

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

5 December 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF HIGH NEEDS PROVISION IN DERBYSHIRE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet Member approval to undertake a procurement exercise for a comprehensive strategic review of High Needs Provision in Derbyshire.

To approve holding the un-ring-fenced grant funding allocated from the Department for Education (DfE) to carry out a strategic review of High Needs Provision within an earmarked reserve if it remains unspent at the end of 2017-18.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

The DfE has allocated funding to Local Authorities to carry out a strategic review of High Needs Provision in their area. The DfE defines High Needs pupils and students as those whose special educational needs require a provision costing more than £10,000 per year.

The funding allocated by the DfE for the review may also be used to help implement any changes or initiatives which are identified from the outcomes of the review. Local authorities are expected to publish the outcomes of the reviews in the form of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategic Plans.

Derbyshire, working as a Local Area and involving partners from across agencies, has already undertaken work to develop elements of High Needs Provision within the County. The Derbyshire Local Area includes Derbyshire County Council, the five Clinical Commissioning Groups and the full range of stakeholders including young people and parent/carers such as Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice. The DfE funding provides an excellent opportunity for Derbyshire to build upon this work by enabling the Council to have the

capacity to undertake a comprehensive review of High Needs Provision in the Local Area, and to make recommendations to inform the Local Area Strategic Plan in line with the following aims:

- the Local Area will provide the opportunities for children and young people with SEND to achieve the best outcomes they can;
- the Local Area will ensure that children and young people are achieving as well as they can in their own communities wherever possible and are able to live as independently as possible; and
- that young people are best prepared for adult life and that there is support and services to aid transition.

In seeking to achieve the above aims, the Council shall ensure that:

- there is sufficient provision, both in terms of services and capital to identify and meet the needs of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND in Derbyshire; and that this provision is flexible and able to meet changing needs and
- the best use is made of public funding and wider resources;

The Project

The SEND Stakeholder Group which includes parent and carer representatives have been involved in the initial scoping work for this project. There is an expectation that a wide range of stakeholders including children, young people, parents and carers will be closely engaged and be part of the co-production of the outcomes of the proposed project.

The proposed project will be split in to three distinct phases and will be monitored by a Steering Group that will report to the SEND Strategic Board. The expected outcomes from each phase are summarised below:

Phase One

This will include a review of the current provision available in Derbyshire for those with SEND and a detailed cost analysis of that provision will be undertaken. This information will be gathered through engaging with stakeholders, analysing data and reviewing previous work and reviews that have been undertaken.

The current provision will also be analysed to determine how well it is enabling young people to have their needs met and achieve well and to look at perceptions of future provision needs. This will be benchmarked against national / regional best practice and data.

A projection of future needs will also be established by linking to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and other locally-available data.

The work undertaken in phase one will enable areas to be identified and themes to be explored, in phases two and three.

Phase Two

The analysis undertaken in phase one will be used to inform a refreshed collective vision and reshaped strategy identifying recommendations regarding the future provision required to ensure young people with high needs achieve effective outcomes.

Phase Three

An agreed 3-5 year strategy will be developed incorporating a strategic plan for the further development of High Needs Provision in Derbyshire. This will include consideration of how High Needs Provision interrelates with other Local Authority services, Health services, Voluntary Community and Independent (VCI) agencies, and also personal budgets to ensure a comprehensive and cohesive offer.

Delivery

Given the scale and scope of the project, it is not considered that there are sufficient resources in-house to deliver this. In addition, through initial scoping work with stakeholders, there is a clear preference to have an independent assessment and analysis completed and recommendations made using an external organisation who can undertake this work on an impartial basis.

Therefore the recommendation is that a procurement exercise be undertaken to outsource the work to a suitably qualified and experienced organisation.

3. Financial Considerations

It is proposed that the Strategic Review of High Needs Provision would be funded from the grant that has been made available by the DfE for this purpose.

The total amount of the grant is £305,280.

Up to £80,000 of grant monies would be set aside for the Strategic Review of High Needs Provision.

It is proposed that this grant will be also used to fund an internal Review of Health provision in Special Schools and an internal Review of the Disabled Children's Service Short Breaks and Residential Provision as follows:

Up to £40,000 of grant monies would be set aside for the Review of Health provision in Special Schools.

Up to £40,000 of grant monies would be set aside for the Review of Disabled Children's Service Short Breaks and Residential Provision.

Whilst these are separate projects, they would be closely linked to the main review as they relate to children and young people who have High Needs.

The total amount of grant monies committed to undertaking all 3 reviews is up to £160,000.

This leaves £145,280 of grant monies to support the implementation of the agreed strategic plan.

In addition, there is £1,283m of capital funding available from the DfE which will be split equally over three years from 2018/19 to 2020/21. This is provided on the condition that planned expenditure is published on the Derbyshire Local Offer website by 14 March 2018 (to release the 2018/19 capital funding and then repeated annually thereafter).

The un-ring-fenced grant funding will be held in an earmarked reserve to fund any review and implementation expenditure taking place after the 2017-18 financial year.

4. Legal Considerations

The Children and Families Act 2014 section 17 incorporates a duty on Local Authorities to keep education and care provision under review and to ensure that the provision is sufficient to meet the educational, training and care needs of the children and young people concerned (the age range now encompassing 0-25).

The procurement will be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

5. Social Value Considerations

Social Value will be considered as part of the procurement process. Through this, account will be taken of potential local organisations that can meet the requirements of the specification.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: human resources, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property and crime and disorder considerations.

7. Key Decision

No.

8. Call-in

Is it necessary that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

9. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member approves that a procurement exercise be undertaken for the strategic review of High Needs Provision.

That the Cabinet Member approves holding the un-ring-fenced grant funding allocated from the DfE to carry out a strategic review of High Needs Provision within an earmarked reserve if it remains unspent at the end of 2017-18.

Jane Parfrement
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