

Birmingham City Council

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17th May 2023



Subject: SEND Improvement Programme

**Report of: Sue Harrison (Director for
Children and Families)**

**Report author: Helen Ellis (Director for
SEND and Inclusion)**

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the SEND Improvement Programme from inception to date.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members note the report attached as Appendix 1 and agree any comments/recommendations.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 The implementation of the SEND Strategy and the Inclusion Strategy has implications for the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant and the General Fund. The service will manage and contain the relevant costs from within the existing High Needs Block funding allocations and the General Fund including the additional resources requested via the budget setting process.

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 The delivery of the SEND Strategy and the Inclusion Strategy named in this paper will support the Council to fulfil many of its statutory duties. In particular, the Council must ensure that its relevant education and training functions are exercised by the authority with a view to promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training, and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person under the age of 20 and person aged 20 or over for whom an EHC plan is maintained, by virtue of section 13A of the Education Act 1996.
- 4.2 The Local area partnership was non-compliant with the SEND Code of practice in several areas. The SEND Improvement Programme will ensure that compliance is achieved and embedded in working practices.

5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 Providing a fit for purpose SEND Local Offer across Birmingham which incorporates, education, health and social care, plus co-production with parents/carers, children and young people means that those children with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010 who would previously have been failed by the system will have faster access to the support they need, enabling them to reach their full potential.

6 Appendices

1. Narrative Report