

High Needs Strategic Review 2017-18 - Briefing Paper

All Local Authorities must carry out a high quality collaborative review of their high needs provision to evaluate current provision for children and young people in Kirklees with complex Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND).

Information gathered during the review will lead to development of a strategic plan which will identify gaps in current provision and determine how potential future funding could best be used to improve the sustainable specialist provision on offer in Kirklees.



The review will involve collaborative work with neighbouring authorities and consultation with children and young people with SEND, their parent/carers, providers and partners across early years, schools and Post 16 settings to co-produce the plan.

We will work with key partners including leaders and governing bodies of LA maintained schools, academies, Free Schools, non-maintained and independent special schools and special post 16 providers, FE Colleges and sixth form colleges in the area, and those attended by young people from the area. We will also include providers of relevant early education and any other agency that makes special educational provision for children or young people for whom the LA is responsible.

We will take into account current legislation and any changes to government policy when planning for this review e.g: Early Years National Funding Formula, The Children and Families Act and the ensuing increase in requests for statutory assessment for an EHCP; proposed changes to the delivery of home to school transport; the differences in funding pre and post 16, and the guidance to fund 650 hours for all at post 16.

The Scope of the Review

The review will focus on these main areas:

- The range of SEND data, including recent trends and likely changes in the future e.g. due to demographic change
- The effectiveness of the current pattern of specialist provision in meeting needs, including feedback from parents and young people
- Evidence of the effectiveness of current specialist provision in preparing children and young people for adult life, particularly employment and/or higher education, independent living, participation in society, being as healthy as possible
- Involvement of other agencies in specialist provision and how they contribute to its overall quality
- The range of SEND that would generally be met by mainstream providers and the way in which these institutions access the specialist training and workforce development they need
- The range of SEND that would generally be met by specialist providers
- The range of SEND that would generally be met by highly specialised providers.

High Needs Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan **must** be published by March 31st 2018 and must cover all special education provision from Early Years to post 16, including mainstream and special schools.

The plan must show how we will ensure that our SEND provision is suitable to meet changing needs and how we will address any gaps in provision identified by the review. It will outline how we will allocate resources to deliver this provision and ensure sustainability within future high needs funding allocations.

We will show how provision will be made in a way that works for parents and young people and that we demonstrate transparency and accountability.

Outcomes

Information gathered during this review will inform many aspects of service provision and delivery. Firstly, it will identify gaps in our current provision for children and young people with complex SEND so that we know how well our provision is improving outcomes for children and young people. This will help us determine where specialist provision is best needed and how it should be delivered.

The review will result in an effective use of resource in special schools and other specialist settings and will encourage more effective collaboration between LAs in delivering SEND services and provision. Partnership working may provide opportunity for pooling resources to develop provision which can support a wider area and may be across borders if that is deemed appropriate and better value for money.

The High Needs review team has developed an action plan to define tasks and monitor progress, with further supporting evidence trails, and will report regularly to the SEND Children's Strategy Group and the Place Planning and Admissions Group.

There will be a series of briefings and consultations between now and December 2017. Updates for schools and settings will be delivered through various meetings and networks. Information for parent/carers and the public will be promoted through the council's communication channels and specific events.

Mandy Cameron/Martin Wilby
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