

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	30 September 2020
Executive Member:	Councillor Leanne Feeley, Executive Member Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage
Reporting Officer:	Tim Bowman – Assistant Director Education
Subject:	SEND STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE
Report Summary:	In order to ensure effective strategic oversight of Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) activity in Tameside a SEND strategy has been developed. The report provides an overview of current SEND strategic activity in relation to this. The strategy enables partners to work together to achieve the vision and outcomes for SEND in Tameside. In order to ensure that this is effective, appropriate governance needs to be in place. The report outlines the proposed governance structure for SEND in Tameside and proposed arrangements for Tameside’s parent carer forum.
Recommendations:	That Executive Cabinet be recommended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To approve the Special Education Needs and Disability Strategy 2020-2023 at Appendix 1 (ii) To endorse the proposed Governance structure for Special Education Needs and Disability strategic implementation at Appendix 2 (iii) To note the plan on a page for Special Education Needs and Disability strategic fit at Appendix 3. (iv) To note that Improvement Development & Action Plans and a SEND outcomes framework will be developed to ensure delivery of the SEND strategy. (v) To approve the proposed arrangements for a SEND parent carer forum in Tameside. (vi) To note the arrangements for the SEND parent carer forum in Tameside and agree that the Director of Childrens Services takes forward a Memorandum of Understanding with Tameside’s parent carer forum.
Corporate Plan:	The report closely aligns with and delivers the priorities contained within Starting Well and Living Well aspects of the Corporate Plan.
Policy Implications:	The strategy ensures Tameside has a clear strategy for SEND in place and fulfils the Local Authority’s statutory duty to ensure access to high quality provision for vulnerable children and their families.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	The funding allocated to the council to pay for special education needs is the High Needs Block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is used to pay for special school places, additional support for both mainstream schools and special schools outlined in Education Health Care Plans (for the education element only). This grant also pays for special education services such as visual and hearing impaired services.

The allocation for 2020/21 is £25m, schools have contributed a further £0.9m from the schools block allocation. The current forecast spend for this support (including recoupment) is £29.7m resulting in a £3.8m in-year overspend with a £0.5m overspend to recover from 2019/20. The SEND strategy is set against this very difficult financial backdrop.

It is important the Council and CCG work jointly in securing the best possible outcomes for our children from our pooled resources across health and care.

Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced significant changes to the approach to SEND provision by councils by introducing a new statutory duty to ensure that the views, wishes and feelings of children and families are given importance.

In addition the Council also has a duty to ensure that the right support and information is in place to ensure children and families are able to participate in decisions which help to achieve good outcomes for the children and young people. This should be ensured through the SEND strategy.

The strategy should also support facilitate the discharge of all of the Council's the duties under Children and Families Act 2014 particularly sections 27 and 30 of that Act.

Those sections require local authorities to keep their educational and social care provision for children and young people with SEND under review, and to publish and keep under review their Local Offer of provision for 0-25 year olds with SEND.

The strategy must also follow the Code of Practice which provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations. It is therefore important that the strategy is regularly reviewed.

Risk Management:

There is a risk to ensuring effective strategic oversight and delivery of SEND activity and ensuring positive outcomes for children & young people if Tameside do not have a SEND strategy and clear and effective governance in place.

Access to Information:

Background to the development of the strategy can be obtained from Tim Bowman, Assistant Director of Education

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Tim Bowman, Assistant Director of Education



Telephone: 0161 342 2050



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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tameside Council and its partners including parents & carers are ambitious for all children and young people and are committed to supporting them to achieve their best outcomes. For children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 this requires partners to work together to ensure that there is high quality, integrated and inclusive education and support that is flexible and responsive.
- 1.2 The SEND Strategy 2020-2023 provides the framework for partners to work together to achieve the vision and outcomes for SEND in Tameside. A copy of this is attached at **Appendix 1**. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that there is sufficient high quality provision and to achieve this, the Local Authority needs to work collaboratively with partners and service providers
- 1.3 In addition, SEND demand is set against an extremely challenging financial context in Tameside. There is a need for a strategy to determine priorities with partners that will enable resources across the system to be deployed most efficiently.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children and Families Act 2014, clearly sets out roles and responsibilities for the Local Authority and partners, in ensuring that children and young people with SEND are able to achieve their full potential.
- 2.2 The SEND Code of Practice, under the Children and families Act 2014, required us to implement significant changes to our processes and to the way we work and provide services.
- 2.3 We are required to deliver these services by knowing our children and young people well, by targeting services better and using our resources efficiently
- 2.4 Tameside is the 23rd most deprived local authority in England (out of 317 Local Authority areas), with some areas in the 5% most deprived nationally. There are 54,921 children and young people aged 0-19 (67,400 aged 0-25) in the borough and 1 in 4 live in poverty before housing costs, this rises to 1 in 3 when housing costs are taken into consideration.
- 2.5 Our Joint strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) helps us understand the needs of our SEND community in more detail and provides us with recommendations that have helped shape our strategic priorities.
- 2.6 The Tameside SEND Strategy 2020 – 2023 describes the collective vision and aspirations for children and young people with special educational needs and provides a framework for partners to collaborate to deliver shared priorities for the next three years.
- 2.7 The purpose of the SEND Strategy is to ensure that those aged 0-25 with special education needs and or disability receive the support and provision they need.
- 2.8 The SEND Strategy aligns with our Corporate Plan and should be considered alongside this.
- 2.9 We have high aspirations for all our children and young people and want to ensure that we deliver the best outcomes for those with SEND. The aim of this strategy is to turn high aspirations for all of our learners with SEND into a reality. All children and young people grow up to become adults and need to be equipped to live in a diverse and challenging society. Whatever their ability, they need to have the opportunity of employment, to be able to take part in their local community, to assess and take appropriate risks, and to live as independently as possible.

- 2.10 The financial context is challenging for local authorities and other partners, however, it is essential that the most efficient and effective use is made of available resources across the system in Tameside.
- 2.11 The SEND Strategy outlines a vision, 5 key outcomes and four Headline Priorities. These were developed with partners and our SEND community. The 4 Headline Strategic Priorities have sufficient flexibility to ensure that different or emerging issues can be incorporated moving forward.

3. VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES & HEADLINE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The vision for SEND in Tameside is ambitious and aspirational, it stretches beyond the boundaries of the Local Authority to all partners and children and young people with SEND, with or without an EHCP.

We want children & young people with SEND to have the opportunity to be the best they can be and to have choice and control over their support.

- 3.2 To realise this vision, the implementation of the SEND Strategy will be guided by the following principles:

- Work in a spirit of co-production and partnership with parents and their children and young people with SEND, involving them in all key decisions.
- Work in partnership with partner agencies and schools involving them in all key decisions guided by our LISTENing framework.
- Have the highest expectations for children and young people with SEND, ensuring that they are fully included in all educational settings and that their needs are met by high performing local schools.
- Maintain a commitment to Tameside's maintained schools and academies, promoting and championing strong leadership and inclusive practice for children and young people with SEND across all phases, mainstream and special.
- Ensure a rigorous focus on the preparation for adulthood outcomes and life after school.
- Ensure that resources are fairly and consistently allocated according to needs

- 3.3 The strategy aims to achieve 5 key outcomes. We want our children and young people with SEND to be Safe, Happy, Healthy and Ambitious for their future and to Develop Skills for Life.

- 3.4 Based on what our JSNA tells us and in partnership with parent-carers, young people and partners across education, care and health we have developed 4 Headline Strategic Priorities:

- **INCREASING & IMPROVING INCLUSION** of children and young people in mainstream settings ensuring appropriate preparation for adulthood.
- **INCREASING CONFIDENCE** of parents and carers in services and systems across all of the partners in Tameside ensuring appropriate preparation for adulthood.
- **INVOLVING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** who have SEND and their families, in decisions about their future and in the shaping, accountability, quality and delivery of services ensuring appropriate preparation for adulthood.

- **IMPROVING ACCURACY & TIMELINESS** with which we identify and assess children's and young people's needs including ensuring appropriate preparation for adulthood.

- 3.5 Strategic leads have been identified to take forward the 4 Headline Priority workstreams.
- 3.6 Each workstream has an Improvement & Development Action Plan (IDAP) that will be used to monitor and track progress towards achieving the identified outcomes.
- 3.7 The SEND improvement Group have developed an Outcomes Framework that will be used alongside the IDAPs to track and monitor progress.

4. GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 It is important that Tameside have a clear governance structure for all SEND activity. Attached at **Appendix 2** is a proposed Governance Chart for the strategic oversight of SEND in Tameside.
- 4.2 The SEND Improvement Group will have oversight of the 4 Headline Priority workstreams. The Joint Commissioning and Preparation for Adulthood Groups will feed into the Headline Priority workstreams and the SEND Improvement Group as required.
- 4.3 In line with Tameside's co-production framework – LISTENing in Tameside - specific elements of the work will involve children, young people and parents to ensure the priorities are delivered in a way that best meets local need.
- 4.4 The SEND Improvement Group will inform the Childrens Improvement Board and the Starting Well Partnership of it's work.
- 4.5 Reports will be provided to the Health & Wellbeing Board as required.
- 4.6 **Appendix 3** illustrates on one page the strategic story for SEND in Tameside.

5. PARENT CARER FORUM

- 5.1 Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families. The SEND Code of Practice actively encourages local authorities to work with parent carer forums.
- 5.2 Parent Carer Forums do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.
- 5.3 Forums usually have a steering group of parents who lead this work and listen to the views of other parents in the local area to make sure they know what is important to them.
- 5.4 In Tameside we have a consortium approach to our parent carer forum led by the Charity Our Kids Eyes. A wide range of specialist organisations representing families across a range of needs and disabilities collectively provide a voice for SEND in Tameside.
- 5.5 Co-production is an important principle in parent carer participation. In line with Tameside's co-production framework, LISTENing, our parent carer forums play an integral and equal part

in the decision-making process and are engaged in shaping, developing, implementing and evaluating services and systems.

- 5.6 At a strategic level, partners must engage children and young people with SEND and children's parents and carers in commissioning decisions, to give useful insights into how to improve services and outcomes. To ensure that this voice is captured for SEND strategically in Tameside the Parent Carer Forum voice is across all activity and has a direct voice on the SEND Improvement Group. The governance chart at Appendix 2 sets this out. The Governance chart allows freedom and flexibility across all SEND groups for the parent carer voice to be captured in all activity, in line with the LISTENing framework.
- 5.7 In order to demonstrate commitment to Tameside's parent carer consortium approach, it is proposed that a memorandum of understanding is developed. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is an agreement between two or more parties outlined in a formal document. It is not legally binding but signals the willingness of the parties to co-operate with each other. The MOU will demonstrate a commitment to our SEND parent carer forum approach in Tameside and establish the parent carer voice within our SEND strategic framework.
- 5.8 Having an appropriate MOU in place would also enable the parent carer forum to access additional DfE support to help establish and grow the forum in Tameside, through for example engagement in parent carer networks and learning from national best practice.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The implementation of a SEND strategy will provide the basis for planning, commissioning and delivering SEND Services and support by the Council and its partners for children and young people living in Tameside over the next three years. The strategy will ensure the Council continues to meet its statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and ensure that children and young people in Tameside aged 0-25 with SEND continue to have good outcomes.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

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