

Policy and Scrutiny Scoping Document

CYP/03/13

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| Committee | Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee | |
| Topic | Review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) | Ref: CYP_SCR_034 File Ref: E.41.01/7/41 |
| Objective | Provide a scrutiny Members input into the review of SEND services in Essex prior to the introduction of a new strategy in mid-2013 | |
| Reasons for undertaking review | <p>SEND data between 2008 and 2012 highlights a number of areas for review and improvement.</p> <p>Need to improve confidence in the Essex system and plan for continuous improvement.</p> <p>Need to respond to recent legislative changes.</p> | |
| Topic suggested by | The Committee | |
| Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Initial briefing to define scope</i> • <i>Task & Finish Group</i> • <i>Commission</i> • <i>Full Committee</i> | YES, but with regular reports to the main Committee | |
| Membership | Councillors Higgins (Chairman), Hillier and Morris and Rev Jordan | |
| Issues to be addressed | <p>Strategic issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What proposals the Council intends to consult upon and how has it arrived at these proposals? • How do these tie in with Government initiatives? • Will there be options up for discussion or just one proposal? • What form will the consultation take – i.e. will there be public meetings / how will families of disabled children be involved / how will schools be involved / will some consultees be regarded as more 'significant' than others? • What are the timescales for the consultation period, considering | |

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| | <p>responses and approving the strategy? Could this be lengthened by the need for elections in May next year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the costs involved and how will they be met? • How will all schools be taking this forward given that many are now Academies? • How will the strategy be monitored to confirm that it is working? <p>Specific issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Statements being made and whether it is too many / are some schools seen as SEN friendly • Development of Education, Health and Care Plans • Children with autism / children with ADHD • Why children are sent to schools outside the county and can this number be reduced • Greater potential for co-location of mainstream and special schools (i.e. the Colman model in Norfolk) • Early intervention and improving links between nurseries and primary schools • Influencing parental views (i.e. the thought that a Statement is a panacea for all ills) • Current links with health and how will these change with the introduction of CCGs <p><u>A fundamental point underlying all these issues is how can the Council be sure that it is clear about what is the best for each individual child and putting the right provision in place.</u></p> |
| Sources of Evidence and witnesses | SCF Directorate officers |
| Work Programme | <p>General discussion at CYP 6/12/2012</p> <p>Chairman's briefing and scoping review 18/12/12</p> <p>Meetings as required from January 2013</p> |
| Indicators of Success | <p>Input is made into the proposals that are consulted upon.</p> <p>Way in which the consultation is to be undertaken is clear.</p> <p>Scrutiny members have had an input before the final strategy is approved by the Cabinet Member.</p> |

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| Meeting the CfPS Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical Friend Challenge to Executive</i> • <i>Reflect Public voice and concerns</i> • <i>Own the scrutiny process</i> • <i>Impact on service delivery</i> | <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> | | |
| Diversity and Equality | These issues underpin the whole scrutiny. | | |
| Date agreed by Committee | December 2012 | | |
| Future Action | Action to cover period December 2012 to April 2013 | | |
| Governance Officer | Graham Redgwell | Committee Officer | Matthew Waldie |
| Cabinet Member Lead Officer(s) | <p>None initially, but Committee may wish to clarify issues prior to final strategy being approved.</p> <p>Tim Coulson, Director for Education and Learning</p> <p>Annemarie Blackshaw, Head of SEN/AEN Provider Services</p> <p>Karen Jones, Project Manager</p> | | |