

**Derbyshire County Council****Schools Forum****18 June 2018****Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services****Strategic Review of High Needs Provision in Derbyshire**

Derbyshire County Council, in partnership with its local area stakeholders, has undertaken a procurement exercise to secure an organisation to carry out a detailed strategic review of high needs SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provision in Derbyshire for those aged 0-25.

The review will provide the following:

- A comprehensive strategic overview of current high needs provision in Derbyshire.
- Identification of gaps in provision both current and projected for the future.
- An opportunity to develop and explore with stakeholders the options as to what services need to be maintained, expanded, changed, ended or commissioned and what capital needs to be developed.
- Recommendations with relevant information and data to enable Senior Leaders to make well founded strategic decisions.
- A 3 to 5 year Strategic Plan for high needs provision in Derbyshire in the future.

With the aim that this will deliver the following outcomes:

- There is sufficient provision to identify, assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND in Derbyshire. That it is flexible, sustainable and able to meet changing needs.
- The Local Area provides the opportunity for children and young people with SEND to achieve the best outcomes they can.
- The Local Area ensures 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.
- Ensure that young people are best prepared for adult life and that there is support and services to aid transition.
- There is efficient use of public funding and value for money.
- Resources are targeted where they are most needed.
- Services are co-ordinated and expertise is used efficiently.

**Requirements for the Review**

- The successful organisation will be undertaking this review on behalf of the Derbyshire Local Area SEND Strategic Board. The Board meets bi-monthly

and there will be a requirement to report progress into the Board at agreed points in the review.

- A sub-group of the Board will form a Project Steering Group that will meet at least monthly to oversee the review. It is anticipated that the scoping and reporting of the review will be an iterative process with the successful organisation able to provide ongoing projects updates/highlight reports and, through agreement with the Steering Group, will respond to and refocus the work as required within the requirements outlined in this document.
- Day to day oversight or queries will be through an allocated Senior Officer who will be the main point of contact for the successful organisation.
- Throughout the review there is an expectation that children, young people, parents, carers, education settings and wider stakeholders will be closely engaged and part of the co-production of the outcomes and recommendations of the project.
- The project will split into a three main phases with the outcomes of each phase feeding into the next phase:

### **Phase One – Where are we now and where could we be in the future?**

- To formulate a phase one sufficiency review report of the current High Needs Provision in Derbyshire, its impact and a projection of high needs and possible provision to meet these needs in the future. (See Section 1 for scope). This will include the interrelationship with Health and Social Care provision.
- This phase one review will be formulated from engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, the SEND Needs Assessment, outcomes data, other relevant quality indicators and a range of existing reports that will be provided.
- The phase one review will provide accurate information on what current provision there is in Derbyshire for those with SEND, what their outcomes are and a detailed cost analysis.
- The phase one review will include an evaluation of the existing provision against current needs analysis.
- The current position will be benchmarked against national/regional best practice and data.
- The phase one review will provide a projection of future needs linking to the SEND Needs Assessment (latest version November 2017) and other locally available data.
- The phase one review will identify a range of considerations for future provision requirements based on the current position and projected needs analysis for further exploration in the next phases.

### **Phase Two – Where do we want to be in the future?**

- Following on from the findings from Phase One. Consultation with Stakeholders as to possibilities in relation to future needs requirements.

- Gathering Stakeholders views as to what provision needs to be maintained, expanded, changed, ended or commissioned and what capital investment needs to be developed. This will be evidence based.
- There will be careful consideration of management of change and the impact that this may have on children and families.
- Identification of recommendations regarding the future service provision required to meet need, informed by the analysis undertaken in phase one and the consultation with Stakeholders in Phase Two.
- Based on these findings the production of the final sufficiency review report.

### **Phase Three – How do we get there? - Recommendations for consideration.**

- Consideration of the various options and evaluation of the risks, benefits and costs. This is in order that decision makers can agree the strategic plans that are taken forward with regards to high needs provision.
- Ensuring that stakeholders including children and families understand the rationale behind any proposals.
- Production of an agreed 3-5 year strategy to include a strategic plan for the further development of high needs provision in Derbyshire. To include how this interrelates to other Local Authority services, Health services and VCI agencies.

### **Further requirements for all phases:**

- There are a large number of internal reports that Derbyshire has produced that will inform this review. These will be provided to the successful organisation to use alongside local and nationally available data sources.
- There are a large number of stakeholders and a wide range of provision that the successful organisation will be expected to include in the review. The successful organisation will need to explain how they will seek the views/ gather information; for example through focus groups, surveys, meeting key leads and visits to a representative sample.
- The review is expected to start 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 and run until 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring will be via:

- Day to day contact with the senior officer or their representative via phone and email.
- Monthly written highlight reports and verbal updates to the Project Steering Group.
- Reporting to the bi-monthly SEND Strategic Board via written updates and verbal updates as agreed by the Steering Group.
- Additional meetings with relevant strategic boards and groups as and when required.
- Production of the reports.

## **Response to recommendations**

The recommendations from the review will be considered by the SEND Strategic Board and other relevant decision making bodies including the Schools Forum.

### **Schools Forum recommendation**

The Forum is asked to note the report and give its initial comments on the Authority's proposals.

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