

B&NES SEND Governance

1. Purpose

1.1 to make recommendations around governance arrangements needed to sustain & improve the outcomes of children and young people with SEND in Bath & North East Somerset & to continue the development of the SEND reforms in B&NES

2. Background

2.1 The recent Children and Families Act 2014 provided the implementation of the new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms from September 2014. The reforms placed strong emphasis on partnership and collaborative working for the benefit of children and young people with a special educational need and or disability (SEND) aged 0-25.

3. Current arrangements

3.1 A SEND Reform steering group has been in place to oversee the implementation of the SEND reforms within B&NES. This group has one further meeting to review completion of the project plan in November 2015.

3.2 A SEND Virtual Leadership Team was set up and met a few times to look at operational issues associated with Education, Health & Care Planning during the first year of the reforms.

3.3 A Disabled Children's Strategy Group has been in place for a number of years and is well attended by a number of agencies and staff, some who also attend the Virtual Leadership Team and/or had been part of the SEND Reform Steering group. This group has a good membership and recently re-named itself the SEND strategy group.

4. Proposal

4.1 That the current SEND Strategy Group be developed and built upon to deliver two tiers of governance around SEND for children young people up to the age of 25. This paper proposes that;

4.2. A standing SEND strategic group is retained that reports to the Health & Wellbeing Board and made up of;

- Tier 3 officers & above from the local authority (education, Social Care & adult services)
- Elected Member for SEND 0-25 (Current CYP lead member, or new post as 0-25 age group now needs to be represented)
- Head teachers from special & mainstream schools
- Parents/Carers (Via Parent Carers Aiming High)
- School improvement service
- Health & CCG

- Mechanisms for input from young people with SEND to be developed
- Other members to be considered.

4.3 That this group look at developing SEND strategy aimed at improving outcomes, overseeing joint strategic commissioning for SEND around Education, Health and Social Care for all. Oversee the development of the local offer & the development of SEND SEF in preparation for OFSTED (what else?)

4.4 Charing arrangements & meeting frequency?

And that;

4.4 An Operational Group is established to retain some current membership of the SEND strategy group and to replace the SEND virtual leadership group.

4.6 This group be reflective of the group above in membership, this group work on day to day operation and practice of services working with children with SEND and continue to promote the integration of practice and delivery. That this group report into the SEND strategy group

4.7 Charing arrangements: (Head of Vulnerable Learners to chair this group?)

5. Recommendations for SLT

5.1. That SLT comment on these proposals and if acceptable present these proposals via a full paper to Health & Wellbeing Board in December 2015.

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