

BRIEFING	TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
	DATE:	March 2021
	LEAD OFFICER	Jenny Lingrell
	TITLE:	Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance & Inclusion (RMBC and RCCG)

Background

- 1.1** The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice was published in 2014; it sets out the statutory requirements for local authorities to work together with local health partners to identify and meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- The strategy describes an effective system: '*for children and young people this means that their experiences will be of a system which is less confrontational and more efficient. Their special educational needs and disabilities will be picked up at the earliest point with support routinely put in place quickly, and their parents will know what services they can reasonably expect to be provided. Children and young people and their parents or carers will be fully involved in decisions about their support and what they want to achieve. Importantly, the aspirations for children and young people will be raised through an increased focus on life outcomes, including employment and greater independence.*'
- 1.2** The Code of Practice also refers to the expectation that, through the preparation of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health and Wellbeing Board will identify the needs of children and young people with SEND.
- 1.3** Furthermore, the Code of Practice states that: '*local authorities must place children, young people and families at the centre of their planning, and work with them to develop co-ordinated approaches to securing better outcomes, as should clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). They should develop a shared vision and strategy which focuses on aspirations and outcomes, using information from EHC plans and other planning to anticipate the needs of children and young people with SEN and ensure there are pathways into employment, independent living, participation in society and good health.*'
- 1.4** In order to fulfil these expectations, a SEND Strategy and a Joint Commissioning Strategy have been prepared.

Key Issues

- 2.1** Rotherham has 8885 children identified with SEND; 2333 of whom have an Education, Health and Care Plan; this is a high number in comparison to regional nearest neighbours.
- 2.2** The SEND agenda is shared across the local system, with responsibilities held by the local authority, the health system and education providers. SEND is a priority in the Rotherham Place Plan and the Place Board receives regular performance reports and spotlight updates.

2.3	The SEND Strategy sets out the key outcomes for children and young people (up to the age of 25) and identifies the key priorities and objectives that will deliver these. The strategy identifies how the work will be organised and the oversight and accountability that is in place.
2.4	Rotherham has a long-established process for developing and agreeing strategy in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities which involves co-production with children, young people and their families as well as partnership work with SEND practitioners.
2.5	The previous version of the SEND Strategy was only ever produced in draft form and was criticised for not reflecting the voices of children, young people or families due to a lack of co-production activity.
2.6	In order to provide the strategic direction for the joint SEND Strategy a co-produced 'Voices' day was held in November 2019 where young people, parents, carers and practitioners came together to reflect on Rotherham's journey in relation to inclusion and agree next steps and priorities. This day provided an opportunity to reflect on progress made following the initial 'Voices' day that took place in 2017.
2.7	The 'Voices' Day held in November 2019 agreed a specific set of outcomes for children with SEND in Rotherham. The outcomes were originally formulated by the SEND Strategic Board via an outcomes based accountability process; these were shared with attendees at the 'Voices' day and it was agreed that these outcomes did reflect the priorities of children, young people and their families. Alongside the SEND Strategy a scorecard and strategic action plan have been developed.
Key Actions and Relevant Timelines	
3.1	The draft SEND Strategy and SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy will be published on the SEND Local Offer.
3.2	The SEND Strategic Board will continue to monitor the impact of the Strategy on outcomes for children and young people through monthly meetings and will provide spotlight updates to the Place Board.
Implications for Health Inequalities	
4.1	The SEND Strategy and the SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy have been produced in order to provide the strategic direction that will enable the system to work together to effectively support children and young people with SEND and reduce health inequalities.
Recommendations	
5.1	The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the SEND Strategy and the SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy.