

Report to Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board

Subject:	SEND and Inclusion Transformation update
Meeting Date:	30th June 2017
Report Author:	Bernadette Caffrey
Presented by:	Bernadette Caffrey
Paper for:	<p>The Board to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comment on the draft Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy and the update on the SEND transformation actions 2. Consider how the Board may provide future oversight and scrutiny of the SEND transformation

Context:

a). The SEND and Inclusion Strategy articulates the direction and vision for an inclusive Rutland and sets out the key objectives to bring about transformation of services for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities. The SEND and Inclusion Strategy has been rewritten and is currently out for consultation, and as part of this exercise seek comments from the Board.

b). The presentation provides Board members with an update on the transformation activities within the service and across the partnership for children with SEN and disabilities.

There are statutory obligations placed on the Local Authority, health providers and schools, to support children with additional needs and disabilities, as set out in the SEND Code of Practice 2015, and the Safeguarding in Schools Guidance (DfE) 2015. This encompasses the Local Authority's obligation to provide/create sufficient places for all pupils including those with SEND and the requirement for the Local Authority with its partners to have a SEND 'Local Offer'.

A great deal of activity is underway both within the service and with health commissioners, education providers and children and families, to review the provision for children with SEN and disabilities, (SEND) in Rutland.

There is a culture shift in the service and across the partnership, and in case practice to be more customer focused and that Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) are clearly articulating a child's health, education and social care outcomes and are preparing young people for adulthood. The service is reviewing its contracted services, such as the education psychology service and its independent advice service. It is undertaking an audit and quality assurance exercise of the Local Authority's and the Clinical Commissioning Groups' (CCG), commissioned provision, such as its 52 week residential and 38 week education placements for children with

SEND and additional needs.

Work is underway with our schools and education providers to secure the required range of specialist places within Rutland itself, or through utilising close geographical locations where specific provision is required, in addition to a greater focus on school autonomy and sector-driven improvement.

A number of engagement events, led by the local authority, health colleagues and community groups, with young people, with parents and carers, head teachers and special education needs co-ordinators, (SENCO), have taken place and their feedback has shaped the service Self Evaluation Form (SEF) and from it the creation of a SEND Action Plan and set of performance indicators which will set out action required, how success will be measured and timescales for completion. (Both documents appended to the SEND Strategy document).

Head teachers, health representatives and parents have expressed a commitment to forming a SEND Strategic Group to progress the wider transformation of SEND provision in Rutland and to securing the right set of skills and the appropriate provision so that more children are educated and enjoy a healthy family life, closer to home and at lower cost.

As the service develops its local offer for children with special education needs and disabilities it is reviewing its use of the High Needs funding and the system for responding to requests for statutory assessments, so that earlier targeted services can be offered and a secure pathway for support agreed without the need for a full assessment. It is intended that this process is in place from September 2017 onwards.

SEND and Inclusion services are subject to a Peer Review this will take place in Rutland on the 3/4th July 2017 and an Ofsted and CQC area inspection.(date to be announced). Ofsted and CQC will test how Rutland can evidence its progress against the key Ofsted/CQC judgement areas which are; how it identifies, assesses and meets needs and achieves outcomes for children and young people with a special educational need or disability.

Financial implications:

The demand for services and support for children with SEND in Rutland is growing; currently there are 194 children with Statements/EHC Plans compared to 174 in 2014/15. This reflects the national picture of an increase of 30,975 (12.1%) from January 2016 to January 2017. There has also been an increase in the number of children and young people refused assessments as Local Authorities develop their Local Offer and children can be offered the additional support they require through targeted services. (Source: DfE May 2017)

In the last five years expenditure on high needs in Rutland has increased by 31%

from £2.7m in 2012/13 to £3.5m in 2016/17. At the same time, funding from the Department for Education (DfE) has remained fairly static resulting in less funding being available to allocate directly to schools.

More Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are being requested. Transition to EHCPs seems to have meant more expensive assessments, coupled with the improved identification of SEN which is driving up demand. National research suggests that the Children and Family Act 2014 has widened the opportunity for an EHC Plan from 0 to 19 to 0 to 25 years. It also gives more control and choice to parents in relation to their child's journey through education – both factors likely to contribute to the increase. Schools are applying for funding through EHCPs because there is not adequate funding within budgets to fund additional needs.

Challenges remain in accessing timely CAMHS services and in-patient health assessments. Hopefully the Transforming Care Partnership and Care Education and Treatment Review process (CTR) and the Future in Mind programme will address this.

SEND staffs including Education Psychology, (EP) services are challenged by the number of statements to EHCP conversions and annual reviews, to the extent that there is a backlog of assessments and case officers are not sufficiently involved in annual reviews. In Rutland there are 14 statutory assessments awaiting an EP assessment (7 transfers and 7 new EHC assessment requests) which will be cleared within 14 weeks, subject to further statutory requests coming in to the system during this period. There are a further 56 non-statutory EP requests outstanding. The backlog of assessments will be cleared during the Autumn term by utilising additional funds from the SEND Reform grant.

In March 2017, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, Edward Timpson, announced a £215m capital fund over three years for Local Authorities. Every local authority will be allocated at least £500,000 over three years from the fund, with more than half receiving at least £1 million. Councils will be free to invest the funding as they see fit to help children and young people with education, health and care plans to get a high quality education. Rutland County Council's allocation is £500,000 over 3 years and the Council will be expected to consult with local parents, carers, schools, and others on how their funding allocations should be used. The Council will have to publish a plan showing how they will spend the funding and show how this fits in the wider context of strategic planning for SEND. Currently the £500k funding for SEND is not ring fenced and its release would need Council approval.

Recommendations:

That the board:

1. Comments on the SEND and Inclusion Strategy.
2. Notes the update on the SEND transformation and requests a progress update

on the SEND Action Plan in six months' time.		
3. Notes the forthcoming Peer Review and Ofsted and CQC area inspection and prepares for and supports both events accordingly		
Strategic Lead:	Bernadette Caffrey	
Risk assessment:		
Time	M	The SEND Action Plan and capital project plan need to be in place by the Autumn term.
Viability	H	The transformation whilst driven by the Council has a high dependency on the partnership, especially health and education providers to bring about systemic change.
Finance	H	The current pressure on the High Needs budget is not sustainable
Profile	L/M/H	There is significant local and national interest on the demand management of SEND placements and on the outcome of the Ofsted/CQC inspection.
Equality & Diversity	L/M/H	The needs of both children and young people with additional needs and the impact on children in mainstream provision will be considered
Timeline:		
Task	Target Date	Responsibility
Update to Childrens Scrutiny Panel	22 nd June 2017	B Caffrey
Progress report on the SEND Action Plan to Children's Trust Board	Autumn 2017	B Caffrey
Request for release of Capital grant to Cabinet	August/September 2017	B Caffrey