

## Central Bedfordshire Council

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 6 September 2016

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## Shared Vision (Education, Health and Social Care) for Children and Young People (0-25) from Central Bedfordshire with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Report of Lead Member for Children's Services,  
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### Purpose of this report

1. This report provides a summary of the new duties under the SEND Reforms, and the work undertaken to co-produce the draft SEND Vision and Strategy which are appended to the report. The Appendices to this report provide Overview and Scrutiny with the draft SEND Vision and Strategy for their consideration.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Provide feedback on the draft Vision and Strategy prior to it being finalised for consideration by the Councils' Executive.

### Background

2. The SEND Vision has developed from the work undertaken by the Support and Aspiration Board which was set up to oversee the implementation of the SEND Reforms over 2 years ago.
3. The work of the Support and Aspiration Board has been reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for both Children's Services and Adult Services during that period.
4. Key to the implementation of the SEND Reforms has been the work with the Special Needs Action Panel (SNAP) which is Central

Bedfordshire's Parent Carer Forum, mainstream and special school providers, and services from across education, health and social care, both in Children's and Adults' Services.

5. The involvement of parents/carers from the start in developing and then implementing plans and strategies that may impact on children and young people with additional needs is essential to its success. The impact of working with SNAP has been very positive at every level, and has fed through into a number of different elements of work.
6. SNAP are now involved as co-professionals in many strands of work which impact on children and young people, both with the Council and with its partners.

### **Co-production of the SEND Vision and Strategy**

7. An external consultant was commissioned for 10 days to support partner engagement in developing the SEND Vision and implementation Plan.
8. From February 2016 until July 2016 the consultant met and/or had telephone meetings with the following partners and Council staff:
  - SNAP representatives
  - children and young people in the 4 special schools as well as their parents/carers where possible.
  - Special School leaders (at a number of different points in the work)
  - Jigsaw Centre
  - A number of head teachers and lead teachers from mainstream schools with specialist provisions.
  - Representative from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
  - Assistant Director Operations
  - Head of SEND
  - Head of Virtual School for Looked After Children
  - Head of Children with Disabilities Team
  - School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning staff
  - Children's Services Commissioning staff
  - A Central Bedfordshire Councillor.
9. The consultant regularly updated the Assistant Director Education and School Improvement.
10. The Support and Aspiration Board monitored progress of the Development of the Vision and input regularly into its further development.
11. A workshop was held in the summer term with members of the Support and Aspiration Board to progress the work and refine the document to a sharper vision.

12. The Board agreed the definition of co-production that could be used in the Vision and as a definition for all future work.
13. At each stage the amended drafts were circulated for further comment and feedback from the workstreams, all of which include parent representatives from SNAP.
14. SNAP's Participation Manager circulated versions for input from other members of SNAP.
15. SNAP's Participation Manager and the AD Education and School Improvement met with senior leaders from the CCG to ensure that the joint accountabilities were understood and that the Draft Vision would be signed off by the appropriate Boards.

### **Integration with other key projects**

16. The delivery of the SEND Vision forms an integral part of the Children's Services Transformation Programme, the refresh of the Partnership Vision for Education and the developing Locality/Quadrant Plans.
17. This integration is key to maximising opportunities for collective planning across Council and Health services both locally and regionally.

### **Duties**

18. The Children and Families Act (2014) placed a **duty** on Local Authorities to **ensure integration between educational provision and training provision, health and social care provision.**
19. Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) **must** make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEND, both with and without Education, Health and Care Plans.
20. The Care Act (2014) **requires** Local Authorities to ensure co-operation between children's and adults' services to plan for meeting the future needs of young people as they move into adulthood and become more independent, along with achieving continuity of support between services to enable young people to access timely and appropriate support.
21. The Equalities Act (2010) defines our equality duties and includes SEN and Disability
22. In carrying out our functions in the Children and Families Act, all agencies **must** have regard to:

- the views, wishes and feelings of children, their parents and young people
- the importance of the child or young person and the child's parents, participating as fully as possible in decisions, and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions;
- the need to support the child or young person, and the child's parents, in order to facilitate the development of the child and young person and to help them achieve the best possible educational, health and broader outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.

### **Children and Families Act (2014)**

23. Our shared Vision will deliver the principles of the Children and Families Act (2014) through:

- the **participation** of children, their parents and young people in decision making
- the **early identification** of children and young people's needs and joined up early intervention across education, health (universal and specialist) early help and social care services as appropriate to need to support them
- **greater choice and control for young people and parents** over support
- **collaboration** between education, health and social care services to provide support, including development of jointly commissioned services.
- **high quality provision** to meet the needs of children and young people with SEN
- a focus on **inclusive practice** and removing barriers to learning
- successful **preparation for adulthood, including independent living and employment**

(SEND Code of Practice, 2015, sections 1.1 and 1.2)

### **Transforming Care Programme (TCP)**

24. The Transforming Care Programme (TCP) will support delivery of our vision and will have a significant impact on the planning and delivery of support services to children and young people with learning disabilities and /or autism, including those with mental health conditions.
25. The Transforming Care Programme (TCP) will develop and strengthen local service provision for children, young people and adults in:

- Health care
- Preventative services
- Advocacy
- Carer Support Universal Welfare
- Education and Training

### **Council Priorities**

26. The delivery of the SEND Vision and Strategy will support the following Council priorities:
- Great resident services
  - Improving education and skills
  - Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing

### **Corporate Implications**

#### **Legal Implications**

27. The Council's duties are outlined in the SEND Vision document attached. There are legal implications of those duties not being met, including escalation to the SEND Tribunal and possible High Court action.

#### **Financial and Risk Implications**

28. There will be financial implications of delivering the accommodation element once this has been defined in more detail. The development of the accommodation plan alongside strategic locality plans both within the Council, and with colleagues representing Health Services is key to delivering an efficient and effective accommodation plan.

#### **Equalities Implications**

29. Public Authorities must ensure that decisions are made in a way which minimises unfairness and without a disproportionately negative effect on people from different ethnic groups, disabled people, women and men. It is important that Councillors are aware of this duty before they take a decision.
30. All elements of the work involved in the delivery of this vision and strategy will support improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.

31. The work streams identified in the Vision and Strategy all have the potential to impact positively in terms of advancing equality of opportunity for vulnerable groups.
32. Outcome data is analysed to ensure that children from vulnerable groups, including those with special educational needs and disability (SEND), to ensure that actions lead to improvement in all outcomes. We are taking a new approach to the Joint Strategic needs Assessment that supports this work and help us in planning for the future.
33. Involving children, young people and their families in the development of services and support is key to meeting our equality duties.

### **Implications for Work Programming**

34. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider further reports outlining progress on delivery of the programme.

### **Conclusion and next Steps**

35. The draft Vision and Implementation Plan are a good example of co-production in action. This work has demonstrated the importance of true stakeholder engagement from the start, and the time required to get this right. It is anticipated that the benefits will also be seen in shared ownership and accountability for its delivery.
36. The Workstreams of the Support and Aspiration will refocus their work programme and develop more detailed delivery plans on the agreed strands of the Vision.
37. A 1 page Executive Summary of the Plan will be developed to support ownership of delivery.
38. The AD Education and School Improvement and the Participation Manager from SNAP have planned half termly meetings with senior colleagues from the CCG to ensure join up of delivery.
39. An accommodation plan taking into account feasibility studies will be developed setting out the costed options for delivering sufficient places in special schools and specialist provision to meet future demand as identified in the School Organisation Plan.
40. The implementation plans will have clear timelines for delivery.

### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Draft SEND Vision**

**Appendix 2: Draft SEND Strategy**