasonable adjustments and work on life skills
- Preparation for Adulthood needs more attention
- The Local Offer site needs to be better co-produced with children and young people and be more young people friendly
- There should be more celebration of where things are going well

5.1.2 It is now timely to develop new, fit for purpose communication vehicles for this agenda. These will focus on ensuring that the workforce is well informed and prepared prior to a SEND inspection and promoting a 'one workforce' approach to celebrating good practice across the partnership. SEND specific communications will be aligned with the strategic plan for communications in CYPs and the Rotherham Place Plan communications strategy.

5.2 Joint Commissioning

5.2.1 There is some discussion about the SEND hub at Kimberworth Place and whether it is to be re-sited. This requires clarification and appropriate actions. The current SEND hub action plan has concentrated on actions related to the building but needs to move onto the streamlining of services. The co-location of all SEND services has already shown greater joint working and communication.

5.2.2 There is a need for the EHCP decision making panel remit to become more robust in order to correctly involve the correct decision making staff from all departments, and in order that decisions made around provision and funding are scrutinised at the point of discussion.

5.2.3 A SEND Workforce Development Plan is now needed to build on the early work done in this area and to ensure all staff at all levels have access to appropriate training to drive the local priorities.

5.3 Sufficiency of Provision

5.3.1 The increase in sufficiency programme is going well, within timescale and within budget. There is a fortnightly monitoring group which needs to continue to oversee developments and build in all additional preventative projects that will continue to reduce costs.

5.3.2 There must be a robust monitoring of the ratio of children with EHCPs moving out of mainstream schools into specialist provision to ensure there is an appropriate balance.

5.3.3 As yet there has been no strategic sufficiency study of provision beyond school age to plan for the young people to move into further education, employment or training. This is now important to complete.

5.3.4 A Health SEND sufficiency study is in draft and will be in place by the end of October.

5.3.5 A joint SEND sufficiency study will be produced in 2019/20.

5.4 Assuring Quality

5.4.1 Education Health and Care Planning – A new manager and development plan is now in place to restructure the team, begin moderation of EHCPs and work on reducing the number of requests. Education Health and Care Plans have continued to rise in Rotherham during the reform of the service to just below 2000 ensuring children's needs were met. Monitoring the mainstream offer, sufficiency of specialist provision, and monitoring the balance of both provisions to meet EHCP needs will now be possible and become a priority

5.4.2 Autism – the All Age Autism Strategy will need to address any appropriate gaps identified after consultation. This includes better Preparation for Adulthood, and work to support the whole family. The Sufficiency of Health Services is addressing the identification of gaps in this area and work has already begun to address the need for more sensory assessment and creation of a graduated response to meet this need.

5.4.3 SEMH - The SEMH agenda continues to progress and operational work has taken priority. This would now be greatly enhanced by the completion of the overarching strategy which incorporates all work being done and the new developments of the Primary Outreach team and Trailblazer bid.

5.4.4 Preparation for Adulthood – Progress in this area has been slowest and it is to be prioritised over the coming months. The newly established Board needs to identify leads on the actions of the strategic plan and monitor progress. There

needs to be a greater cohesive approach to transition; an increased emphasis on employment, internships and apprenticeships; work with colleges to improve their graduated response; and work to improve the genuine involvement of young people in setting and reaching their own goals independently.

5.5 Value for Money

5.5.1 Many of the actions above will result in a more appropriate use of High Needs Budget in the future. There needs to be a robust monitoring of the whole budget and interdependencies within to ensure that the majority of funding is directed to earlier, preventative work within the borough, so reducing the need for EHCPs and high cost placements outside Rotherham.

5.6 Other Changes

5.6.1 During recent months there has been a change to staffing in the SEND area. The Assistant Director for the area has changed and the Head of Inclusion is to change in the near future. This change in leadership requires careful planning to ensure no loss of momentum and progress for families.

6. Key actions and relevant timelines

6.1 Priority Table

| Priority Area | Detailed Actions | Timescale |
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| Publication of the finalised SEND Strategy | | November 2018 |
| Co-Production and Communication | Implementation of the Voices action plan – this will be an ongoing piece of work with monthly monitoring of delivery is done by the SEND Strategic Board | On going |
| Joint Commissioning | Joint Commissioning Strategy to be reviewed to include plans for SEND hub, EHC Panel and work with health colleagues. | |
| | Health Sufficiency Plan in place | October 2018 |
| SEND Sufficiency | Completion of all Year One projects | 31st March 2019 |
| | Planning Year Two projects to begin on time | 1st April 2019 – March 2020 |
| | Further investigations into mainstream SEMH resources | September – December 2018 |

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| Assuring Quality – Education Health and Care Planning | EHCP – Team Restructure | October 2018 |
| | Moderation of EHCP Quality protocol in place | December 2018 |
| | New EHCP Assessments completed in statutory timescales at 90% | March 2019 |
| | Implementation of Turning the Curve Action plan to reduce EHCPs | December 2018 |
| Assuring Quality – Autism | All Age Autism Strategy finalised | November 2018 |
| | Sensory Assessment protocols and graduated response agreed with health | December 2018 |
| Assuring Quality – SEMH | New SEMH Strategy incorporating all work across education, health and social care in place | Consultation to commence |
| | Preparation For Adulthood Board to agree and monitor leads for all areas of development in line with self-assessment and feedback from young people | December 2018 |

6.2 Value for Money

- 6.2.1 Development of a robust High Needs Budget monitoring group to investigate and monitor to commence October 2018;
- Mainstream resource funding model
 - Traded Service model
 - SEMH cost section within the budget
 - Review of all posts and services funded from within the budget

7. Recommendations to Improving the Improving Lives Select Commission

- 7.1 That the Improving Lives Select Commission receives and notes the information in this briefing and the progress made within the SEND and Inclusion agenda.
- 7.2 That the Improving Lives Select Commission seek a further update on the progress being made with the SEND/Inclusion agenda periodically over the next 3 years to ensure the continuation of the travel of direction and pace of developments given the change in two key leadership posts.

8. Name and contact details

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