



## Children and Young People Select Committee

### Reasons for lateness and urgency

This report has not been available for five clear days before the meeting. Publication was delayed due to the prioritisation of the ongoing COVID response and the ever changing guidance in particular in relation to education settings and lockdown.

The report has been requested by the committee and therefore we ask that it is presented at the meeting scheduled.

### Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) – Update on Transitions

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1.

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Angela Scattergood, Director of Education

### Outline and recommendations

*This report provides the Children and Young People (CYP) Select Committee with an update on services for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). CYP Select is recommended to:*

- *Note the updates on SEND transitions*
- *Review and comment on the proposed direction of travel*

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates members on SEND provision three years on from the local area inspection which was undertaken by Ofsted in October 2017. It focusses in particular on work associated with how young people are supported into adulthood.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee are asked to note the recently developed SEND Strategy 2020-2023, which is included as an appendix.

## 3. The Local Area SEND Partnership Strategy 2020-2023

- 3.1. The Local Area SEND Partnership Strategy (0–25 years), 2020–2023, builds on the work that we have already achieved in the SEND Partnership Strategy 2016-2019 and takes into account the ‘next steps’ from the Local Area Inspection in October 2017. The strategy sets out our shared partnership vision, priorities and commitments for the next three years and will play a vital part in developing services to improve life outcomes for children and young people, and their journey into independence and adulthood (0–25 years).
- 3.2. The implementation of the strategy is monitored quarterly and overseen by the SEND Partnership Programme Board which is chaired by an Executive Head Teacher and has representatives from senior leaders across health, social care, education and the voluntary sector including parent(s)/carer(s) groups.
- 3.3. Our partnership SEND strategy is the product of extensive consultation and collaboration with the local area partnership which includes children and young people with SEND and their parent(s)/carer(s), as well as partners working with our families. These contributions have been important in developing the strategy, in particular drawing from the personal experiences of parent(s)/carer(s) and making the most effective use of our shared knowledge, experience and expertise.
- 3.4. In October 2020, there were 2,873 Lewisham residents (or young people who are looked after to Lewisham but residing elsewhere) with an EHC Plan, representing a 27% increase compared October 2018 (2,261). Of these, 15.5% (447) were accessing further education or specialist post 16 provisions (up from 13% or 291 in 2018).
- 3.5. Outlined below are some of the Local Area’s key achievements over the last year which relate in particular to transitions:
- Targeted support has been allocated to all settings (0-25), which has included reviewing the quality of provisions, the implementation of action plans and providing a range of training sessions on SEND.
  - All partners understand Lewisham’s expectations for SEND provision and are confident in challenging non-inclusive practice.
  - A transition team has been established in response to the need for smoother transitions for young people with SEND.
  - There has been an increase in the number of children and young people completing the independent travel training programme.
  - The SEND team is focussing on preparation for adulthood from Year 9 with specific objectives relevant to the young person’s needs.

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#### **4. Short Breaks Services continuing post 18**

- 4.1 The previous Local Area Inspection noted that the short breaks service offers a wide range of services for children and young people up to the age of 18, however, these taper off as they become older. This is especially the case for activities that encourage young people aged 18 to 25 to take part in social events. Parent(s)/carer(s), too, feel that there are fewer activities to access once young people reach adulthood.
- 4.2 The Short Breaks Service are currently reviewing the provisions for 16-25 years old to better understand who is accessing these and how often etc. and have consulted with young people and their parent(s)/carer(s) to understand what they need.
- 4.3 The response from young people is that they want to do what their peers are doing – shopping, gym, bowling, cinema, on-line gaming and socialising on and off-line. Where they attend clubs, they would like to continue to do so, post 18.
- 4.4 In response to this the service is developing a menu of opportunities which would increase the opportunities for 16-25 year olds, subject of course to funding. In parallel with this we are seeking to transform the day opportunities for young adults in order to support pathways towards employment and/or bridge building into the community.
- 4.5 Following the recent review of youth services there is also an opportunity to explore how young people with SEND may be able to better access more mainstream youth activities.

#### **5 Preparing for Adulthood**

- 5.1 The 2017 Local Area Inspection recognised the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is higher for those who have SEN and/or disabilities than for others.
- 5.2 The current picture for the Lewisham is that in the previous academic year:
- Total cohort of 16-18 year olds: 6192
  - Total no of NEET 16-18 year olds: 336
  - Total no of NEET SEND 16-18 year olds: 68 (year change:  $\wedge$ +0.5% (+33). 1.1% of total cohort).
- 5.3 In response to the Local Area Inspection, the following work has taken place:
- Development of two new work based training programmes for Lewisham residents with SEND (1x Supported Internship and 1x Supported Employment Programme).
  - A monthly education, training and employment bulletin emailed to all appropriate community stakeholders and included on the Local Offer.
  - Development of two to three new pilot work experience days to be delivered by HSBC in partnership with Christ The King Sixth Forms (CTKSF), Lewisham Schools with Resources Bases and Lewisham Parent Carer Forum (PCF)/Signal.
  - Started an Invitation to Tender (ITT) bid for a new Supported Employment project funded through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Adult Social Care (ASC) have agreed to match funding. Currently on hold as advised by the DWP due to COVID19.

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- Development of a new supported apprenticeship (as advised by the host business Phoenix Community Housing (PCH)). Recruitment currently on hold due to COVID-19 building closure.
- Development of a potential new Supported Internship at Lewisham Homes identified. Currently on hold due to COVID-19 with a view to launching in Sept 2021 or 2022.

5.4 The next steps in the strategy are as follows:

- Implement relevant key priorities as identified in the new Transition and Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Strategy including:
- Improve transition planning including training for schools and Social Worker on person centred planning (PCP) and vocational profiling (VP).
- Develop employment outcome focus with Voluntary Action Lewisham (VAL), special schools, local colleges and day service providers and ensure the referral process into volunteering opportunities is robust and the employment outcomes clear.
- Explore the development of a new Supported Employment or Job Coaching Service.
- Explore the development of Lewisham LA and NHS Trust setting up new Supported Internships and Supported Apprenticeships.
- Develop a mechanism for collecting data on training and employment pathway and outcomes.

## 6 **Travel Assistance and Independent Travel Training**

6.1 The current data for transport in Lewisham is that as of November 2020 travel assistance was provided to 864 young people (80 more than October 2019). This was across 146 different schools and colleges. Currently there are 25 young people on the waiting list to be trained, a further 22 have been assessed and marked for a review at a later date and 71 young people are waiting to be assessed for consideration of whether they should receive the training.

## 7 **Financial Implications**

7.1 Due to the increase in children and young people (CYP) that are in receipt of an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan this has put financial strain on to the high needs funding block. To mitigate some of the over spend a mitigation plan has been devised as part of a High Needs Block Officer Group, which has been shared with School's Forum. This is a two year plan which aims to cut costs across a number of areas but with a specific focus on placing students within Lewisham where possible by expanding the availability of specialist provision within the borough.

## 8. **Legal Implications**

8.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## 9. **Crime and Disorder Implications**

9.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## 10. **Equalities Implications**

10.1 Provision and support for children with disabilities and special educational needs and their families is a fundamental equalities issue. The SEND Strategy has been subject to an equalities impact assessment and that assessment will be updated this year.

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**11. Environmental Implications**

11.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

**12. Appendices:**

a. Lewisham's Local Area Partnership SEND Strategy summary 2020-2023

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