

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	SEND AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES – STRATEGY AND OFSTED INSPECTION UPDATES
DATE OF DECISION:	30 MARCH 2023
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF SEND

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report outlines the key themes in the SEND Strategy 2022 – 2027, provides an update on the new SEND Inspection Framework and an update on the progress of the pre-Ofsted self evaluation.
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	That the Panel note in detail the content of the SEND Strategy 2022 – 2027.
	(ii)	That the Panel note the new SEND Inspection Framework.
	(iii)	That the Panel note the progress of the pre-Ofsted self evaluation process and contribute to this if they wish to do so.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	The SEND Strategy 2022 – 2027 gives the Panel important detail on the direction of travel of the Council’s services for children and young people with SEND.
2.	It is important that the Panel are aware of the new arrangements for inspecting services for children and young people with SEND and are aware of the progress of the self evaluation and of their right to contribute to the self evaluation should they wish to do so.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
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3.	Not applicable.
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DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)
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SEND Strategy 2022 – 2027

4.	The SEND Strategy, attached as Appendix 1, forms part of a suite of strategies and describes the Council's plans for delivering sustained improvement in the provision available to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
5.	The strategy has been co-produced with children and young people, parents and carers and the services and agencies who contribute to meeting their needs.
6.	The strategy takes into account the current context and challenges and has been led by the multi-agency SEND Partnership Board which provides oversight and leadership on all SEND developments.
7.	The strategy sits alongside the Children and Young People's Strategy, Southampton Health and Care Strategy, the Start Well programme, the All Age Neurodiversity Strategy, the Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Plan and the Children's Destination 22 Programme.
8.	<p>The local context informing the strategy is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing numbers of children and young people with EHCPs and SEN support needs • An increase in complexity of need • Pressure on special school places • Inconsistent SEN offer in mainstream educational provisions • Increase in demand (and limited offer) for post 16 options • Demand for autism assessments versus capacity • Improvements needed in joint working across agencies and providers • Improvements needed in how we monitor the effectiveness of provision on children and young people's outcomes.
9.	The SEND Strategy vision reflects that of the Children and Young People's Strategy - 'for all children and young people in Southampton to get a good start in life, live safely, be healthy and happy and go on to have successful opportunities in adulthood'.
10.	The vision is built on Southampton's desire for children and young people with SEND to be ambitious and have high aspirations, to be supported in their own communities where possible and to receive a high standard of early intervention and preventative services from highly trained expert practitioners.
11.	<p>The strategic underpinning principles of the SEND Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family centred, flexible and needs led • Clear, accessible and transparent offer • Promoting early intervention and prevention • Right support, right time • Team around the family/worker • Coordinated and joined up • Inclusive • Recognising parents/carers/families as experts • Co-production and engagement • Preparing children and young people for adulthood
12.	<p>The strategy sets out in detail six key workstreams that will deliver to the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right support at the right time • Inclusion • A local offer that meets the wide range of needs within the city • Mental and physical wellbeing • Preparing for adulthood
	New SEND Inspection Framework
13.	Ofsted/CQC have announced a new cyclical inspection framework from January 2023. Inspections will evaluate how well members of a local area partnership work together to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.
14.	'Local area partnership' refers to those in education, health and care who are responsible for the strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements for children and young people with SEND who live in a local area. When evaluating the local area partnership, inspectors focus mainly on how effectively the local authority and integrated care board (ICB) jointly plan, evaluate and develop services for children and young people with SEND. However, they also consider the duties of other area partners, which are set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and described further in the SEND code of practice.
15.	Inspections will evaluate arrangements for all children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 including those with EHCPs and those receiving SEN support. The inspection will also consider the Local Authority's approach to commissioning and overseeing Alternative Provision arrangements.
16.	<p>There will be four types of inspection visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic • Full • Monitoring • Annual Conversations <p>The frequency of the inspection depends on the outcome of the first inspection.</p>
17.	<p>There are three possible outcomes from a full inspection, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local area partnership's SEND arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed. (Leads to an engagement meeting and a full inspection within five years) • The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements. (Leads to an engagement meeting and a full inspection within three years) • There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND which the local area partnership must address urgently. (Leads to engagement meetings, submission of a priority action plan, monitoring meeting within 18 months and a full re-inspection within three years).

18.	The timeframes are likely to be a Monday morning telephone call which starts two weeks' submission of data and information and then one week of inspection with a likely team of 6-8 Inspectors. During the inspection the Inspectors will liaise with a nominated LANO (Local Area Nominated Officer). Our LANO is Tammy Marks, Head of SEND.
19.	As part of their process Inspectors will conduct an in-depth analysis of six named children and young people that they will select from the pre-submitted child level data. This will include meeting with the named agencies providing services to that child/young person.
20.	At the end of the Inspection feedback will be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LANO • The Director of Children's Services and elected members with responsibility for SEND • Integrated Care Board • Parent Carer Forum
Southampton pre-Ofsted self evaluation progress	
21.	As a part of the preparedness for the SEND Inspection, the SEND Team have been conducting a self evaluation against the headings in the Ofsted/CQC Inspection Framework Handbook.
22.	The self evaluation includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suite of identified documents that contribute to outcomes for children and young people with SEND • a review of currently available child level and demographic data and the gaps therein • areas of strength and areas in need of development • position statements for areas of development • consultation with key stakeholders including parents and carers • a reflection of the views of children and young people via the findings of the Child Friendly Southampton discovery phase consultation • an analysis of the strategic and governance arrangements around SEND and the wider Council priorities.
23.	In addition, the self evaluation process has identified those documents and data sets that will be required in the first two weeks of the inspection process. Elected Members are welcome to contribute to the self evaluation, all comments can be sent to Juno.Hollyhock@southampton.gov.uk
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
24.	N/A
<u>Property/Other</u>	
25.	N/A
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	

26.	SEND Code of Practice
27.	Children and Families Act 2014
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
28.	N/A
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
29.	Oversight of the strategy outcomes and progress, the inspection findings and the self evaluation is through the SEND Partnership Board.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
30.	The 2022-2030 Corporate Plan includes, as one of its four goals, strong foundations for life where people are able to access and maximise opportunities to truly thrive, Southampton will focus on ensuring residents of all ages and backgrounds have strong foundations for life. By delivering consistently good outcomes for the city's children and young people, Southampton's Children's Services and Learning Department will contribute to achieving this objective

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	SEND Strategy 2022 – 2027
2.	Ofsted Inspection Briefing

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
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Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None