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**REPORT FOR: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	25 July 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	SEND Strategy, Commissioning Plan and Local Area Inspection Self Evaluation
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director People Services  Javina Sehgal, Managing Director Harrow CCG
<b>Public:</b>	Yes
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All Wards affected.
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Annexe A: SEND Strategy Annexe B: 0-25 Commissioning Plan Annexe C: Local Area Inspection Self Evaluation

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report presents a suite of strategic documents related to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The SEND Strategy, the 0-25 Commissioning Plan and the Local Area Self Evaluation together detail the context for SEND in Harrow, the areas of strength and those to prioritise for improvement and the strategic and commissioning priorities.

**Recommendations:**

The Board is requested to note the report and related documents.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Background**

1. Harrow Council and its partners, including parents, schools, colleges, health and the voluntary sector, 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 special educational needs 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 as part of a life course for those with the most complex needs.
2. There is a good foundation in Harrow that partners, including the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Harrow Parents Forum (HPF) and schools have established and are committed to continue to build on. This is important because there are different roles and responsibilities and statutory duties across the partnership, which at times present challenges and their resolution is essential to meet increasing and more complex needs of children and young people.
3. In addition, this is a period of considerable change across the public sector, nationally and locally. The education landscape is already changing with more diverse providers, increasing and changing needs of children and young people and the new national funding formula implemented from 2018 has significant financial implications.
4. The implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan (January 2019) with a central focus on service integration delivered locally through collaborative arrangements between different providers. Within the North West London STP this will create a single CCG across 9 now separate CCGs and develop a North West London Integrated Care System (ICS) area. Primary Care Networks will reconfigure GP practices.
5. The Local Authority continues to embed the SEND Reforms and, with partners is preparing for the Local Area Inspection. There are continued pressures on SEND funding and therefore ensuring that the available funding is maximised to secure value for money and good outcomes is essential. Cabinet agreed the SEND Strategy in February 2019 which sets out the vision and four strategic priorities for SEND and is now being implemented.
6. This report presents the Health and Wellbeing Board with three complementary and interrelated documents that together provide the context SEND in Harrow: The SEND Strategy and four Strategic Priorities; the 0-25 Commissioning Plan highlighting the joint working with CCG, LA and partners to commission innovative, effective and quality services for SEND and the Local Area Inspection Self Evaluation (SEF) providing a robust self assessment of strengths areas for improvement.

### **Options considered**

7. The following options were considered:

Option: 1 Do nothing.

This is not recommended, because it would fail to maximise the positive impact on provision and services for children and young people with SEND and the use of available resources.

Option 2: Continue the development and implementation of the SEND Strategy, 0-25 Commissioning Plan and Local Area Inspection SEF.

8. Option 2 is recommended because it enables the Local Authority and CCG to fulfil their roles to champion vulnerable children and young people, parents and families including those with SEND and meet their educational and health needs most efficiently within available resources.

### **SEND Strategy**

9. The Harrow Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy describes the partners' 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 five years and setting out how they will be implemented. A copy of the SEND Strategy is at Annexe A.

### **Guiding Principles**

10. To realise this vision, the implementation of the SEND Strategy will be guided by the following principles:
- Maximising the potential of a continuum of local provision in Harrow for children, young people and young adults from 0 to 25 years of age.
  - Developing partnerships with neighbouring Local Authorities, health other agencies and parents/carers to ensure effective collaboration to meet the needs of children, young people and young adults.
  - Developing an integrated approach in the development and delivery of personalised provision, that includes joint decision-making processes between education, social care and health.
  - Prioritising early assessment of need and ensuring timely intervention and support.
  - Every provider, school, college or other setting, in Harrow to have good or outstanding provision for children, young people and young adults with additional needs and have access to high quality professional development and support.

- Using all data available effectively to identify issues to inform the strategy and monitor its effectiveness over time.
- Including parents/carers and young people's voice in the development of the strategy.
- Ensuring that current and future SEND Reforms are an integral element of the SEND Strategy and progress towards implementation is monitored by appropriate bodies.

### **Strategic Priorities**

11. The Strategy has four Strategic Priorities and within these priorities there is flexibility to review, up-date and re-focus accordingly. The four strategic priorities are:
  - Strategic Priority 1: Review in-borough specialist provision in the context of a changing demographic profile, pre-school, school and college organisational changes and other developments
  - Strategic Priority 2: Review current provision and need for children, young people and young adults with social, emotional and mental health needs to ensure continuum of provision and support. (previously SEBD)
  - Strategic Priority 3: Improve local education and social care opportunities for post-16 provision working in partnership with other agencies
  - Strategic Priority 4: Improve outcomes for children and young people (0-25) with SEND and ensure appropriate skilled and qualified staff in all provision.
12. The Harrow SEND Conversation has been launched to develop and implement the Strategic Priorities. Harrow Council is facilitating engagement with its partners in a conversation which is aimed at rethinking refocusing and improving its SEND arrangements. This approach presents an opportunity to:
  - build on good practice and address the issues that need improving for Harrow's most vulnerable learners
  - involve all partners across education, health and care have collective a responsibility for improving Harrow's inclusive arrangements for its most vulnerable young people
  - work with young people with SEND and their families and all partners to construct a programme of activity to bring about the necessary change.
13. A series of workshops for each Strategic Priority are planned following on from the first Conversation event on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

14. A SEND Strategy Stakeholder Reference Group is being established with representatives from schools, colleges, cross party members, CCG and Harrow Parents Forum to ensure that there is appropriate stakeholder engagement incorporated into the governance arrangements, to provide advice and guidance on the implementation of the SEND Strategy and to disseminate information to their constituent groups on a range of issues including:
  - Four Strategic Priority Progress and Up-dates
  - Embedding SEND Reforms
  - Financial and Resource Matters
15. The first meeting is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### **0-25 Commissioning Plan**

16. In line with the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND reforms, the local authority's role is increasing as a commissioner of services rather than a provider. Harrow commissions a range of services for vulnerable children, young people and families, including those with SEND, either as a lead commissioner, or in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). In addition, the CCG commissions health services for children and young people and adults with SEND and learning disabilities.
17. The 0-25 Commissioning Plan presents the approach to commissioning services for vulnerable children and young people including those with special educational needs and disabilities. There is a review of recent commissioning activity and the priorities over the period of the SEND Strategy are highlighted. A high level commissioning plan is also included. The 0-25 Commissioning Plan is at Annexe B
18. Commissioning for 0-25 is reported to the Children and Young Peoples Executive. This is a partnership group chaired by the Local Authority with senior representatives from CCG, Schools and People Services. The purpose of the group is to:
  - To jointly commission services for vulnerable children and young people.
  - To underpin the vision of the Health and Wellbeing board to help 'all' in Harrow to start well and live well.
  - To explore opportunities for Commissioning Services supporting transition to adulthood.
19. The Group works together to deliver better outcomes and a more cost-effective service for each partner, than by working apart. The agendas cover integrated, joint and aligned commissioning as well as updates about commissioning by individual partners e.g. commissioning intentions. The work of the Commissioning Executive contributes to the SEND Strategy and improving outcomes for Children and Young People with SEND.

## Local Area Inspection Self Evaluation (SEF)

20. Duties for local areas regarding provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities are contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 (the Act). The local area includes the local authority, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England for specialist services, early year's settings, schools and further education providers. Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are tasked to inspect local areas on their effectiveness in fulfilling these duties.
21. In preparation for the Local Area Inspection, as a partnership, the Local Authority (LA), the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Harrow Parent Forum (HPF) have committed to a common self evaluation that identifies strengths and pathways for improvement. The self-evaluation has been informed and tested by the schools sector and voluntary sector representatives.
22. The Local Authority (LA), CCG and the Harrow Parents Forum (HPF) have formed the Local Area Working Group to continuously improve the quality of our work and our outcomes. The group also has representatives from mainstream schools, special schools and voluntary groups.
23. The Local Area of Harrow is ambitious to do better for our children and young people with a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) and to ensure that those who may have such a need are identified and sign-posted to the appropriate support and guidance. As a Local Area partners are able to demonstrate many successes, including the outcomes that children and young people with a SEND achieve. There is a mature culture of learning and challenge. The culture of improvement has been commented upon by OFSTED and by an independent (PeopleToo) analysis of the High Needs Block.
24. The Local Area, at this point in time, has come to a shared view of where partners are in their effectiveness in identifying the needs of children and young people, in meeting those needs and in securing good outcomes for them. Overall, there is much strength and the self evaluation is a statement of where the partners are now and their ambition for the future.
25. The self-evaluation serves as a joint exercise between partners across the Local Area to review the effectiveness of provision in relation to identifying, meeting needs and improving outcomes of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. All partners give priority to the views of children, young people and their parents/carers to enable a culture of support, ownership, continuous growth and development.
26. The self-evaluation is a dynamic tool for partners to reflect constantly on practice, to test assertions and to identify next steps. The Self-Evaluation will be reviewed every six months. Areas for development include those aspects already in place but for which have identified

further refinements to make them more efficient or effective. The LA's major priorities are captured in its SEND Strategy 2019-2024, other areas feature in the 0-19 Commissioning Plan. A copy of the SEF is at Annexe C.

## **Financial Implications**

27. There are significant pressures on the High Needs Block (HNB) of the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) due in part to a new national funding formula for High Needs being introduced in 2018-19 and continued growth in demand for and complexity of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and children requiring specialist SEN provision. Part of this is as a result of the SEND Reforms 2014 which increased the age range of pupils eligible for EHCPs from 0-25 years old compared with 5-19 years old prior to this. No additional funding has been received in the HNB to recognise the extended age range.
28. A key priority of the SEND Strategy is to enable more children to be educated in the borough which is more cost effective than children being educated at out of borough SEN provision in either maintained/academy provision or particularly in the independent and non-maintained sector. In addition this also causes pressure on the SEN home to school transport budget which is funded through the Council's general fund.
29. There is currently £6.795m for SEN Provision in the capital programme for 2019-20 onwards.

## **Legal Implications**

30. The Children and Families Act 2014 made significant changes to the way that educational provision was assessed and provided for to children and young people with SEND. Section 27 of the Act requires a local authority to keep under review its educational, training and social care provision for children and young people who have SEND and to consider the extent to which the provision is sufficient to meet need. In exercising its functions a local authority must consult prescribed persons, including children and young people with SEND and parents. The SEND Strategy sets out the existing consultative forums and consultation and engagement will be undertaken on specific activities as aspects of the Strategy are implemented.

## **Risk Management Implications**

31. There are no immediate risk implications for this report. Risk registers will be developed and maintained for individual elements of the SEND Strategy and 0-25 Commissioning Plan as appropriate.

## **Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

32. Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

33. The overarching aim for the SEND Strategy, Local Area Self Evaluation and 0-25 Commissioning Plan is to improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. When new services are co-designed and commissioned and proposals for new and changes to provision, EqlAs will be undertaken.

### Council Priorities

34. The SEND Strategy, SEF and 0-25 Commissioning Plan with the intention to improve the outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disability contribute to the Council priorities;

#### Building a Better Harrow:

- Ensure every Harrow child has a school place
- More people are actively engaged in sporting, artistic and cultural activities in ways that improve physical and mental health and community cohesion

#### Supporting Those Most in Need

- Empower residents to maintain their well-being and independence
- Children and young people are given the opportunities to have the best start in life and families can thrive
- Reduce the gap in life expectancy in the borough

#### Protecting Vital Public Services

- Healthcare services meet the needs of Harrow residents
- Everyone has access to high quality education
- A strong and resourceful community sector, able to come together to deal with local issues

#### Modernising Harrow Council

- Deliver excellent value for money services

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance (Council and Joint Reports)

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2019		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2019		



Name: Paul Hewitt

Corporate Director

Date: 24<sup>th</sup>. June 2019

**Ward Councillors notified:**  
**MANDATORY**

**NO**

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Johanna Morgan, Divisional Director People Services,  
020 8736 6841

**Background Papers:** None