

Meeting:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	27 th June 2006
Subject:	Special Educational Needs – summary report
Responsible Officer:	Paul Clark, Director of Children’s Services
Contact Officer:	Roger Rickman
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr. Janet Mote – People First
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part 1

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

For information, to note and comment.

Reason for report

Update on SEN provision

Benefits

Policy and practice informed by scrutiny process

Cost of Proposals

n/a

Risks

n/a

Implications if recommendations rejected

Poor performance and negative inspection results
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Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

The Sub-Committee took an active interest in this area throughout the 2002-06 administration, reflecting its importance to schools and the community. Three reviews were carried that helped to highlight issues and improve practice and contribute to policy development. In addition the sub-committee has received an annual report on special educational needs.

The reviews carried out were as follows:

The distribution of SEN statements in mainstream schools

A group made up of members of the Sub-Committee considered this subject as part of the initial programme of reviews in 2002-03, reporting in April 2003. The sub-committee continued to monitor developments in this area, receiving reports in January 2005 and April 2006. The latest report provided a comparison of the position with regard to SEN statements in Harrow's mainstream schools between 2002 and 2006. It was reported that although the distribution of SEN statements across mainstream schools was uneven, the spread was not unreasonable and variations were mainly due to additional resourcing for meeting special needs in particular schools. It was resolved that the Sub-Committee be regularly provided with figures on pupils with SEN statements

Statementing process for children with statements of special educational needs

This was an in-depth review of the special educational needs statementing process that was completed in July 2004. The review made a number of recommendations and a report detailing progress and actions in relation to the recommendations of the review was made in January 2005. The Sub-Committee received a further report at its meeting in April 2006 which updated members on the progress made against agreed actions outlined in the 2005 progress report. It was reported that all recommendations had been addressed and incorporated into the annual plan for the SEN service. In addition, it was noted that the feedback from schools and parents had been favourable.

Phase 3 delegated funding for pupils with special educational needs in mainstream schools

This review was completed in January 2005. The review took place whilst the approach to special educational needs funding was being developed with headteachers in particular and helped to inform the implementation of changes that were made. The Sub-Committee was provided with an initial report in April 2005, covering the actions in connection with the review's recommendations, and another progress report in October 2005. The Sub-Committee received a further report in April 2006 and noted the good progress that has been made in implementing its recommendations.

2.2 Options considered

n/a

2.3 Consultation

n/a

2.4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the above report. SEN expenditure described in this report is funded from within the Dedicated Schools Grant.

2.5 Legal Implications

n/a

2.6 Equalities Impact

Considered in original work

2.7 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

n/a

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Background Documents: None