

Report to Cabinet

SEND Strategy and Development Plan

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to share both the development and key highlights of Oldham's new SEND strategy and development plan.

Recommendations/Requirement from Cabinet

Cabinet is recommended to endorse and approve both the mission and outcomes of the strategy and development plan and to consider using the approach used to develop these to be applied to other strategies and plans being developed in Oldham.

SEND strategy and development plan

1 Background

- 1.1 Following the Ofsted/CQC 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 local SEND Partnership has co-produced a new SEND strategy and development plan for Oldham to follow on from its Written Statement of Action.
- 1.2 As a local 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 In September 2019 Ofsted/CQC revisited the borough and acknowledged Oldham's improvement journey and the positive changes made since 2017 in terms of provision for children and young people with SEND. The significant improvements in governance, leadership and processes/practice around SEND, and the joint working with parents/carers and children/young people to develop and embed changes were commended. The outcomes of the revisit will be formally communicated in due course.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Oldham SEND Partnership is at the final stage of formalising its new co-produced SEND strategy and development plan. The Partnership has held consultation and engagement sessions with parents, carers, young people, partners and staff within and outside SEND services. There were also a series of stakeholder engagement events which helped to shape both the SEND strategy and development plan (2019-22).
- 2.2 During September and October 2019, draft versions of the SEND strategy and development plan (2019-22) were presented and consulted upon with the following:
 - SEND Management Group
 - SEND Partnership Board
 - Primary/Secondary Headteachers and the SENCOs Forums
 - Early Years Managers Forum
 - Barrier Breakers
 - Health and Wellbeing Board
 - POINT Parent Carer Forum
 - Overview and Scrutiny Board
- 2.3 The final version of both the SEND strategy and development plan are appended to this report for Cabinet consideration and approval.
- 2.4 The SEND strategy reflects 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 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

2.5 The key outcomes of the SEND strategy have shaped and directed the local partnership's development plan which focuses on the following key priorities for improvement:

- 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 In addition to the extensive engagement, quantitative data and intelligence has also been used to inform the strategy. This has been derived from the SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which is available on the Local Offer for further information if required.

3.2 Qualitative intelligence for the JSNA was gathered using co-production methodologies with parents and carers, children and young people, SENCOs, headteachers, SEND staff in the local authority, health providers, health commissioners, adult social care, children's social care, early years and post 16 providers. This process further ensured that all views were considered within the evaluative process.

4 Links to Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

4.1 The SEND strategy and development plan will impact positively 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 Cabinet to Discuss

5.1 Cabinet may wish to discuss the four priorities that have emerged from the SEND strategy, and their relevance to the needs of children and young people with SEND over the next three years.

6 Key Questions for Cabinet to Consider

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- 6.1 Does the strategy and development plan, when unpacked, cover all the key determinants that will improve the education and health and wellbeing of children and young people with SEND?

7 Next steps

- 7.1 The SEND strategy and development plan will follow on from the Written Statement of Action issued by Ofsted/CQC in October 2017 and drive continuous improvement in SEND across the local partnership from 2019-2022.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Oldham SEND Strategy 2019-22
Appendix 2 – Oldham SEND Development Plan 2019-22