

Report to:	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD
Date:	25 June 2019
Reporting Officer:	Tim Bowman, Assistant Director, Education
Subject:	SEND UPDATE – IMPROVEMENT PLAN
Report Summary:	This report follows on from the update provided to the March Education Attainment Improvement Board. The report contains the detailed improvement plan for SEND.
Recommendations:	Board members are asked to discuss the content of the improvement plan report and endorse the activity it details.
Corporate Plan:	Early identification of high quality support for children and young people with special education needs and / or disabilities is a vital part of our living well and starting well objectives.
Policy Implications:	None identified.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The SEND reforms and increasing demands for supporting the SEND in Education and Schools, places significant pressures on the High Needs Budget provided by Department for Education to fund this.</p> <p>The funding in this area is insufficient and was overspent by in excess of £1.453m in 2018/19, the overspend will be at least £1.9m in 2019/20 relating to additional known costs but we are expecting this to rise significantly further due to continuing demand to deliver this statutory provision.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	Failure to comply with this statutory duty will put the Council at risk of Judicial/Ombudsman/Ofsted challenge. There is increasing pressure in relation to two competing statutory duties, to deliver a balanced budget and to comply with SEND obligations.
Risk Management:	The risks highlighted above need to be carefully managed and monitored against the budgetary pressures highlighted by the Chief Finance Officer
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Tim Bowman



Telephone: 0161 342 2050



e-mail: tim.bowman@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Part Three of The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced significant changes to the responsibilities of Local Authorities, Schools and Clinical Commissioning Groups for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. These reforms came into effect on 1 September 2014 supported by a refreshed SEND Code of Practice. At the time the government described this as the biggest educational reform for a generation.
- 1.2 Implementing these reforms was in itself a challenge, however, this challenge has been compounded by turbulence and pressure in all parts of the education system. Pressures on budgets, wide ranging changes to policy (for example curriculum and assessment), and the impact of austerity on the public sector and families, mean that implementation has been inconsistent across the country and in Tameside.

2. IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- 2.1 Our improvement plan (**Appendix A** to this report) details how we will address the key areas for development highlighted in our Self-Evaluation (discussed with EAIB members in March).
- 2.2 A peer review of our SEND Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan has been organised for 19 and 20 June. This peer review will be led by Warrington and is being organised by the Association of Directors of Children's Services in the North West. Feedback from the peer review will be made known to EAIB members once it is available.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Tameside like many local areas has found implementing SEND Reforms challenging. Our implementation has not been consistent and capacity challenges and changes in leadership have negatively impacted upon this.
- 3.2 We believe we now have in place a thorough and well considered improvement plan which is targeted to the areas requiring the swiftest improvement. We have invited scrutiny of this via Peer Review.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.