

BRIEFING NOTE

Item 6

TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 13 October, 2015

RE: SEND 0-25 Briefing

Background

This briefing paper is intended to update partners with regard to SEND 0-25 in Walsall.

Briefing

Recent data cleansing activity has given rise to significant concerns about outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Walsall as reported at the last meeting.

The Seconded Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher have agreed a scope to address the agreed concerns presented within the last report to Forum working with Len Brazier, Consultant –SEND.

A full report and final impact recommendation paper is, as reported, being compiled. A final report has been commissioned for January 2016. It is more than feasible that implementation of service review and re design etc. will be ongoing. The report will be a snapshot of existing good practice, suggested commissioning or de- commissioning of services whilst immediate challenges will be resolved by services and aspirational targets will be identified with timed milestones for delivery and impact evaluation(s) in line with a SEND 0-25 Strategy.

Namely:

- The gap between the achievement of children with SEN and those without is growing compared with the national average
- Increasing concerns about the achievement of children in the early years which has potential long term implications
- Evidence that aspects of current SEN provision is not providing value for money

The following are urgent tasks being undertaken:

- 1 To produce a draft SEND 0-25 Strategy which will drive at pace and with rigour
- 2 A VFM exercise with all SEND Services 0-25 (not Inclusion and Behaviour)
- 3 The yearly review of the Inclusion Strategy review of the Inclusion Strategy
- 4 A report of the attainment gains of SEND 0-25 and development of a SEND 0-25 Dashboard to profile attainment for vulnerable groups e.g. Special Schools, ARP's, LAC, CME ,GRT yps managed moved, perm excluded yps, young carers etc..
- 5 Planning for a SEND 0-25 Conference on 11th February 2016
- 6 Development of LA criteria for access for SEND 0-25

A verbal report to items above will be given.

Len Brazier
Consultant –SEND
October 2015

Given this context there will be a pause on the SEN Review project to enable a forensic SEND 0-25 analysis of data to inform strategy proposals and change. This will be completed before the start of the next financial year when a new SEND 0-25 Strategy will have been agreed and produced. This analysis SEND 0-25, whilst taking cognisance of Disability and Equality holistically 0-95, will work closely and build on outcomes from internal audit specifically tasked to look at VFM in all SEND associated services.

As a result of the SEN Review so far, we have formally ratified existing special school places based on actual places filled and will be reviewing places currently unfilled. We intend to build on the good work of the SEN Review Team and to extend the scope to a review of SEND 0-25 services in the Council. By using the data we already have and analysing trends over the past two years we will be in a good position to propose options for change whilst delivering the Council's statutory responsibilities within a reducing financial envelope.

It is to be noted that ARP consultation will continue within the wider remit of the SEND 0-25 analysis going forward. The statutory EHC needs assessment process may be affected after due consideration.

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