

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Task and Finish Group

The process for establishing a task and finish group is:

1. The Select Committee identifies a potential topic for a task and finish group
2. The Select Committee Chairman and the Scrutiny Officer complete the scoping template.
3. The Overview and Budget Scrutiny Committee reviews the scoping document
4. The Select Committee agrees membership of the task and finish group.

<p>Review Topic:</p> <p>Improvement for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Services in Surrey.</p>
<p>Select Committee(s):</p> <p>Children and Education Select Committee</p>
<p>Relevant background</p> <p>The total budget for SEND services to children and young people aged 0-25 in 2016/17 was £237m¹ and although there were planned savings for SEND in the Medium Term Financial Plan, SEND will remain a significant expenditure for Children, Schools and Families for some time to come.</p> <p>The SEND Partnership Board published the SEND Development Plan 2020 in Spring 2016, setting out their aims and ambitions for transforming the statutory provision and offer for children and young people with SEND in Surrey by 2020. During the previous Council, a joint Task and Finish Group with Members from the Education and Skills Board, Social Care Services Board, Residents Experience Board and Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Board was set up to scrutinise the delivery of the SEND Development Plan 2020.</p> <p>Following an area inspection of SEND services in Surrey by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), which found Surrey's services requiring improvement, the group re-focussed their work on the development of the Surrey's Written Statement of Action. This was published in March 2017.</p> <p>Surrey recognises that service changes and improvements required are significant in scale and pace; this has been reflected in the agreed Written Statement of Action.</p>

¹ Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Development Plan 2016-2020, (page 14), Surrey County Council, published Spring 2016

Why this is a scrutiny item

The Children and Education Select Committee proposes that a SEND Improvement Task and Finish Group is established to follow and monitor the required improvements for Surrey's SEND Services, in line with the conditions set out in the Written Statement of Action.

What question is the task group aiming to answer?

- How is the council improving its services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities?
- How does the council's performance for SEND Services contribute to the improvements required within the Written Statement of Action?
- Does Surrey understand its improvement against the standards its regulators use and expect?
- What is needed to achieve further required improvements across Surrey's SEND services?

Aim

That the Task and Finish Group:

- Supports and monitors the required service improvements for SEND services in Surrey
- Provides Member oversight, challenge, accountability and assurance to the improvement process
- Makes recommendations where appropriate.

Objectives

Meet with officers to ascertain the project timelines and deadlines associated with the service improvement plans.

Meet regularly with Officers to: assess and receive progress updates/reports on the required service improvements; to understand how SEND services are changing, and how these changes will improve the quality of service to children and young people. The Group will use up-to-date strategic documents and reports, as used by officers, to assess progress; what is happening, and how it is being completed.

Identify themes and risks associated with the transformation of SEND services and take appropriate further action as necessary. This could include: providing regular findings reports to the main committee; suggesting recommendations back to the main committee to establish further areas for formal scrutiny and focussed work; or where appropriate, suggest recommendations for the main committee to escalate urgent concerns to Cabinet, or the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder.

Scope (within / out of)**In scope**

- The delivery of SEND services transformation against the agreed Written Statement of Action

- SEND Services Performance

Out of scope

- Scrutiny of individual SEND service provisions
- SEND services budgets

Outcomes for Surrey / Benefits

Surrey County Council’s Corporate Strategy sets out strategic goals to improve resident wellbeing, experience and the county’s economic prosperity. This task group would support the delivery of two corporate goals:

1. Improve outcomes for children in need of support and protection (Wellbeing)
2. Enhance opportunities for residents to influence and shape council services (Resident Experience)
3. Improve the satisfaction of families of children with special educational needs and disabilities with the support they receive.(Resident Experience)

Proposed work plan

It is important to clearly allocate who is responsible for the work, to ensure that Members and officers can plan the resources needed to support the task group.

Timescale	Task	Responsible
August & September 2017	Scoping with input from Overview and Budget Scrutiny Committee Chairman, Cabinet Member and relevant officers.	Democratic Services Officers and Committee Chairmen
September – October 2017	Meet with officers to establish the agreed timelines and deadlines required for service improvements. Establish progress made against the Written Statement of Action.	Democratic Services Officers, Task & Finish Group Members, CSF Officers
November 2017	Provide the main Children & Education Select Committee with first findings report with any initial recommendations for future formal scrutiny.	Member Reference Group
November & December 2017	Meet with officers to establish and monitor further progress made against the Written Statement of Action. Identify areas of weakness and, if appropriate, make recommendations to support the delivery of the remaining actions required.	Democratic Services Officers, Task & Finish Group Members, CSF Officers
Spring 2018	Continue regular meeting with officers to establish and monitor further progress made against the Written Statement of Action. Provide the main Children & Education Select Committee with findings reports with any initial recommendations for future formal scrutiny.	Democratic Services Officers, Task & Finish Group Members

Spring-Summer 2018	Using findings from Task and Finish Group meetings, and findings from follow-up Ofsted/CQC meetings, provide the main Children & Education Select Committee with a final report, with any closing recommendations.	Task & Finish Group Members
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<p>Potential Witnesses Liz Mills, Assistant Director Schools & Learning Julie Stockdale, SEND & School Organisation Strategic Lead Gabrielle Close, Interim Head of SEND Operations Beth Stewart, Project Manager Michael Nash, Project Officer Family Voice SEND Voices Diane McCormack, Acting Director at NHS Guildford and Waverley CCG Zarah Lowe, Principal Commissioning Manager (SEND)</p>
<p>Useful Documents Joint local area SEND inspection in Surrey Surrey Local Area Written Statement of Action following SEND inspection & supporting documents www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk SEND Development Plan SEND Improvement Plan Part 1 of Schools & Learning Performance Compendium</p>
<p>Potential barriers to success (Risks / Dependencies) Officer availability and capacity. Tight reporting deadlines.</p>
<p>Equalities implications The services within the scope of this Task and Finish Group will provide support to residents with 'protected characteristics', as defined by The Equality Act 2010, many of which with complex levels of need and support. The Group will be mindful of this and will monitor the equalities implications emerging from its work with officers, and will work to identify mitigation measures for those with a potentially negative impact, if applicable.</p>

Task Group Members	Mark Brett-Warburton Chris Townsend Christopher Botten Tina Mountain Yvonna Lay
Co-opted Members	-
Spokesman for the Group	To be decided at first meeting
Scrutiny Officer/s	Democratic Services Officer(s)