

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th July 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - Special Education Needs Reform Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – Special Educational Needs Reform – Update.

The Children and Families Act received Royal Assent in March 2014. Part 3 of the Act introduced significant changes to the system for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The changes were introduced from 1st September 2014 and were generally referred to as 'SEN reform'. A report on the reform was presented to Cabinet on 4th September 2014. This report updated on the implementation of the changes in the reform since September 2014, the position, and the next steps to be taken.

The key areas of change were:-

- There was one category of special educational need for children and young people in education settings who did not have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan – this was known as SEN Support.
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC plans) had replaced statements of special educational needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) for children and young people aged 0-25. There would be an option of a personal budget for children and young people with an EHC Plan.
- The Local Authority had published and continued to develop a Local Offer setting out information about services available for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) must make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with special educational needs or

disabilities (SEND).

- The Government was developing an accountability framework for special educational needs and disability which would include an inspection by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

An implementation team was in place to take forward the operational implementation of the reform and reports to Service Group Management Team. Reports on progress were also taken to Children and Young People's Health and Well-being Commissioning Group and Children and Young People's Partnership.

The following were the next steps for the implementation of the reform:-

- Ongoing implementation of the 20 week EHC process and review and monitoring of this. This would include the process for annual reviews in the new system.
- Review of the transition plan and the continued delivery of the plan.
- Further development of the Local Offer, collection and analysis of feedback on the Offer and the publication of feedback on the Offer.
- Development of internal performance management systems, data collection and analysis in line with local and national requirements, and informing preparation for inspection. This would include quality assurance of EHC plans.
- Scoping work on the four possible areas for joint commissioning.
- Further development and implementation of arrangements for those in youth custody.
- Further development of Information, Advice and Support Services.
- Development of preparing for adulthood approaches including use of the SEND preparation for employment grant.
- Maintaining and developing stakeholder engagement.
- Continued workforce development, including specific training for social care and health.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The progress made in the implementation of the SEN reform

legislation be noted.

2. The planned next steps for work on the reform be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

SEN reform is introducing significant cultural and organisational change to the system for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities which include statutory duties for the council and their partners.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Mrs Wilburn declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – Special Educational Needs Reform – Update as her grandson had special needs.

Councillor Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – Special Educational Needs Reform – Update as he was a governor at Frederick Natrass Primary.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

24th July 2015

Proper Officer
20 July 2015