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## **Development of the SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2024-2029 Report**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. This report is to provide information on the development of the new co-produced local area SEND and AP Strategy which will form the basis for our approach to working with families and children with additional needs.
2. The report includes details on the coproduction process and the agreed priorities and timelines for the implementation of the strategy
3. The report should be read in conjunction with the new SEND and AP Strategy 2024-2029, 'Meeting Need Together - Ambitious for All'.

### **Updates – SEND Strategy 2024-2029**

1. The SEND Code of Practice states that local authorities must place children, young people and families at the centre of their planning, and work with them to develop co-ordinated approaches to securing better outcomes.
2. Following the end of the 2020-2024 SEND and Inclusion Strategy the local area has been working to develop a new strategy to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our communities.
3. The new strategy is a fully co-produced local area approach to supporting families and children with additional needs. Face to face events, online discussions and surveys were carried out with a wide range of stakeholders including parents and carers, children and young people, health professionals, and schools to ensure that the strategy addressed the needs of our local communities.
4. This strategy has been produced in partnership and the consultation process has taken a year to complete.
5. The work represents a marked shift in our local area, as it has been built upon the current lived experience and expertise of our children, young people and their parents/carers as the driving force for change.
6. The strategy sets out an ambitious goal for making sure that SEND becomes 'everybody's business' through pro-active inclusion from the outset. The strategy was produced together with key partners and draws upon feedback from children, young people and their parents/carers, professionals and front-line workers, education settings and the voluntary sector.

7. The strategy sets out a comprehensive response to the views, comments and issues raised by stakeholders right through the consultation process. This strategy represents a core document with high levels of engagement which sits amongst a range of strategic responses to the scope of the issues that the local area partnership wants to develop and address. There are separate plans either in place or in development which create the detail behind each of the priorities identified in the strategy.
8. The new strategy, entitled 'Meeting Needs Together - Ambitious for All' sets out our joint vision and the priorities we will focus on as a partnership over the next five years. Our aim is to be ambitious for all our children and young people and to work together to deliver cohesive, holistic support, having the child or young person's aspirations and needs at the centre of our work. We believe that meeting the needs of every child and young person with SEND or in AP in Wiltshire, is the responsibility of everyone.
9. Over the last year we have worked together in consultation with our parent-carers at face-to-face events across the county and through a range of online discussion groups. We have listened and gained the voice of children and young people with lived experience of SEND, including those who may be educated other than at school or from other harder to reach groups. We have worked with our schools and settings via partnership forums and networks, via surveys and polls. Our workforce from across all services and teams have actively engaged in meetings and surveys as part of this consultation work and have given their views and experiences as practitioners and officers.
10. As a result, the vision created with stakeholders through consultation is:
  - 'To create a future where every young person in Wiltshire has the tools and support needed to thrive and achieve their dreams. We want to support children and young people to be aspirational and hopeful, to increase their confidence, to have the resources to live the futures they want to live and to foster a culture of empowerment and inclusion.'
11. In adhering to true coproduction principles, we ensured that the voice of the local area has fully informed the priorities identified and shaped our collective vision. We have pledged to embed coproduction principles in everything we do and as a result of conversations and a joint working group with families, have written a 'Working Together Agreement', which is our commitment to deliver this. This agreement can be seen towards the beginning of the strategy document.
12. This vision will be delivered through six priority areas:
  - Priority 1: Children and young people and their families will be at the centre of planning, their views and aspirations heard and acted upon, as true partners.

- Priority 2: Getting the right support at the right time, identifying and acting on our children's needs at the earliest opportunity and through promotion of inclusive approaches and practice across the local area.
  - Priority 3: Provide opportunities for timely planning, reflective of the views of the child or young person and parent carers' current needs, that have clear outcomes.
  - Priority 4: Ensure good quality communication and information, for families to have a positive experience when navigating services, with information that is easy to access and use.
  - Priority 5: Professionals and officers across the SEND system will have the skills, knowledge and training to enable effective collaboration across services, joint assessments and sharing of good practice.
  - Priority 6: Children and young people will be prepared for adulthood and experience timely transitions, leading to increased skills, greater independence, and a greater range of opportunities in life.
13. The stakeholders agreed that we would work to these priorities through a joint implementation plan that will set our actions and outcomes framework, to monitor the effective delivery of strategy.
  14. Following Cabinet approval on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and Health and Wellbeing Board on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, the implementation plan will be finalised and overseen by the SEND and AP Partnership Board with the development of a bespoke dashboard to highlight performance against agreed measures.
  15. We have also committed to publishing regular reports on the Wiltshire SEND Local Offer website. We will ask ourselves the question 'what difference has this made?' at each point of delivery and will work with children and young people with lived experience of SEND and AP so they can tell us how we are doing.

## **Conclusion**

16. A new strategy to build on the work of the previous plan is essential to deliver further incremental improvements and meet the current needs of families and children
17. The new strategy has been developed through a robust co-production process that has ensured that the voice and families and children, practitioners and voluntary groups is at the heart of the plan.
18. The strategy implementation plan will have success measures that are reviewed by the local area SEND and AP Partnership Board to ensure delivery for our communities.

**Kai Muxlow**

## **Head of Families and Children Commissioning**