

Report to the Schools, Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

12th July 2017

Birmingham's new Strategy for SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) and Inclusion Consultation

Purpose of the Report

To brief the Committee on the work of the Inclusion Commission, the development of Birmingham's Strategy for Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) & Inclusion, and the consultation underway on Be Heard until 31st July.

Recommendation

That Members note the information contained in this report, and take part in the consultation available on Be Heard.

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Background

Birmingham City Council members and officers have identified the need for a root and branch review of the city's approach to making provision for children and young people with SEND. As a result, Birmingham City Council established the Inclusion Commission in October 2016 to explore the effectiveness of the current arrangements in the City across the 0-25 age range.

The membership of the Inclusion Commission has included representatives from parent groups, early years settings, mainstream schools, colleges, resource bases, specialist providers, independent non-maintained schools, independent specialist colleges, social care and health. An independent chair has been appointed to oversee this work, Professor Geoff Lindsay from Warwick University.

Following the review, a draft strategy for SEND and Inclusion has been developed, supported by an outline delivery plan. The strategy sets out the vision we seek to achieve, our mission for how we will do this, four objectives and three key priorities which we will focus our plans for implementation.

The Inclusion Commission has agreed for the draft strategy and outline delivery plan to be distributed for wider consultation with key stakeholders including members, parents and carers, schools, education teams, social care and health provider services.

The consultation is available publically on Be Heard from 9th June to 31st July. Various workshops and visits to established education, health and social care forums are taking place and three consultation events are arranged with parents & carers in July. Schools are also being asked to support the consultation and engage with parents and young people directly to facilitate their feedback.

<https://www.birminghambeheard.co.uk/people-1/SEND-Inclusion>

Key Issues

None to report

Conclusions

Following the consultation, the Inclusion Commission will receive feedback in September 2017 to inform the final strategy and detailed plan of how it will be implemented. Final sign off of the final strategy will be through a decision at Cabinet.

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and encourage completion of the consultation questionnaire.

List of Appendices

- Birmingham's Strategy for SEND & Inclusion (draft for consultation)
- Outline Delivery Plan
- Consultation Document & Questionnaire
- Frequently Asked Questions