

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting21st June 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update for Stockton

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) for Stockton.

In October 2016, a report was made to Cabinet regarding a proposal to reshape services for children in Stockton with special educational needs.

This proposal involved rationalising the provision available in mainstream schools to allow earlier support and intervention for children when they first present with special needs. This was with the aim of reducing demand for specialist placements and addressing needs earlier. The provision commissioned from schools, presently in Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs), would be remodelled into hubs in localities which could provide cross phase provision for special needs across the Borough and allow more children to attend a school near to where they live. This would also reduce the need for transport across the Borough. No children already in placements would be moved as a result of the proposals.

A further report in January 2017 detailed the consultation outcomes from extensive engagement with parents and key stakeholders. The proposals were modified as a result, particularly around retaining some existing nursery provision, and approval was given to commence with the commissioning of the revised provision.

The report set out for approval the results of the commissioning process and the new model of provision. An update on the unsuccessful application for a new Free School across the Tees Valley is also included.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The outcomes of the commissioning process be noted.

2. The allocation of the enhanced schools as set out in paragraph 11 be approved.

3. The capital implications associated with the development of nursery provision in paragraph 18 be noted.

4. The work around securing additional specialist provision be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

There is a need to improve outcomes for children with special needs across the Borough and respond to the need to provide more specialist support for children earlier. This fits with the council theme of providing earlier intervention to reduce demand for expensive placements which are often out of Borough. There is also a need to reduce transport budgets.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Norma Wilburn declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 8 - Special Education Needs and Disabilities SEND Update for Stockton as her grandson had special educational needs.

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 8 - Special Education Needs and Disabilities SEND Update for Stockton as he was a governor at Billingham South Primary School.

Councillor Ann McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 8 - Special Education Needs and Disabilities SEND Update for Stockton as she was a governor at Pentland Primary School.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight, 30 June 2017

Proper Officer
26 June 2017