

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Paul Turner, Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 January 2022

**SEND STRATEGY UPDATE**

**1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To consider an update on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy.

**2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and input into the Council’s SEND Strategy.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 To ensure Scrutiny involvement in the SEND Strategy.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

**4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 None.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 Throughout autumn 2021 significant work was undertaken across the SEND partnership in a number of key areas in order to strengthen the partnership and refocus its work.

A fundamental review of the governance arrangements and functioning of the partnership has taken place and a new Board structure implemented from January 2022. This is made up

of a streamlined and focused Executive Board to drive improvement and a series of sub-groups to co-ordinate and deliver activity in areas of performance and quality improvement, collaborative commissioning, High Needs finance, inclusion and preparation for adulthood.

6.2 Collective work is nearing completion to refresh both the SEND Needs Assessment and the local area’s self-evaluation. The former is key as it provides the dataset that underpins the Council’s self-evaluation and strategic and commissioning priorities for the next 2-3 years. The latter is required by Ofsted. It builds on the data in the Needs Assessment to provide an agreed and consistent narrative and analysis of the Council’s effectiveness in three areas and it is used by inspectors in making their judgement. This seeks to answer three primary questions:

Question A: How effectively does the local area identify children and young people with SEND?

Question B: How effectively does the local area assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND?

Question C: How effectively does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND?

6.3 Work began in late spring 2021 to refresh the Strategy and this will recommence now that the underpinning work on the Needs Assessment and self-evaluation is reaching conclusion. The next stage in the development process is to agree a set of key priorities for the Strategy based on the outcome of the co-production sessions held last year and findings in the self-evaluation. A new timeline for the Strategy’s development is proposed as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
January 2022	Needs Assessment finalised Self-evaluation finalised Strategic priorities agreed by the SEND Executive
February 2022	Develop draft SEND Strategy Share with BEIB and Headteacher groups and consult with wider stakeholders (including a Scrutiny working group)
March 2022	Share draft Strategy with the SEND Executive Board, Corporate Leadership Team, Children and Families Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and CYP Scrutiny as part of the consultation process
April 2022	Final amends and approval of the new Strategy by the SEND Executive prior to Executive sign off.

6.4 **Next steps:**

- A working group will be set up to develop the strategy, members of the CYP Scrutiny Committee will be invited to join this.
- The draft Strategy will be shared at the next Scrutiny Committee in March 2022.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 SEND funding either comes from the Council Core Budget or the High Needs Block, so an effective SEND Strategy will act to safeguard elements of both.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 SEND is a key part of the Equalities Act and therefore the Council needs to have a robust Strategy and plan in relation to SEND.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 A SEND consultation was undertaken in 2021 and there will be further consultation this year.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 2020/2030 Education Strategy.