

Cabinet



Date of meeting: 13 October 2025
 Title of Report: **SEND Improvement Update**
 Lead Member: Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)
 Lead Strategic Director: David Haley (Director for Childrens Services)
 Author: Lisa McDonald, Head of SEND
 Contact Email: lisamcdonald@plymouth.gov.uk
 Your Reference: SEND Update
 Key Decision: No
 Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

For Cabinet to note the progress of improvements made across the Local Area Partnership, for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Recommendations and Reasons

- I. That Cabinet note the report

Reason: It is important to note substantial work and progress since the Ofsted CQC inspection of 2023 and the extent of our ambition for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Alternative options considered and rejected

There are no alternative options as part of the improvement plan is to report into Cabinet with updates.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Corporate Plan

- Make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old
- An outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone
- Keeping children, adults and communities safe
- Providing quality public services

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Meeting the needs of children with SEND has cost implications across local area partners and is dependent on sufficient resource to sustain good performance. This includes resource across the social care, health and education system. However, the more we meet children's needs in a timely way, and coordinate support, the more we avoid higher costs for acute services.

Financial Risks

The improvements we have made in our provision has meant additional spend in the dedicated schools grant (DSG) as we ensure children have the support that they are entitled to. Whilst recognised as a

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Amanda Davis (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills)											

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 06/10/2025

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)

Date approved: 07/10/2025