

# PLYMOUTH'S STRATEGY FOR SEND

Priorities for 2018-21



Plymouth has developed a strategy for SEND in line with the Government's ambition "for children with Special Educational needs and Disabilities (SEND) .... to achieve well in school and college, find employment and go on to live happy and fulfilled lives<sup>1</sup>."



Our aim is to achieve an holistic, integrated improvement programme to establish robust arrangements and a support offer for children, young people and families which will lead to improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND and greater parental confidence in the SEND system. The work takes full account of the legislation and statutory guidance regarding children and young people with SEND and their families. It also recognises and takes account of the findings within the Joint Local Area SEND Inspection for Plymouth letter, dated December 2016.

The 5 strands in the strategy serve to highlight the need to work together, across sectors and with families, in all areas. It also helps joint commissioning activity to take account of the interdependencies across education, health and care.

Commissioners use the outcomes data and needs analysis information to improve the accessibility and quality of the SEND Local Offer across all 5 strands of the strategy.

The strategy has been developed with a range a stakeholders who meet regularly as the SEND Strategic Group. Representatives from parent/carers, young people, schools, early years, health providers, social care, education services, post 16 sector and commissioning are contributing to this planning. The Group has a Forward Plan in place review progress against each of the 5 strands.

<sup>1</sup> High needs provision and support Damien Hinds Letter to Local Authorities Dec 2018

## 5 STRANDS OF THE SEND STRATEGY - PRIORITIES FOR 2018-21

### Schools and Settings: provision and achievement

We are working to improve planning to ensure that we have appropriate education provision in place to enable children and young people with SEND to be successfully included and achieve in school.

This work is set out in the SEND Review of education provision 2018-21 and implementation plan.

### Assessment and planning for SEND

To improve the experience of children, young people and their families where assessment and planning is undertaken requires work to align different assessment processes so that families do not have to repeat their story and professionals work together to achieve joined up assessment and coordinated child-centred or person-centred planning. The identified priorities include:

- Improvement in the quality of Education Health and Care needs assessment and planning.
- Improvement in the experience and quality of Education, Health and Care Plan annual reviews
- Alignment of statutory review arrangements (across education, health and social care)
- Embedding a SEND Pathway for Support which supports early identification of need and timely response.
- Integrated planning for children and young people with complex needs

### SEND Integration Education, Health and Care

We will continue to progress work to achieve the Children and Young People's Commissioning Plan commitment;

“To ensure children and young people with ill-health, developmental delay, learning difficulties, and physical and learning disabilities have an integrated response to their health, educational and social needs, in order to improve health outcomes, support parenting and care needs and improve the ability to learn.”

ACCESS: Community Health Wellbeing and SEND have now launched the single point of access to all SEND services. Livewell Southwest, University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust and Plymouth City Council SEND Service are working together to identify opportunities for greater integration which will improve the support offer for children and young people.

The Community Health, Wellbeing and SEND Project Executive provides oversight of this work.

### Support for parents of disabled children

#### Short Breaks, family support and child protection

We will be reviewing our local sufficiency of short breaks and family support for disabled children, including Short Break residential provision (registered children's homes) each year. This work is reported in Plymouth's Short Breaks Statement which is published on the SEND Local Offer.

We will undertake quality assurance work for the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board regarding safeguarding disabled children, taking account of the additional vulnerability for many disabled children and young people.

## Preparing for Adulthood and Post 16 provision

We are preparing a 14-25 Commissioning Plan for young people with SEND (education, health and care) in order to ensure that a future offer is shaped to achieve improved outcomes in employment, independent living, community inclusion and health.

This will include commissioning activity to develop local post-16 and post 19 education, employment and training opportunities for young people with SEND that will lead them to employment. In addition we will monitor the impact of Plymouth's transition to adulthood pathway in improving young people's experience of transition planning.

The Preparing for Adulthood Project Executive Group will oversee this Project Plan.

### Measuring successful implementation of the SEND Reforms

We will be working to measure our progress in embedding the principles of the SEND Reforms using the following factors:

- Co-production with children, young people and parents
- All parties meet their statutory duties
- Increased satisfaction with access to local services
- Accurate and timely identification of SEN and disability
- Improved attainment and narrowing of gap for children and young people with SEND
- Strong focus on those at SEN Support
- More young people with SEND go on to post-16 education, training & employment
- Improved parental confidence in the SEND system

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31<sup>st</sup> December 2018