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

1. 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

national issue, this further burden on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) contributes to an increasing deficit position, resulting in an additional requirement to borrow.

Legal Implications

Plymouth City Council is meeting its statutory duties in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

None as a result of this update report.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
		ı	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Α	Plymouth SEND Improvement Progress Report October 2025									

Background papers:

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
	ı	2	3	4	5	6	7		

Sign off:

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			10/25								

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

^{*}Add rows as required to box below

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