

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN' SERVICES

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	20 OCTOBER 2021	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	SEND STRATEGY AND INSPECTION UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR TERRY	PORTFOLIO:	CHILDREN
SERVICE:	CHILDREN'S	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a brief update regarding SEND Strategy and shares a copy of the letter from Ofsted regarding this inspection.
- 1.2 The current SEND strategy is included in Appendix 1, and inspection letter is included in Appendix 2 of this report.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The local area SEND strategy sets out how support and service will be delivered in collaboration with children, young people, families, carers and partners to meet local needs and national responsibilities.
- 3.2 The SEND local inspection letter assesses the extent to which those needs, and responsibilities are being met for children and young people with SEND in Reading.

4. DETAILS

4.1 SEND Strategy Update

- 4.2 There has been considerable work undertaken on developing the next version of the SEND Strategy which now needs to be finalised and agreed for 2022-2027. The recommendations of the local area inspection that took place in June 2021 have been included in the updated strategy.

4.3 We have added two more strands to the five existing ones in response to the inspection so there are now seven focused areas of work in the next version of the strategy.

- Strand 1: Improving communication
- Strand 2: Early intervention through to specialist provision
- Strand 3: Consistent approaches to emotional wellbeing
- Strand 4: Preparing for adulthood
- Strand 5: Support for families / short breaks
- Strand 6: Capital and School places
- Strand 7: Revenue and funding

4.3 SEND Local Area Inspection

4.4 The joint local area inspection of SEND was conducted by Ofsted and CQC in June 2021 and concluded that arrangements are sufficiently robust and effective so that no action of written statement was required for Reading.

4.5 There has been a very positive response to the inspection outcome and findings from stakeholders. Whilst being confident about what has been achieved, we are continuing to focus on key areas that need to be strengthened. The actions have been outlined under the strands detailed in section 4.3 and will be overseen through the SEND Strategy Group.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The information contained in this report and its appendices are in line with the overall direction of the Council, meeting the following Corporate Plan priorities:

- Priority 3: To protect and enhance the lives of vulnerable adults and children
- Priority 5: Ensuring that there are good education, leisure and cultural opportunities for people in Reading

5.2 It also to these Council strategic aims:

- To establish Reading as a learning City and a stimulating and rewarding place to live and visit
- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 Not applicable for this report

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Not applicable for this report

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Not applicable for this report

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Not applicable for this report

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Not applicable for this report