

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 28 September 2020

**Report Title:** Progress update on SEND 16–25 Spotlight Review

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Kathryn Flavell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the recommendations in the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) 16-25 Spotlight Review report dated September 2019 as agreed by Cabinet.
- 1.2. Good progress has been made on the recommendations with most now embedded into practice.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
  - Note the progress against the recommendations from the SEND 16-25 Spotlight Review.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1. This is an annual progress report in response to the recommendations as requested by the Committee. Members have a key role in ensuring we achieve good outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1. Not applicable.

## **5. Background**

- 5.1. The Children's and Families Act 2014 introduced a wide range of reforms to the organisation of Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision. These reforms were aimed at improving the quality and reliability of SEND provision by providing a joined-up approach between the relevant agencies and by giving parents and young people more influence over the provision they received.
- 5.2. The Act extended the reach to people up to age 25 and also placed a requirement on Further Education settings to work to Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans rather than learning disability assessments.
- 5.3. Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a review on the 16-25 SEND offer and made series of recommendations.
- 3.4 The appendix shows the progress made against these recommendations.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

- 6.1.1. The Local Authority is required to comply with legislation relating to the delivery of SEND provision as set out in the Children's and Families Act 2014.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

- 6.2.1. The Council has invested in the SEND service in response to the increased demand on the service over the last two years and keeps this under review to ensure the service can meet its legal requirements.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

- 6.3.1. There are no policy implications for this report.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

- 6.4.1. The recommendations in this report are intended to address some of the inequalities that 16–25 year olds potentially face as they progress to adulthood.

### **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

- 6.5.1. There are no human resource implications for this report.

## **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. There are no risk management implications for this report.

## **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1. There are no rural implications for this report.

## **6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children**

6.8.1. It is important that children and young people with additional needs receive a good quality provision to meet their identified needs and progress to adulthood.

## **6.9. Public Health Implications**

6.9.1. There are no public health implications for this report.

## **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1. There are no climate change implications for this report.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. There is the potential for all ward members to be affected by this report.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

8.1. The report was the outcome of scrutiny of the service which included partners, parents, young people and providers.

## **9. Access to Information**

9.1. There is no additional information.

## **10. Contact Information**

10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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Appendix 1

**Progress on the Recommendations from the SEND 16–25 Spotlight Review**

Ref	Recommendations	Update	Status
1.	It is recommended that further work is undertaken to continue to develop and embed the following actions relating to current improvement work in the service and recommendations from the previous OSC report, as follows:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to ensure that the co-production of Education and Health Care Plans is embedded.</li> </ul>	<p>Co-production with schools, parents, young people and partners continues to be embedded in the way the partnership operates. For example, over the last 12 months we have co-produced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality assurance framework</li> <li>A review of the annual review process</li> <li>Development of temporary provision plans.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, throughout Covid-19 we have engaged with the Parent Carer Forum to sense check our response.</p> <p>We are increasingly embedding co-production into the writing of Education, Health and Care Plans but continue to reflect, learn and develop these arrangements which can become constrained by the legal timeframes the service has to operate within.</p> <p>Moving forward we have commissioned the Council for Disabled Children to lead a piece of work with the SEND service and Parent Carer Forum to ensure we have a shared strategic understanding of co-production and shape this into a Charter.</p> <p>We also plan to relaunch our TOGETHER co-production principles through the 0-25 SEND Partnership Board and hold all agencies to account for how they have implemented these into working practice.</p>	Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the new locality structure within the service ensuring capacity and expertise for 16-25 provision.</li> </ul>	<p>The new SEND locality structure is now embedded, and we have recruited to specific post-16 Key Worker Posts.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to ensure the transition across 16-25 provision is seamless and continue to ensure the annual reviews are co-produced with all relevant partners, parents and carers to better prepare young people for adulthood and furthermore to ensure the right services are in place in a timely manner.</li> </ul>	<p>There has been a comprehensive overhaul of the Annual Review process which ensures the views of all partners are considered. This was launched in June 2020 and is now being implemented. We will continue to review how this is operating in practice.</p> <p>We will be launching an online training module that can be used by staff, partners, parents and young people this term. The Youth Support Service lead on our Pathways to Adulthood and we are reviewing how the Youth Support Service and the SEND service ensure seamless support.</p> <p>We have delivered a number of SEND ignition programmes and we be undertaking an evaluation to assess if this resulted in the bespoke provision that was intended.</p> <p>We have set up and run for 3 months the Post-16 SEND Panel, which meets each fortnight and is multi-agency, ensuring close links with other professionals and aiding timely decisions.</p> <p>The Preparing for Adulthood Operational Forum has also been set up to identify, track and monitor those young people in transition. This multi-agency forum has set up a data dashboard to show those in transition and those who are assessed by social care and have education placements secured. The panel meets each month and are currently completing additional tracking on 52 cases.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

2.	In relation to health services which support SEND it is recommended that services align with the development of one CCG to ensure consistent offer for the following:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that there are no gaps in services, particularly in relation to mental health and speech and language and that these services are fit for purpose.</li> </ul>	<p>The Mental Health Spotlight review has been undertaken and more detailed recommendations have been made which will support implementation of this recommendation.</p> <p>An all age mental health integrated commissioning pilot between Cheshire CCG and Cheshire East Council commenced July 2020 and one element of the pilot is to compile a comprehensive service directory, thereby identifying any gaps in service. This has formed part of the joint commissioning pilot work and is forming part of the Mental Health all age 24/7 support line.</p> <p>Our planning for mental health support to pupils on their return to school after Covid-19 will also utilise the service directory. We have also been successful in wave 3/4 of the mental health in schools bid and implementation plans are in place.</p> <p>Additional MHIS is being invested to support young people in crisis, enabling more young people to be supported to remain at home rather than admitted into inpatient care. In addition, we are committed to early intervention support and have further invested in community services such as Visyon and Health Box.</p> <p>We have delivered a Speech and Language and Sensory Occupational Therapy pilot. This is being evaluated to inform the next steps. The Local Authority commission speech and language provision via a Memorandum of Understanding with the CCG in order to meet the provision identified in Education, Health and Care Plans of children and young people. Following a review of the service further speech and language therapy has been commissioned to support children and young people in particular within South</p>	Completed (To be taken forward through the Mental Health Spotlight Review Recommendations)

		Cheshire.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure continued partnership oversight of the newly developed single pathway for autism, promoting the consistent offer across the borough and monitoring performance to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people.</li> </ul>	<p>The 0-25 SEND Partnership Board has a multi-agency workstream that continues to have an overview of the single pathway for Autism. This area will be considered in the SEND inspection revisit and is under regular scrutiny from DfE and NHSE.</p> <p>Pre and post diagnostic support is also in place across Cheshire East support the single pathway approach based on THRIVE principals.</p>	Complete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Council encourages voluntary groups to provide activities which allow supported young people to develop their skills and interests.</li> </ul>	Where this is appropriate, as part of the provision in a child's Education Health and Care Plan to meet the child or young person's outcomes, voluntary groups are considered. This may be commissioned by the LA or by the school.	Complete
3.	It is recommended that the following specific actions in relation to the 16-25 offer be addressed by all partners:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Cheshire East Council continues to coordinate, drive, develop and promote supported internships and support local businesses in the employment of those with disabilities.</li> </ul>	Internships are now an established part of our Local Offer and we have increased the number of supported internship opportunities 6-fold over the last year. Our Supported Employment Service and Supported Internship co-ordinator work effectively to generate employment opportunities for those with disabilities through direct contact with employers, welfare to work partnership and targeted events.	Complete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To undertake a sufficiency review of supported accommodation to ensure sufficient quality accommodation which is fit for purpose where it is appropriate.</li> </ul>	Where supported living is in the best interests of the individual and is appropriate to their needs this is considered through needs assessment and through our SEND Ignition Programme. In January 2019 the Council established a complex needs accommodation and support framework for those aged 16+ and have complemented this by market shaping with property developers and support providers to broaden the local offer in our local communities.	Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the financial procedures and processes for post-16 payments and ensure these are made efficient.</li> </ul>	<p>Post-16 payments have now moved to be paid through Controc. In addition, a specific post has been created in commissioning to lead on commissioning and payments for SEND. The post will ensure that appropriate challenge is part of the system of agreeing and paying fees to out of borough schools, colleges and commissioned providers.</p>	Complete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the new locality structure within the service ensuring capacity and expertise for 16-25 provision.</li> </ul>	<p>The structure continues to be reviewed, especially as SEND demand continues to increase.</p> <p>The management group meets each fortnight for post-16 operational working and ensuring process are the same in both SEND and YSS so young people and parents are not disadvantaged.</p> <p>Locality meetings with the south team have been trialled for workers to meet and discuss via organised group supervision to ensure timely decisions, process and outcomes for young people – this initially met before Covid-19 in February but has been on hold since and is due to start again.</p>	Ongoing