

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 1 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children and Enterprise

SUBJECT: SEND Update Report

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update members of our actions with regard to the implementation of the SEND reforms in Halton as required by the Children and Families Act 2014.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 Members approve latest developments.
- 2.2 Members support next steps in the implementation process

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Under the directions of the Children and Families Act 2014 Local Authorities had a duty to publicise on the Local Offer website the process by which individuals could obtain an Education and Health Care plan and a timetable of when Statements of SEN would be converted into an EHCP.
- 3.2 Halton LA met this requirement. Every week a 'Partnership Meeting' is held. Representatives from Education, Health, Social Care and Schools attend this meeting. Parents have the opportunity to attend this meeting to talk to the members about why a plan would help their child. Older children and young people may choose to talk about themselves.
- 3.3 To fund the reforms the SEN Service was restructured and we have received a Burdens Fund of £456,833 in total which has been paid in between 2014 - 2016.

New posts have been created at no additional cost to the Local Authority.

- 5 Assessment Coordinators
- 2 Conversion Caseworkers
- Local Offer Officer
- Trainer Evaluator
- Educational Psychologist

- 3.4 Since 1st September 2014:
- We have received 70 applications for EHC plans (31st March 2015)
 - We have started 46 conversions
 - 21 plans have been issued within the 20 week deadline
 - 8 completed outside the 20 week deadline
 - We are on track to complete all the conversions published for July 2015.

3.5 Remaining Challenges

- Preparation for the SEND reforms inspection that was announced in December 2014. The Framework for the inspection will be available after the national election and inspections of Local Authorities will commence from January 2016.
- Personal Budgets. We are required to offer individuals who receive an EHC plan the opportunity to apply for a personal budget. We presently have an offer of short breaks, advertised on our Local Offer. This must be extended as our Personal Budget offer develops.
- Developing and Improving the Local Offer. This is the show piece of our work as a LA in illustrating provision and opportunities for children and young people with SEND.
- Improving our understanding as an LA of the writing of good outcomes to be measurable and accountable, and make a difference.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Helping to deliver the aims and objectives of Halton Children and Young People's Plan.
- 4.2 Helping to deliver the Strategy for Learning and Achievement particularly Inclusion 0 - 25.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Risk of Failure to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- 5.2 Not responding to the personalisation agenda

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People

Ensuring provision meets need within the Borough as well as the locality Supporting Local Offer requirements set out in Section 3 Children and Families Act 2014.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

To ensure young people with SEND have every opportunity to meet their planned outcomes. Access to employment for young people with SEND.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

To ensure that all young people in Halton have improved outcomes, in particular mental health and well-being.

6.4 A Safer Halton

To ensure the children and young people's needs and rights are safeguarded.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Risk of failure to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

7.2 Not responding to the personalisation agenda.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Children and young people have achieved outcomes which enable them to have equal opportunity alongside their typical peers.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Equality Act 2010	Rutland House	Anita Parkinson
Children and Families Act 2014		
Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs July 2014		