


Cabinet 28 July 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: James Thomas, Director of Children and Culture	Classification: Unrestricted
SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2020	

Lead Member	Councillor Asma Begum, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services and Education
Originating Officer(s)	James Thomas, Director of Children and Culture / Steve Nyakatawa, Director of Education
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	N/A
Reason for Key Decision	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities

Executive Summary

The SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2020 provides an overview of the progress and impact of SEND improvement work during 2020. The report shows how the CCG and the council have been working together with other partners across the local area are delivering on the priorities set out in the SEND Strategy and SEND Improvement Plan.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the contents of the SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2020

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Not applicable.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 Not applicable.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 The Tower Hamlets SEND Improvement Board Annual Report provides an overview of key achievements in 2020 and priorities for 2021/22 as well as considering the impact of, and response to, the Covid 19 emergency.

3.2 The annual report includes reflections on the year from the Chair of the Independent Parent and Carers and the Chair of the 'Our Time' Young People's Forum as well as their plans and priorities for the year ahead.

3.3 The SEND Annual Report 2020 provides information on areas of progress during 2020 including:

- Strengthening of the SEND Improvement Board with new members to ensure all parts of the SEND system are represented and can input to the work of the board.
- Review and refresh of the SEND Improvement Plan and re-design of the SEND Dashboard.
- Increased opportunities for engagement and participation of parents and carers, children and young people with further involvement in SEND related groups and boards across education, health and social care.
- Improvements to the Local Offer including a re-design of the front page, additional videos and a 'carousel' feature to improve access to information.
- Multi-agency review – early identification of children in nursery and reception
- 2 to 2 ½ year reviews have continued to take place in Children and Family Centres, despite the redeployment of health visitors during the pandemic.
- Recovery plans in place to address timeliness issues for Education, Health & Care Plans.
- Restructure of the SEND Service.
- Use of co-production approach including for ASD Pathway Review Group.
- Establishment of CYP Integrated Therapies Steering Group.
- Work to help close the digital poverty gap including provision of laptops for particularly vulnerable children and families.
- Benchmarking tool for inclusive practice in mainstream schools.
- Expansion of special school places.
- Supporting Independence Project – developing more local accommodation.
- Transition support from year 6 to year 7 for pupils on SEN Support and with EHCPs – from Behaviour and Attendance Support Service.
- Increase in supported internship opportunities

3.5 The annual report also sets out priority areas of work for 2021/22:

- Tower Hamlets Local Offer – launch of a Young People's Zone and development of a Professional's Zone.

- Young People and Parent SEND Ambassadors – further recruitment to meet growing demand.
- SEND Training & Professional Development Programme
- Early identification review of children in nursery and reception:
- Transition of all Children’s Centres into Multi-Agency Start for Life Family Hubs
- Development of strategic, whole-system, joined-up and needs-led approach to commissioning and delivering children and young people’s therapy services in Tower Hamlets
- Embedding co-production within the SEND Integrated Commissioning Plan.
- Expansion of Tower Hamlets Education Wellbeing Service
- Introduction of Virtual School Education Champions - providing additional support to young people who are at risk of being absent from school.
- Transition from Children’s to Adults Services - developing a set of options for improving the transition experience.
- Strengthening transition processes by establishing an Adult and Paediatric Consultant Lead for Transition
- Identifying ways to increase employer engagement to secure a more substantial into-work offer for young people with SEND

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The SEND improvement work 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 other specific statutory implications.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to 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 briefing comply with the above legislation.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- List any linked reports
- State NONE if none.

Appendices

- SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2020

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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