

11 March 2021

Update: SEND Strategy

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education and Skills

1. Aim

To update the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the SEND Strategy 2020-2025. To consult with the Committee as key stakeholders.

2. Recommendations

That the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the contents of this report and feedback views and supports the principles of the SEND Strategy 2020-2025.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 The SEND Strategy articulates the vision that all children deserve the best start in life, and for our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), this requires us to identify learning needs early, to have the right level of collaboration with parents, carers and our providers, and to have the provision we require to meet the diverse range of needs for our children and young people. The SEND strategy also aligns with the Council's corporate plan 2018-2021 which states 'Children have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.'
- 3.2 We are committed to enabling, challenging and supporting all schools to be inclusive so that the best outcomes are achieved for all pupils and we will be regularly sharing our progress through the Walsall Council Local Offer.
- 3.3 The SEND strategy is implemented in line with the significant Government reforms to education, health and social care for children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers. The principles of these reforms were to facilitate better outcomes for children and young people by combining the support provided across health, education and social care from birth to 25, ensuring early intervention, and to make sure children, young people and parents are at the centre of the decision making.
- 3.4 Walsall adopts a graduated approach, illustrated in the diagram below to identify and support children and young people with SEND. A graduated approach means that we expect reasonable adjustments to be made, ensuring that the majority of children and young people with SEN are able to have their needs met within a mainstream provision, thus allowing them to enjoy the same opportunities as their peers whilst being fully included within their communities.

- 3.5 We envisage a well-planned continuum of provision from birth to age 25, which meets the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families. Integrated services across education, health and social care work collaboratively with children, young people, parents and carers, to ensure that individual needs are met without unnecessary bureaucracy or delay. This means that we are dedicated to supporting early intervention and prevention which allows support to be implemented in a timely manner to ensure children's and young people's needs do not increase.
- 3.6 The Aim of the SEND strategy is to turn high aspirations for all of our learners with SEND into a reality. The strategy outlines our vision, principles and priorities to ensure that we are working collaboratively to identify and meet the needs of Walsall's children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) from birth to the age of 25. This strategy does not exist in isolation and builds on the 'Getting it Right for Walsall' Strategy and the outcomes of our Ofsted local area inspection in February 2019. We acknowledge that our vision cannot be implemented and our priorities cannot be delivered by professionals alone. We are committed to working together with children and young people, as well as parents and carers to provide support to them and create an environment and conditions which will enable them to thrive and achieve their personal goals and aspirations.
- 3.7 Our values will help us to achieve the Council's SEND vision and priorities. Our values underpin the way we operate as an organisation. They influence our choices and our behaviours - they are the thread running through everything we do. The values we will work on throughout this strategy are:
- Person centred – ensuring the child and their family are at the centre of what we do, all decisions are 'Done with' and not 'Done to'
 - High expectations and aspirations – creating and nurturing a culture which raises everyone's expectations for children and young people with SEND
 - Trust – between families and services
 - Collaboration – children, young people, families and services working together
- 3.8 The SEND Strategy needs to be read in conjunction with our Inclusion Strategy and our Accessibility Strategy.

4. Decide

Scrutiny to feedback views and support the principles of the SEND Strategy.

5. Respond

Any recommendations made by the Committee will be assessed against the Inclusion Strategy and our SEND and Accessibility Strategies and incorporated, where appropriate, into the final SEND strategy.

6. Review

The final report will be brought back to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the summer of 2021.

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