

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

30th March 2023

Subject: Wiltshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy

Purpose of Report

1. To provide HWB with an update regarding the progress of the six strategy priority areas from the SEND and Inclusion (SEND&I) strategy and to provide information and a timeline for the development of the next iteration of the strategy.

Relevance to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

2. The SEND&I strategy has relevance to each of the four health and wellbeing themes presented within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

Prevention – working to ensure that support is available from across the local area to support emerging needs in children and young people, for example where young people experience anxiety and challenges to their mental health

Localisation – work to enable children and young people with SEND to be able to attend a schools setting which is proximate to where they live, wherever possible, through the development of additional specialist places and inclusion support to mainstream schools and settings

Tackling Inequalities – activity to support education providers to identify, understand and support a range of SEND needs within their setting. Work to ensure that opportunities are available in the wider community which welcome and include learners with SEND

Integration – working as a local area partnership to broaden, develop and build services and support for young people with SEND and their families in Wiltshire.

Background

3. Wiltshire Council is required to have a published strategy in relation to SEND. Wiltshire has a SEND&I strategy which was produced in early 2020 following a period of engagement and coproduction with a wide range of stakeholders, including young people with SEND and their families during 2019. The process of coproduction is, by its nature, time intensive and requires time and space to enable ongoing engagement and 'checking back' with stakeholders to ensure that the final document

reflects effectively what has been shared and what the priority areas for activity in relation to SEND are from a range of perspectives.

The COVID pandemic delayed the launch of Wiltshire's SEND&I strategy and whilst there is demonstrable progress with many elements, some have been delayed and some have changed shape, in response to the post pandemic landscape within schools and settings. The Wiltshire SEND&I strategy was shared and approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2020.

The strategy has six identified priority areas which are:

1. Developing holistic plans for children and young people
2. Inclusion and removing exclusion in education
3. Inclusion and wellbeing in the community
4. Improving the range and quality of provision
5. Progress and attainment
6. Well planned transitions

Each of the six priority areas has a nominated 'workstream lead' who enables that activity relating to the area and its impact is regularly considered and collated.

Governance for the SEND&I strategy is through the SEND Board, which has a broad range of groups and services represented through its membership. Membership is from across the local area partnership.

An extension of 12 months was agreed by cabinet in January 2023 to enable a co-produced SEND&I strategy to be delivered which effectively details the areas for development and delivery in this area.

Main Considerations

5. To have oversight and an opportunity to discuss the progress achieved in relation to the six priority areas detailed in the SEND&I strategy and the impact of these for young people and families in Wiltshire.
6. To have oversight and an understanding of the timeframe for the next iteration of Wiltshire's SEND&I strategy

Next Steps

7. Having had an opportunity to hear about the progress made against the six priority areas of the SEND&I strategy the board is invited to consider when a further update should be brought for consideration.

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