

## **Report to Overview and Scrutiny**

# **SEND Strategy**

### **Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report to share both the development and key highlights of Oldham's new SEND Strategy.

### **Recommendations/Requirement from Overview and Scrutiny**

The Group is recommended to endorse both the mission and outcomes of the Strategy and to consider using the approach used to develop this Strategy to be applied to other Strategies being developed in Oldham.

## **SEND Strategy**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 Following the inspection of Oldham's effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) in October 2017, the SEND Partnership has co-produced a new SEND Strategy for Oldham.
- 1.2 As a partnership, we are driving significant improvement in the services we offer to make a real difference to the lives of Oldham's children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 1.3 Ofsted and the CQC re-visited Oldham from 23 September to 26 September 2019 to review our progress since October 2017. The final letter setting the outcome of the re-visit is expected at the end of October 2019.

### **2 Current Position**

- 2.1 Oldham is in the final process of sense testing its new SEND Strategy with the SEND Partnership in the broadest sense.
- 2.2 The SEND Oldham Partnership has held consultation and engagement sessions with young people, parents, carers, partners and staff within and outside SEND services. There has been a series of stakeholder engagement events, highlighted [here](#), which have helped shape both the draft SEND Oldham Strategy and Development Plan (2019-22). We are at an advanced stage of shaping our Strategy and Plan which are out for final consultation during September and early October 2019. Both documents have been co-produced with the local SEND Partnership and widely consulted upon already.
- 2.3 Oldham's ambition 'to be a place where children and young people thrive'. The mission of the SEND Strategy is that 'We want all our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to achieve well in their early years, at school and in further education, find employment, lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives and have choice and control over their support'. We believe that all children and young people, including those with SEND, should be:
  - Able to be educated in the borough where they live
  - Able to access opportunities that prepare them to be successful in life, learning and work
  - Able to access appropriate high-quality support to build their emotional resilience and improve their health and wellbeing
  - Safe and happy when taking part in all experiences
  - Listened to and actively involved in decisions that affect their lives and communities
- 2.4 The key outcomes of the Strategy have shaped and directed the Development Plan which focuses on the following key priorities for improvement:

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- Every child and young person is a confident communicator
  - Every learning setting is inclusive
  - Every young person is ready for adulthood
  - Every child and young person is a part of their community

### **3 Data and Intelligence**

- 3.1 Quantitative data and intelligence used to inform the Strategy has derived from the new SEND JSNA available on the LA webpages and SEND dashboards governed by the SEND Partnership Board. This data analysis approach took 12 months to develop so that trend analysis could be developed.
- 3.2 Qualitative intelligence was gathered using co-production methodologies with parents and carers, children and young people, SENCOs, headteachers, SEND staff in the LA, health providers, health commissioners, adult social care, children's social care, early years and post 16 providers. This process also took 12 months to ensure that all views were considered at a pace that suited all partners to ensure the document was authentic in its co-production.

### **4 Links to Health and Wellbeing Outcomes**

- 4.1 This will impact on the wider determinants of health and life chances for SEND cohorts both during their childhood and during their preparation for adulthood.

### **5 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss**

- 5.1 The key points of discussion include whether the priorities set out in the SEND Partnership strategy resonate with the Board and can be fully endorsed.

### **6 Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider**

- 6.1 O&S are asked to discuss the mission, priorities and the key targets set out in the Strategy and consider whether it can agree with them or would seek modification.

### **7 Next steps**

- 7.1 It is proposed that once finally approved by all stakeholders, the final SEND Strategy and Development Plan take over from the written statement of action issued by Ofsted in October 2017 as the main driver of change across the local area between 2019-2022