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| Non-Executive Report of the: Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board Tuesday, 2 February 2021 |  TOWER HAMLETS |
| Report of James Thomas, Director, Children and Culture | Classification: Open (Unrestricted) |
| SEND Improvement Plan | |

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| Originating Officer(s) | Christine McInnes |
| Wards affected | (All Wards) |

Executive Summary

The Tower Hamlets SEND Improvement Plan sets out the programme of improvement work for the council and partners in relation to SEND, and SEND related, services. It identifies priorities, actions to be taken, lines of responsibility and timescales for delivery. The plan includes the detail of how the Tower Hamlets SEND Strategy 2020 – 2024 will be delivered.

Work has been underway over the last few months to refresh the improvement plan and this will continue as it is an iterative process. As part of this feedback will be sought regularly to ensure that the views and contributions of a wide range of stakeholders can help to strengthen the approach being taken. In particular work is underway to strengthen and make more systematic the views of children, young people and parents/carers, and the direct involvement of their representatives in driving forward our improvement.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Provide feedback on the Tower Hamlets SEND Improvement Plan.
2. Determine the frequency with which the Health and Wellbeing Board should receive progress reports on the delivery of the Improvement Plan

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There is no decision, this report is for information.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 N/A

3. **DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 A range of activities have been taken place over the last few months to review and revise the SEND Improvement Plan including workshops with senior managers and with parents & carers and young people representatives. More recently capacity has been constrained across all services, and in particular health services, as the current wave of the pandemic has worsened, and staff sickness or redeployment has become more of an issue.
- 3.2 The aim throughout has been to ensure that the plan is an effective tool to drive improvement work. Work continues with strategic leads to refine and sharpen the focus of the plan. Particular attention continues to be on identifying the most pressing items for improvement, rationalising content to avoid duplication and confirming actions are 'SMART' (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely).
- 3.3 A set of priority areas for indicators have been identified, and these are currently being reviewed by the SEND Improvement Board. These will help to clarify the focus of attention for the improvement plan. The proposed indicators are set out below with details of how the improvement plan addresses them.

3.4 **SEND Improvement Plan – key indicators and activities**

Priority 1: Leading SEND

| Key Indicator | SEND Improvement Plan Focus |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Routine Quality Assurance (including on EHCPs and Annual Reviews) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure leaders know what is working well and where remedial action is required by implementing an effective annual monitoring, evaluation, and review cycle for the strategy.• Work to include a refreshed strategic performance and quality report and establishment of a quality assurance group. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parental and Young Person Engagement (measures under consideration include number of co-production projects, volume of support for parents via various channels and evidenced responses to feedback received). | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents and young people are active partners in decision-making and service development driving improvement across the SEND system |

Priority 2: Early identification and assessment

| Key Indicator | SEND Improvement Plan Focus |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) timeliness (with a focus on remaining within the 20-week statutory requirement) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways will be used to identify areas where processes need to improve so that assessment times can be reduced. Work is underway to include reporting on the marks that need to be hit by different agencies to achieve necessary timescales. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Review (AR) Timeliness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of annual reviews will be logged, monitored, and tracked. A holistic approach is being considered to measuring outcomes and satisfaction with the AR process, based on best practice work from another local authority. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) waiting times to diagnosis and to receiving a service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring a collective understanding of the immediate and long-term priorities/objectives in the ASD pathway in supporting children and families from pre-diagnosis through to transition into adult services. All services to have closer dependencies and join up in meeting the agreed objectives. To include delivery of ASD Improvement Plan (focused on waiting times) |

Priority 3: Commissioning effective services to respond to local needs

| Key Indicator | SEND Improvement Plan Focus |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Therapies as and when required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a strategic, whole-system, joined-up, needs-led and outcomes focused approach to commissioning and delivering children and young people therapy services in Tower Hamlets. A cross organisational steering group has been tasked with producing a commissioning framework from April 2021. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to CAMHS Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpicking waiting times within various parts of the system, particularly from assessment to receiving a service Looking into the effectiveness of access via different referral routes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement Sufficiency (by need) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a quality and cost assured placements framework for a range of SEND placements. |

Priority 4: Good quality education provision for all children

| Key Indicator | SEND Improvement Plan Focus |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational Outcomes at each Key Stage (annual measure, noting there will be Covid 19 impact for 2020 and 2021). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality professional development offer to further build capacity in schools so that staff can translate expectations into practice. Restructure of the Support for Learning Service and Behaviour and Attendance Support Service to ensure compliance with SEND Code of Practice requirements |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breadth and quality of inclusivity within schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an inclusion benchmarking tool for mainstream schools which recognises strengths and areas for development. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of specialist provision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of special school and alternative provision to ensure the borough has appropriate and best value educational provision for young people with SEND up to the age of 25. |

Priority 5: Supporting successful transitions and promoting independence

| Key Indicator | SEND Improvement Plan Focus |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Reviews and transition plans from age 14 (numbers completed and quality) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local agencies work in partnership to help effectively plan for education transitions, so that needs are accurately reflected in EHCPs and new settings are provided with the right information. Transitions Strategic Group in place to lead on this area of work. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post 16 destinations (by number and type) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tower Hamlets offers a variety of high quality sustainable post-16 work & education options to meet the needs of all young people with SEND There are clear pathways into training and work experience and towards independent adulthood and young people have the skills to travel independently and safely. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual health checks for young people with SEND | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all young adults with SEND are invited to attend their annual health check with their GP and all those with complex needs have an up-to-date healthcare plan. The SEND Transitions Group is how approach can be improved including use of incentive scheme to increase referral numbers to GPs from LA and subsequent health checks. |

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The SEND Improvement Plan is directly concerned with equalities and by driving improvement work will improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.
- 5.2 There are no further specific statutory implications at this stage.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The report focuses primarily on service delivery and improvement. Costs and funding of SEND are across the general fund and the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) as well as in collaboration with partner agencies. Cost and funding implications would be considered as part of the high needs recovery plan which will in turn be considered alongside this improvement plan. There are no direct finance implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to provide services to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and to keep the provision made for these children and young people under review. The proposals set out in this report comply with the above legislation.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- SEND Improvement Plan – **To follow**

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

Officer contact details for documents:

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