

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 September 2023

SEND PROGRAMME UPDATE

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and Families

Strategic Aim:	Healthy and well	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr T Smith, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Bernadette Caffrey , Head of Early Intervention, SEND and Inclusion	01572 720943 bcaffrey@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors		

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes the Area SEND inspection outcome and the Delivering Better Value (DBV) Programme progress.
2. Advises on how the Committee wish to be involved in the progress of the Delivering Better Value Implementation Plan.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To inform Committee of the outcome and present the findings of the Area SEND inspection and recommendations for future development.
- 1.2. To raise awareness of the Department for Education (DfE) 'Delivering Better Value' Programme and the high needs block funding position.
- 1.3. To inform Committee of the 'Delivering Better Value' implementation plan and promote discussion about how it will be delivered.

2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1. Rutland County Council and Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB) are jointly responsible for the planning and commissioning of services for children and young people with SEND. This Local Area Partnership was inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in May 2023. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the effectiveness of arrangements for children and young

people with SEND and recommend where any improvements could be made across all education, social care and health services working in the Rutland area.

2.2. The inspection looked closely at what it is like to be a child or young person with SEND in Rutland. Inspectors spoke directly to children and families, as well as professionals who are responsible for leading and delivering local services, including Rutland County Council, schools, and providers of health services, such as Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. The inspectors determined that: “The local area partnership’s arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)” (Appendix A).

2.3. The inspection highlighted the following areas for improvement:

- ICB leaders should ensure that they set measurable targets to reduce waiting times and provide effective support for children and young people awaiting neurodevelopmental and mental health assessments.
- ICB leaders should ensure that specialist health needs for ‘service children’ and those who access a general practice outside of Rutland are assessed and met.
- Leaders across the partnership must ensure that they work together to further improve their joint planning and oversight arrangements using robust data.

2.4. The DBV Programme is commissioned by the DfE and supports 55 Local Authorities (LA), and their local systems to identify the highest impact changes that each system involved can make to better support their local children with SEND and make plans to implement those changes. The programme places children and young people with SEND at the centre of the approach and decision making. The implementation plans will build on existing initiatives and address the underlying challenges in each LA’s high needs systems.

2.5. The Programme involves local partners, parent and carers and our front-line staff and ensures the programme is underpinned by a comprehensive data-driven and evidence-led diagnostic. Rutland has completed the diagnostic phase and has submitted its application for an implementation grant offered by DfE. (Ref: DBV presentation).

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. Not applicable.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. There are no direct implications from the decisions request in the report. The financial information below gives financial context to SEND within Rutland

4.2. The position as at the end of financial year 2022/23 on the Dedicated Schools Grant is as per the table below.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	Schools	High Needs	Early Years	Central Schools	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(Surplus) / Deficit from 2021/22	(1)	1,257	(107)	(69)	1,081
DSG Allocations prior to recoupment	(28,367)	(5,272)	(1,718)	(184)	(35,540)
Transfer between blocks	142	(142)	-	-	-
Academy Recoupment	26,348	310	-	-	26,658

Total Funding	(1,877)	(5,104)	(1,718)	(184)	(8,882)
Expenditure in Year					
Schools' allocations	1,882	-	-	-	1,882
Nationally Agreed School Licences	-	-	-	41	41
Admissions Service- staffing costs	-	-	-	61	61
Statutory & Retained Duties	-	-	-	65	65
Education for under 5's	-	-	83	-	83
3 & 4 Year Old Funding	-	-	1,519	-	1,519
2 Year Old Funding	-	-	115	-	115
SEN Funding Maintained Schools and Academies	-	3,033	-	-	3,033
SEN Funding Post 16	-	159	-	-	159
SEN Recovery Plan Expenditure	-	246	-	-	246
SEN Funding - Independent Special Schools	-	1,113	-	-	1,113
SEN Funding EOTAS & Tuition	-	569	-	-	569
SEN Staff Recharge	-	197	-	-	197
Early Years Inclusion (SENIF)	-	45	-	-	45
Total Expenditure	1,882	5,362	1,717	167	9,128
(Under) / Overspends in 2022/23	5	258	(1)	(17)	245
(Surplus) / Deficit to 2023/24	4	1,515	(108)	(86)	1,325
<i>SEN = Special Educational Needs</i>					

4.3. The DBV implementation plan sets out key priority actions specific to Rutland, including addressing recommendations set out in the CQC and Ofsted report, for example, improved and robust data to inform effective commissioning and strategic planning, which will be underpinned by £1m grant from DfE.

4.4. The SEND Recovery Plan initiatives currently mandated and funded via School's Forum will be continued. Sustainable positive SEND system change and development will be a key measure of success of the DBV programme.

5. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

5.1. The Rutland Area SEND Strategic Partnership Board provides leadership in delivering a Programme in support of SEND strategic partnership planning, the Delivering Better Value Programme and utilising the DfE SEND Capital funding in support of outcomes for children and young people in Rutland (Appendix B).

5.2. The Partnership Board, through co-production with the SEND community, will revise the current Rutland SEND and Inclusion Strategy informed by the findings of the CQC and Ofsted inspection process, and the priorities identified in the DBV Implementation Plan, and will reflect the direction set by the national SEND and Alternative Education Plan.

6. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1. Not required as report is for information only.

8. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1. The Committee should note the excellent inspection outcome and the high level of service children and young people with SEND experience in Rutland.
- 8.2. The Committee should advise how they wish to be involved in the progress of the Delivering Better Value Implementation Plan.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1. None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1. Appendix A - Area SEND Inspection Report.
- 10.2. Appendix B - SEND Governance Structure.

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577

APPENDIX A: AREA SEND INSPECTION OF RUTLAND LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50225252>

APPENDIX B – SEND Governance Structure

RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL SEND Strategic Partnership Board Governance

