

Children and Education Select Committee



6 March 2019

SEND TRANSFORMATION

Purpose of report: Scrutiny of Services and Budgets

Introduction:

1. The special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) transformation business case summary (see Annex 1) was agreed by Cabinet in October 2018, as part of an overall transformation programme led by the Council. The SEND transformation programme aims to achieve better outcomes for children and young people and financial sustainability within a three year period.
2. A consultation on the SEND strategy (see Annex 2) took place between 30 October 2018 and 4 January 2019 to understand the views of members of public on the Council's Strategy. A full analysis of the consultation is attached (see Annex 3).
3. Following the consultation, the analysis and recommendations were agreed by Cabinet on 30 January 2019 (see Annex 4).

SEND Strategy

4. The strategy address the challenges within the system, these include:
 - National funding has not increased in line with demographic change and demand
 - Legislative change has meant an increase in the age range from birth to 25 years for entitlement to statutory provision
 - A change in SEND needs has led to a change in provision required, for example, an increase in the number of children and young people identified with autism and social and emotional and mental health needs.

5. We proposed five principles to underpin the strategy, these were:
 - Children with special educational needs are identified earlier and supported in a timely way in order to improve their outcomes and wellbeing.
 - There is an increased focus on earlier intervention and prevention to offer help and meet needs at the earliest opportunity, reducing the demand on high cost, high need interventions.
 - Children and young people are helped to become resilient and independent so that they can lead independent and fulfilling lives in their own communities.
 - The voices of our children, young people and families are heard so they can shape and inform how we work together to get the best results.
 - Surrey's early years settings, schools, colleges and other providers are able to support children to live, learn and grow up locally and achieve their full potential.

6. The strategic approach we have consulted on will see us investing more into earlier identification of need and support, creating additional specialist places in Surrey and upskilling the workforce to support children and young people with SEND to progress in their education.

7. Investment in transformation over two years directly through the SEND Transformation programme and two associated programmes (All Age Learning Disability and Family Resilience) has been agreed, with the aim of achieving financial sustainability for the Local Authority within three years.

Consultation and Next Steps

8. The five proposed principles were broadly supported by respondents to the consultation and will assist us to work with our partners and shape our future strategy ensuring our SEND services provide the right support and better outcomes for residents.

9. There was broad support from consultation respondents for the areas of transformation for SEND services, these were:
 - Early identification and support
 - Developing local services and managing the market

- Partnership working
 - Improving practice
10. In January 2019, Cabinet agreed to note that further engagement and co-design activity will be undertaken with partners to explore the feedback, ideas and concerns shared through the consultation and develop the council's draft SEND strategy into a jointly owned Surrey special educational needs and disabilities strategy and long term action plan.
11. A SEND System Leadership Board has been established, which is chaired by the Executive Director of Children, Families, Learning and culture includes membership from key partners. In addition, there is a SEND Programme Board which monitors performance of the programme and a SEND Operations Group to oversee the projects and dependencies within the programme.

Conclusions:

12. In response to feedback to the consultation and in order for the transformation programme to succeed, the strategy must be developed into a co-owned strategy and action plan with partners by April 2019.

Recommendations:

13. For members of the Committee to promote awareness of SEND transformation to Surrey residents and partners and encourage input and contribution to the development of a joint strategy and action plan.

Next steps:

To share the final joint strategy and action plan with the Committee on 5 September 2019 and an update on progress to include:

- 1) Development of additional early identification and support models including health, care and education professionals
- 2) Improvement in practice
- 3) Increasing the specialist provision available in the short term for September 2019 and September 2020
- 4) Key performance measures for SEN Transformation

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Sources/background papers:

Annex 1: SEND Full Business Case Summary

Annex 2: SEND Strategy

Annex 3: Service Transformation Cabinet Report

Annex 4: Consultation Analysis Summary