

REPORT TO: Children, Young People & Families
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 25th January 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Halton Local Area SEND Strategy 2021-25

WARD(S) All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise the board on the consultation and scope of the proposed local area SEND Strategy for 2021-2024. A Powerpoint presentation highlighting the proposals for the draft strategy and outlining the consultation will be presented to the Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members of the Policy and Performance Board:

- i) are asked to consider the presentation and raise any questions they may have on the draft SEND strategy and current arrangements for consultation.**
- ii) request annual progress updates on the delivery of the SEND strategy to ensure that leaders remain informed and able to enquire and intervene as deemed necessary.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice 2015 set out the statutory requirements and practice required from local areas to meet the needs of children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

3.2 The SEND Code of Practice requires statutory bodies in local areas to work together to meet the education, health and care needs of children and young people with SEND. The Halton SEND Strategy for 2021-25 therefore will be a joint strategy under the governance of the Halton Health and Wellbeing board and Children's Trust and it is not the sole responsibility of Halton Borough Council to deliver.

3.3 In the spirit of the legislation the draft strategy has been co-produced in partnership with other statutory bodies from education and health including schools, and the CCG, as well as parent carer and young people's representatives.

3.4 Members will be provided with a full update by presentation at the Board meeting on 25th January 2021.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The purpose of the 2021-2025 Halton SEND Strategy is to improve outcomes for, and the lived experience of, children and young people with SEND and their families. Currently children recognised as having a special educational needs and/or disability make up over 17% of the areas school age population therefore the strategy will make a significant contribution towards ensuring that Halton's children and young people have the best possible start in life.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Young people with SEND and Learning difficulties are disproportionately likely to be NEET or unemployed. Elements of the strategy are aimed at improving employability and skills for these young people leading to meaningful employment.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Children and young people with SEND are disproportionately likely to be overweight, lack opportunities to access healthy lifestyles and leisure activities and die young. Improving health outcomes for these children and young people is a core objective of SEND Strategic Priority 3: Preparation for Adulthood.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Without a coherent and joined up strategic approach to meeting the needs and improving the life outcomes and lived experience of

children and young people and their families it will be considerably more challenging for the local area to meet its statutory and morale duties.

- 7.2 Individual objectives within the strategy will in some cases contain projects that may require separate risk analysis. Where this is the case these will be overseen by the SEND Strategic Partnership.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 Individual objectives within the strategy will in some cases contain projects that require separate and individual equality impact analysis and assessment as part of good practice. Where this is the case these will be overseen by the SEND Strategic Partnership.

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

- 9.1 None.