

C&YP Scrutiny Commission

Joint SEND commissioning strategy for engagement

Meeting: C&YP Scrutiny Commission

Meeting date: 13th January 2021

Lead director: Tracie Rees

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: V1

1. Summary

- 2.3 A joint SEND commissioning strategy has been developed across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, covering the work of the three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and LA's.
- 2.4 The strategy identifies a common vision across LLR *"we will work together across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND"* and 7 priorities to address over the coming 3 years:
1. Build on our understanding of need and demand
 2. Plan to meet needs within available resource, forecast for the future and prevent escalation
 3. Quality assure our provision and contracts
 4. Examine how we can provide greater flexibility and tailored packages of support
 5. Align our services with those for adults, to prepare young people for adulthood
 6. Develop our joint working and governance approaches
 7. Jointly review our existing provision to ensure it meets needs and provides good quality support
- 2.5 Engagement on the strategy is now taking place to gather feedback on the suitability of the vision and the priorities. The engagement will also approach a range of audiences to identify whether the actions mapped are suitable, to identify any further actions required and the prioritise those for the first year of work.
- 2.6 Audiences identified for the engagement include:
- Children and young people with SEND
 - Families and carers of those children and young people
 - Schools, early years settings, alternative learning providers and FE providers
 - Staff working in services providing support to children with SEND (internal and external)
 - Representatives of the LA's and CCG's party to the strategy

2.7 Engagement will occur in December through to 31st January 2021. Analysis of results will take place for early February with approvals sought in Feb/March. Launch is anticipated in April 2021 provided no significant changes in direction are needed.

1. Recommendations

2.8 C&YP Scrutiny Commission are asked to note the content of the strategy and the opportunity to feedback via the online consultation should they wish <https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/send-commissioning-strategy>

2. Supporting information including options considered:

Background

- 2.9 The Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy has been developed by the Joint Planning and Transformation group for LLR, consisting of officers from the CCG's and the 3 LA's for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- 2.10 The strategy was identified as an action for both Leicester city and Leicestershire areas following written statements of action (WSOA) that stated a need to further develop joint commissioning for SEND.

Overview of format and contents

- 2.11 The strategy is intended as an online document. It is designed to be a short read with links to pages providing more in-depth information. These pages can be updated as information is developed, for example the key facts page could be added to with further information about needs as we gather more across the area.
- 2.12 A simple vision is presented as *“we will work together across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND”* which captures our intention as a system.
- 2.13 The strategy uses commissioning as a framework to apply to the work in SEND and sets out our priorities, largely based on the commissioning cycle of analyse, plan, do and review. Two additional priorities pick up the need for personalisation and flexibility to address individual need and the need to do further work across LLR to support transition and preparation for adulthood. The priorities in full are:
1. Build on our understanding of need and demand
 2. Plan to meet needs within available resource, forecast for the future and prevent escalation
 3. Quality assure our provision and contracts
 4. Examine how we can provide greater flexibility and tailored packages of support

5. Align our services with those for adults, to prepare young people for adulthood
6. Develop our joint working and governance approaches
7. Jointly review our existing provision to ensure it meets needs and provides good quality support

2.14 The strategy is currently set out as text only, but the intention is to bring in some colour and pictures once the content is agreed, ready for final publication. An easy read version will also be developed for publication.

Engagement

2.15 Engagement is underway on the strategy, both to assure us that the vision and priorities are supported and to help shape the action plan to deliver. An engagement plan is attached as appendix B.

2.16 The engagement focuses on 4 main questions:

- 1) Do you agree with the vision?
- 2) Do you agree with the priorities?
- 3) Do you agree with the actions?
- 4) Please rate the actions in order of priority

2.17 The engagement is live on the City Council consultation hub, with all partners directing those that want to input to this single source of response. In addition, a presentation has been developed that can be used in meetings and forums to explain the strategy and the engagement.

2.18 Key audiences to be targeted for responses include:

- Children and young people with SEND
- Families and carers of those children and young people
- Schools, early years settings, alternative learning providers and FE providers
- Staff working in services providing support to children with SEND (internal and external)
- Representatives of the LA's and CCG's party to the strategy

Timescales

2.19 The engagement launched at the start of December and runs until 31st January 2021.

2.20 Analysis of responses will occur into February and final sign off is anticipated through March. The aim is for the strategy to launch from April 2021 provided no significant changes in direction are required.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Martin Judson, Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

There are no implications arising from the recommendations at present however there will need to specific advice sought as this progresses in relation to any procurements and consultations required.

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

5.4 Equalities Implications

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The proposed engagement plan for the SEND strategy needs to be accessible for all the identified groups and meet their communications need, including online engagement such as easy read documents.

As part of the ongoing work the outcomes from the engagement exercise should feed into the proposed action plan. Whilst the SEND Strategy is a high level overarching document, it is recommended that Equality Impact Assessment (EIAs) are carried out as appropriate on identified areas within the action plan, for example changes in service or policy, to ensure any impacts are identified and addressed.

Further support and advice can be sought from the Corporate Equalities Team.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 454 4175