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## **Cabinet**

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**Date of Meeting:** 3 December 2019

**Report Title:** SEND Reforms Task and Finish Group – SEND Local Offer for 16 to 25 Year Olds (Final Report)

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor D Flude – Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe – Acting Executive Director of People

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### **1. Report Summary**

1.1. This report introduces the SEND Reforms Task and Finish Group's second report on the 'SEND Local Offer for 16 to 25 Year Olds', which includes the findings, conclusions and recommendations produced by the Group following the review.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1. That Cabinet receives the Task and Finish Group's report.

2.2. That Cabinet responds to the following recommendations:

2.2.1. 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:

**2.2.1.1.** Continue to ensure that the co-production of Education and Health Care Plans (paragraph 7.2 refers) is embedded.

**2.2.1.2.** Implement the new locality structure within the service ensuring capacity and expertise for 16-25 provision. (Paragraph 7.2 refers).

- 2.2.1.3.** Continue to ensure the transition across 16 -25 provision is seamless and continue to ensure the annual reviews are coproduced 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. (Paragraph 7.24 refers).
- 2.2.2. In relation to health services which support SEND it is recommended that services align with the development of one Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure consistent offer for the following:
- 2.2.2.1.** Ensure that there are no gaps in services, particularly in relation mental health and speech and language and that these services are fit for purpose. (Paragraph 7.6 refers).
- 2.2.2.2.** 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. (Paragraph 7.8 refers).
- 2.2.2.3.** That the Council continues to support and assist the development of a programme of clubs activities and bespoke provision for supported young people, which encourages them to develop their skills and interests.
- 2.2.3. The following specific action in relation to the 16-25 offer to be addressed by all partners.
- 2.2.3.1.** That Cheshire East Council continues to coordinate, drive, develop and promote supported internships and support local businesses in the employment of those with disabilities. (Paragraph 7.37 refers).
- 2.2.3.2.** To undertake a sufficiency review of supported accommodation to ensure sufficient quality accommodation, which is fit for purpose, where it is appropriate.
- 2.2.3.3.** Review the financial procedures and processes for post 16 payments and ensure these are made efficient. (Paragraph 7.40 refers).
- 2.2.4. Monitor the new locality structure within the service ensuring capacity and expertise for 16-25 provision. (Paragraph 7.39 refers).

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

3.1. The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a series of reforms relating to special educational needs and disability (SEND). The reforms aimed to improve the provision of services for children and young people with SEND, as well as provide both they and their parents/carers with greater control over how their needs are met, up to the age of 25.

3.2. Following the implementation of the 2014 Act and the statutory framework for the personalisation of services for children and young people from 0 to 25 years, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided to establish a task and finish group to undertake an in-depth review of the new system.

3.3. After the Group's first report – on the provision of SEND for 0 to 16 year olds – was considered by Cabinet on 11 September, a recommendation was made that a further task and finish group be established to review the offer for 16 to 25 year olds. This age bracket was a new requirement of the Children and Families Act 2014, and is considered a very important time in any young persons life as they set out on their journey towards independence.

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

4.1. No alternative option was considered.

### **5. Background**

5.1. The SEND reforms Task and Finish Group met in December 2018 to scope the review and agreed the following objectives:

- To identify the barriers for young people accessing the job market;
- To identify the rationale for the perceived lack of social care services;
- To review the Cheshire East Local Offer, including the toolkit and benchmark against other local authorities;
- To recommend potential commissioning intentions to develop opportunities for young people aged 16 plus;
- To investigate what support is provided for the transition into adulthood; and

- To investigate the relationship between Cheshire East Council, private providers and further education providers, and what specialist advice is provided.

5.2. The attached report was considered and endorsed by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2019. Cabinet is now requested to give its consideration to the recommendations.

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

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

6.1.1. There are no legal implications at this stage, however there may be legal implications associated with the implementation of any approved recommendations.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

6.2.1. The full list of recommendations, which are being made to Cabinet by the task and finish group have not yet been fully assessed. If the recommendations are approved, further work would be required to capture the financial implications.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

6.3.1. There are no policy implications at this stage; however approval of the recommendations may result in policy changes.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

6.4.1. There are no equality implications.

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

6.5.1. There are no human resources implications.

### **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. There are no management implications.

### **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

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

6.8.1. The recommendations are intended to improve the offer to children and young people with SEND.

## 6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

## 6.10. Climate Change Implications

6.10.1. There are no direct climate change implications expected as a result of this report and its recommendations.

## 7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. No ward members are directly affected.

## 8. Consultation & Engagement

8.1. The table below sets out the actions undertaken by the Task and Finish Group, and whom the Group consulted, engaged and met with, as part of its review.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
7 December 2018	Task and finish group – Scoped Review
4 January 2019	Task and finish group – Background papers and agree programme
21 January 2019	Post 16 Providers – Network Meeting
1 February 2019	SEND Ignition Pilot
5 February 2019	DoE – Macclesfield - Visit
8 February 2019	Task and finish Group – Progress to date meeting
13 March 2019	Visit to Reaseheath College
15 March 2019	3 Focus Group Sessions
19 March 2019	Meeting with Head Of Service

20 March 2019	Visit to Total People - Macclesfield
25 March 2019	Meeting with Portfolio Holder
2 April 2019	Visit to Community Supported Business, Crewe

## 9. Access to Information

9.1. The following documents were considered during the review and are available for inspection:

- 9.1.1. Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities Cheshire East Self-Evaluation – December 2017.
- 9.1.2. Children and Young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Joint Strategy 2017/19.
- 9.1.3. Cheshire East SEN/EHCP Scorecard.
- 9.1.4. LGiU – briefing notes.
- 9.1.5. Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice.
- 9.1.6. Sufficient Statement and Provision Plan.
- 9.1.7. Ofsted Inspection Report.
- 9.1.8. Written Statement of Action for SEN and Disabilities (Cheshire East Council).

## 10. Contact Information

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

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