

REVIEW BY THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE: *SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) IN THEIR EARLY YEARS*

Cabinet Member	Councillor David Simmonds CBE
Cabinet Portfolio	Deputy Leader of the Council Education and Children's Services
Officer Contact(s)	Anisha Teji, Chief Executive's Office
Papers with report	Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee's review of 'Supporting Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities In Their Early Years'

HEADLINES

Summary	To receive the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee's review into Supporting Children with Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND) In Their Early Years. To give consideration to the recommendations of the review.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objective of: <i>Our People</i> .
Financial Cost	The recommendations proposed as a result of this review do not in themselves have a financial impact.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- A. Welcomes the Committee's findings from their review into Supporting Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) In Their Early Years.**

B. Supports the following recommendations from the Committee for implementation by officers, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services:

- 1) That Cabinet welcome good collaboration between the Council and partners to work together in support of children with SEND.**
- 2) Identification, Intervention and Transition:**
 - a. That Cabinet notes the findings of the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee that shows the importance of transition from the early years provision to the next stage.**
 - b. That officers continue to review the effectiveness of the tools used to support early identification.**
 - c. That officers monitor the effectiveness and timeliness of interventions; enabling families to have timely access to high quality interventions whilst ensuring best value for money.**
- 3) That officers further develop and promote communication channels such as the local offer; with a view to ensure that parents are well informed and aware of the opportunities available to them.**
- 4) That the outcomes and work of children's services in relation to SEND are monitored by officers, the Cabinet Member and Policy Overview Committee.**

Reasons for recommendation

To consider the report of the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee into Supporting Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities in their Early Years.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject some or all of the Committee's recommendations, or pursue alternative routes in which to progress the objectives of the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support that enables them to fulfil their potential. In light of significant national changes to legislation in recent years, Members of the Children's Young People & Learning Policy Overview Committee decided to review what support and processes the London Borough of Hillingdon had in place to support children in their very early years with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Terms of Reference of the review were as follows:

- I. To understand how children 0 - 5 with SEND have their needs identified early with particular regard to vulnerable children;
- II. Understand how early years providers and support services work together to improve outcomes for children with SEND;
- III. Use qualitative and quantitative data to better understand the impact of support and interventions for children with SEND;
- IV. Understand the role specialist services play in meeting the needs of children with SEND in early years settings;
- V. Understand how parents with children with SEND are supported;
- VI. Understand how SEND support in the early years is funded; and
- VII. To understand how continuity and learning for children 0-5 with SEND are supported during periods of transition.

Members considered the importance of how SEND was **identified** in early years, the methods of **intervention** available and how statutory bodies and the Council support the **transitions**, e.g. to nursery or school, in different settings.

The Committee undertook a range of witness sessions with a variety of internal and external representatives, including the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services. As part of the evidence gathering, Members also met with parents of children with SEND and they were given an opportunity to provide their perspective of the support available to them. Members appreciated how insightful these witness sessions were to assist them in their review.

The Committee has made four recommendations which it is hoped will recognise the positive work already being undertaken by the Council and partners and also identify areas that can be strengthened further to ensure that children with SEND continue to be supported in.

Officer comments on Recommendations

Whilst the attached report from the Committee sets out the review in more detail, officers advise Cabinet that the Committee has made some positive recommendations to take forward.

If Cabinet agrees the recommendations, these will be incorporated within the revised SEND strategy 2017 - 2020 and its annually updated action plan. These areas will continue to be a priority and work stream within the strategy. It is proposed that an update is provided to the Cabinet Member along with the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview committee in 2018/19 detailing the effectiveness of the strategy's implementation.

Financial Implications

The recommendations proposed as a result of this review do not in themselves have a financial impact.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The recommendations will support the Council's efforts to make sure every child with SEND in Hillingdon had access to the best start in life, are supported to integrate well within society, interact with other children and develop the skills required for their age.

Consultation carried out or required

The Committee sought a wide range of external witness testimony as set out in its report.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and concur with the financial implications set out above.

Legal

There are no legal issues arising out of the recommendations in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.