

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 September 2022

Report Title **Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) service update**

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – SEND update presentation

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To provide an update about services for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report provides an overview of the performance of the Council to provide statutory services to children with SEND.

2.2 The report includes an overview of national developments in relation to SEND, including the impact of the SEND Green Paper and changes to the local area inspection framework.

3. Recommendations

- a) It is recommended that the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the updates in the report.
- b) It is recommended that the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives further reports including a detailed self-assessment and SEND delivery plan as detailed in this report.

4. Reason for Recommendations (NOTE: this section is mandatory and must be completed)

- To provide an overview of the delivery of statutory responsibilities for the Council
- To provide an overview of the local area partnerships' preparedness for the new national SEND delivery plan and new inspection framework

5. Report Background

The Council is responsible for securing and delivering services to children and young people with SEND from the age of 0 -25 years.

The statutory requirements for the Council and all partners are outlined in the Children and Families Act 2014 (CFA). The SEND Code of Practice outlines the legal requirements that all partners must adhere to in line with the CFA.

The Council is the lead partner for the local area and holds the responsibility for coordinating the local area response to ensure that all partners deliver the requirements within the CFA. The local area partnership will be inspected by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission to assess the effectiveness of the local area.

In March 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) launched the [SEND Green Paper consultation](#) 'SEND review; right support, right place, right time' which is designed to understand how the reforms captured in the CFA have been implemented. This consultation is now closed.

As a response to the consultation, the DfE will publish a new SEND delivery plan in Autumn 2022.

In June 2022, OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission launched a [consultation](#) to change the way local areas are inspected. The main proposed areas of change are

- focusing on the impact that a local area partnership's SEND arrangements has on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people
- strengthening accountability and driving continuous improvement through an ongoing cycle of inspections
- introducing 3 inspection outcomes, which provide clearer information about how an area is performing, including an expectation that all areas produce and publish a strategic plan for SEND, which is updated following inspection
- gathering more evidence directly from children and young people and their families, ensuring that their views and experiences are central to our inspections
- looking more closely at arrangements for children and young people in alternative provision
- including social care inspectors in our inspection teams

This consultation is now closed. It is expected that OFSTED and CQC will finalise the new inspection framework in 2022 and start new inspections early in 2023.

It is proposed that the local area partnership led by the Council but comprising health services, social care, education providers, community and voluntary organisations and children and families, review the new national SEND delivery plan when it is announced, and the new inspection framework to produce

- a) A self-assessment to determine an overview of the local area's delivery
- b) A new local SEND delivery plan

It is proposed that the self-assessment and new delivery plan are presented to the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee early in 2023.

A presentation is attached that provides an overview of

- Statutory requirements for the Council and local area
- National SEND overview
- Local SEND overview
- Current performance
- Areas of focus

6. Issues and Choices

6.1 This report provides an overview of the requirements of the Council and current performance against statutory and locally developed outcomes.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals. Future reports will provide information about the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding the Council receives from the Department for Education to provide SEND services.

7.2 Legal

The report and presentation outline the legal obligations for the Council as described in the Children and Families Act 2014.

7.3 Risk

There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 Not applicable

7.5 Climate Impact

7.5.1 Not applicable

7.6 Community Impact

7.6.1 The report covers services for all children with SEND so covers all communities across West Northants.

7.7 **Communications**

7.7.1 None

8. Background Papers

8.1 None