

REPORT TO: Children Young People and Families
Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 10 June 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Education,
Inclusion and Provision

SUBJECT: High Needs Review

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report will be delivered in the form of a presentation which summarises the High Needs Strategic Planning Review. It sets out the five main recommendations and outlines the next steps.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 Consider the outcome of the review and request an update on the progress of the review at the next meeting.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Using a revenue funding grant provided by the DFE it was agreed that Halton would commission an independent review of SEND. In April 2018 Peopletoo were awarded the commission and they commenced work in May 2018. The first phase of this work has now been completed. Through the review the Council aimed to gain:

- A detailed understanding of the SEND population;
- A detailed understanding of the special school population and pupil profile;
- A detailed understanding of the future needs and profile of specialist provision to meet that need;
- A detailed understanding of future post-16 needs and opportunities to improve provision and capacity in the local communities;
- A detailed understanding of the views of all stakeholders in terms of existing strengths and the opportunities to improve high needs provision;
- A detailed understanding of the perceived barriers to inclusion in mainstream schools and colleges with recommendations for potential solutions;
- A detailed understanding of the total level of resources available and how to effectively target these to meet need; and

- A detailed understanding of potential challenges, sensitivities and conflicts of interest, together with potential solutions to these.

3.6 The presentation will provide a summary of the key findings and the recommendations of the review. It will also outline the next steps we plan to take to improve our offer and the outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Halton and ensure we have good quality, sustainable support.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

4.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Developing more inclusive local provision that meet the needs of children and young with SEND in Halton allows pupils to be educated within their own community alongside their peer groups.

4.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None.

4.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

4.4 A Safer Halton

None.

4.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 Current provision does not meet the needs of children and young people in the Borough. High numbers of children are being educated in independent provision with many pupils having to travel outside the borough to access provision. This is not in their best interest and is not sustainable.

5.2 Ensuring mainstream schools are more inclusive will reduce the demand on specialist settings and out of borough provision. Remodelling specialist provision so that it better meets local need and special schools provide places for only the most complex children and young people with SEND, reducing the level of placements in independent provision.

5.3 The newly established Placement Division will visit all independent settings checking on the quality of provision, outcomes for the children

and young people and attendance. They will also review the price ensuring each placement represents good value for money.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 The aim of the review is to better understand the SEND population so that we can improve the quality of SEND provision within the borough, the outcomes of children and young people with SEND and encourage all our schools to become more inclusive.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Peopletoo SEND High Needs Strategic Planning Review – LA Summary	Rutland House	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Ann McIntyre – Operational Director- Education, Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director - Resources
School Forum High Needs Report – 16 th January 2019	Halton website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources