

Schools Forum – 28th March 2019

Joint local area SEND inspection in Staffordshire

Recommendations:

1. That Schools Forum notes the content of this report.

PART A

Why is it coming here – what decision is required?

2. The Schools Forum has a consultative role in the financial arrangements for pupils with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) funded through the High Needs Block (HNB).
3. At the meeting on 13th February 2019 Schools Forum agreed that following the Joint local area SEND inspection in Staffordshire, the written statement of action should inform any further decisions within the HNB.

Reasons for recommendations:

4. To update the Schools Forum on the draft joint local area SEND written statement of action and potential impact on the HNB.
5. At Schools Forum on 13th February 2019 a paper was presented indicating the actions taken following the recommendations from the High Needs Block recovery task group and the latest overspend forecast.

PART B

Background

6. In 2016 the DfE introduced a joint inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to provide an independent external evaluation of how well a local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with SEND in order to support their development.
7. The local area includes the local authority, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England for specialist services, early year's settings, schools and further education providers.
8. The inspection leads to a published report that:
 - provides children and young people, parents, elected council members, local providers and those who lead and manage the delivery of services at local level with an assessment of how well the local area is meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and how well service providers work together to deliver positive outcomes

- provides information for the Secretary of State for Education about how well the local area is performing its role in line with its statutory responsibilities and the SEND Code of Practice
 - promotes improvement in the local area, its education, health and social care provision
 - where relevant, requires the local area to consider the actions that it should take in light of the report and prepare a written statement that sets out those actions and the timetable for them.
9. The joint local area SEND inspection in Staffordshire took place between 12 and 16 November 2018. A copy of the inspection report has been included in appendix A.
 10. As a result of the findings of the inspection and in accordance with the Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has determined that a Written Statement of Action is required.
 11. The Staffordshire SEND partnership board, which has representatives from the local area, has taken responsibility for the writing of the Statement of Action.
 12. The Written Statement of Action sets out how the local area will tackle the areas of significant concern and the intended timescales for securing rapid improvement.
 13. A copy of the draft Written Statement of Action will be made available before the date of the meeting.
 14. As previously reported to Schools Forum, the SEND transformation programme will be a vehicle to deliver aspects of the WSoA. These include options to develop Resource Centres and Contact Bases in mainstream schools in order to provide early intervention, prevent later higher cost needs and pupils being referred into statutory processes.
 15. Further work is being undertaken to identify the costs to the HNB and therefore the decisions that Schools Forum will be required to make.

Report author:

Author's Name: Tim Moss, County Commissioner for School Quality Assurance and Intervention

Ext. No.: 01785 277963

Room No.: Number 1, Staffordshire Place

List of background papers:

Appendix A – Joint local area SEND inspection in Staffordshire

Appendix B – Draft joint local area SEND written statement of action