

Appendix 2

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Directorate / Service Area		Officer undertaking the assessment
Strategy and Commissioning		Name: Jane Ryder Richardson Job Title: Head of Strategic Commissioning: SEND services Contact details: 01223 703550
Service / Document / Function being assessed		
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Commissioning Strategy		
Business Plan Proposal Number (if relevant)		
Aims and Objectives of Service / Document / Function		
<p>The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Commissioning strategy plans for the current and future needs of children and young people with SEND to enable them to achieve good outcomes.</p>		
What is changing?		
<p>The strategy refocuses the Local Authority resources to give a greater emphasis on early identification to reduce demand and high cost provision by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) commissioning and delivering services that enhances the resilience and capacity of families and communities, including schools and other universal providers, to meet needs; b) targeting resources to ensure evidence based interventions are part of our early help and SEND specialist services offer to prevent needs escalating within the family, education setting, and/or community; c) increasing the robustness and clarity about the thresholds we use for determining the allocation of additional funding and resources for children and young people with SEND; d) ensuring children have the right placement allowing them to stay in their family and where this is not possible that a placement is close to their home and community. 		

Who is involved in this impact assessment?

e.g. Council officers, partners, service users and community representatives.

The draft SEND Commissioning Strategy has been shared with wide range of partners, including schools and head teacher groups, staff across Children and Families and Adults, and council members from Spokes committee and the Children and Young Children committee.

Feedback has been sought through multi-agency and service user focus groups, meetings with stakeholders including all schools, and from written feedback. This feedback has informed the current SEND Commissioning Strategy and has been an iterative process over a 12 month period.

All parents and carers on the contact lists for Parent Partnership Service and Pinpoint were invited to feedback their views on the Draft SEND Commissioning Strategy through a survey questionnaire. The analysis of the survey results from 55 respondents showed:

- 98% agreed or strongly agreed with the outcomes as being important for your child now or in the future
- 78% agreed with commissioning approach to planning services will improve the services you and your child will receive
- 74% agreed with the three main commissioning aims
- 45% agreed that the actions identified were clear enough
- 62% agreed that the success measure identified were most appropriate

What will the impact be?

Tick to indicate if the impact on each of the following protected characteristics is positive, neutral or negative.

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	✓		
Disability	✓		
Gender reassignment		✓	
Marriage and civil partnership		✓	
Pregnancy and maternity		✓	
Race		✓	

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Religion or belief		✓	
Sex		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
The following additional characteristics can be significant in areas of Cambridgeshire.			
Rural isolation	✓		
Deprivation	✓		

For each of the above characteristics where there is a positive, negative and / or neutral impact, please provide details, including evidence for this view. Describe the actions that will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts and how the actions are to be recorded and monitored. Describe any issues that may need to be addressed or opportunities that may arise.

Positive Impact

Age: Extending the age for statutory protections for young people and adults with SEND to 25 years will support greater access to education, employment and training and more focussed preparation for adulthood

Disability: The additional focus on disability in the new government SEND reforms provides greater accountability for improving the outcomes for disabled children and young people through extending the age range for statutory protections for an Education, Health and Care plan to age 25 years. Also by increased emphasis on providers to undertake their duty to implement the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) to make 'reasonable adjustments' and undertake their 'best endeavours' in relation to disabled young people to ensure their opportunities for inclusion and access are equitable to those without a disability. The SEND commissioning strategy seeks to ensure that resources are fairly distributed to support inclusion and access wherever possible.

Rural isolation: The SEND commissioning strategy intends to commission and plan for services to be delivered as locally as possible so that children and young people and their families in more rural communities can still have access to services as local to their home as possible.

Deprivation: There is a very significant correlation between children living in poverty and having SEND. The Local Authority Commissioning approach builds on the good evidenced based practice implemented in the Troubled Families and the Family Intervention Programmes that have adopted the *Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family* framework which supports family centred planning and addresses the wider needs of the young person to help empower the family to achieve better outcomes drawing on their local supports.

Negative Impact

Neutral Impact

The overarching Local Authority Equalities Strategy has in place responsibilities for ensuring the monitoring of the equality of opportunity and access for all vulnerable groups. The SEND Commissioning strategy and the subsequent commissioning plans will work to address any gaps in services arising from the Local Authority's monitoring of vulnerable children, families and communities with respect to SEND

Issues or Opportunities that may need to be addressed

Ongoing issues:

Transport for many families is a key issue in relation to access to services and mainstream and community based opportunities. This needs to be considered when planning all services particularly when savings are needed in relation to transport budgets.

Communication_ access to information is crucial for providing choice and supporting independence. Often access means information in different languages, a person to explain the information, written information not necessarily online, and locally available. The SEND Local Offer that is being developed by the Local Authority in response to the government reforms will help deliver more accessible on-line information in one place for parents, carers, young people and the professional supporting them. This will help address some of the issues that families experience but there will still be a need for some families to have a more individual response.

Community Cohesion

If it is relevant to your area you should also consider the impact on community cohesion.

The provision for services for our most vulnerable young people and their families is a crucial part of community cohesion. An important consideration for the development of provision for all local services must be ensuring the access for disabled young people. The Local Authority SEND Commissioning Strategy builds on the premise that children are best cared for living at home and attending local school and local community activities. For disabled children often additional resources are needed to make this happen. This needs to be built in as part of future planning of services.

Date 19.12.2014