

**TITLE** Special Educational Needs and Disability(SEND)  
Self- assessment

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**WARD** None Specific

**STRATEGIC DIRECTOR** Judith Ramsden, Strategic Director People’s Services

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Local Authority Children’s Service departments are required as part of good governance and practice, to maintain a regularly updated self-assessment for all regulated services. The benefits of the self- assessment and its action plan are to ensure that there is a better service and improved outcomes for families, children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities

**RECOMMENDATION**

The recommendation to Overview and Scrutiny is for this paper to be noted for information. A further report will be brought to this committee following any area SEND Ofsted inspection which is anticipated in the near future.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report summarises the area wide self – assessment for children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities and the way forward.

**Background**

The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out that each local area, as defined by a local authority and its partners, will be subject to an area wide Ofsted inspection to determine how well all partners are working together to meet the needs of children and young people aged between 0 – 25 who have special educational needs and or disabilities.(SEND)

To this end a SEND self- assessment has to be undertaken in order for the Council and its partners to assess how well it is performing against the identified needs and trends of this group of children and young people, and what further actions need to be carried out to further improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. An action plan for the Council and all its partners has also been produced to address the issues raised in the self –assessment within a timescale of 6 months.

The Wokingham area SEND self-assessment has been produced in consultation with all its partners. It sets out Wokingham’s context in terms of the children and young people’s

population, socio – economic mix and the children and young people’s population projections, which demonstrate:

- As at July 2017 there are 1,865 children and young people currently in receipt of SEND support which represents 7.3% of the children and young people aged between 0 - 19
- In the reporting year for 2016 there were 776 statements or EHC plans which equates to 2.7% of the children and young people’s population between the ages of 0 -25. Our statistical neighbours’ percentage stood at 2.79% and the national average was 2.8% for the same period. These figures include children and young people who were attending Wokingham schools , non-maintained schools, and independent special schools
- As at July 2017 there are 561 children and young people with a statement or EHC plan attending a Wokingham school which represents 2% of the school aged population.

Wokingham Borough Council and its partners have, however, a strong ambition to perform at a higher level than their statistical neighbours.

A snapshot of the data shows that the proportion of children in care with a statement of SEN or an EHC plan is remaining fairly constant at 3% of the total number of children in care. However, this data should be treated with care as the numbers of children in care is so small that a variation of 1 or 2 children can significantly alter the proportion. The number of children receiving SEN support in school has declined and this is believed to be as a result of the strong training offer that is available to SENCOs to help them identify and support children’s needs in schools without recourse to an assessment.

Identification of SEND needs in early years is seen as a strength and there is a strong partnership with health professionals and commissioners.

The timeliness of the new assessments meeting the 20 week deadline is also a strength and has consistently been at 100% for many months. There is also a plan in place to meet the March 2018 deadline for all conversions of statements to EHC plans. The Children and Families Act 2014 requires all local authorities to convert all the existing Special Educational Needs statements into Education, Health and Care plans by March 2018

There is a variety of provision to meet the needs of children with SEND within Wokingham. A review is therefore going to be undertaken of the SEN resource base provision to assess whether it is the right provision and in the right place for emerging trends and developing needs of children. The outcomes of this review will then inform place planning and the commissioning of provision for children and young people with SEND.

The performance and attainment of children and young people with SEND is generally good compared to the national average, despite there being some underperformance in 2016 at KS2 in reading, writing and maths. There is a plan in place for this to be addressed.

The self – assessment sets out the strengths within the partnership. It also acknowledges the areas for development both for the area as a whole and the service specific.

Areas of strength include;

- Wokingham puts the child at the heart of its vision to improve services for them.
- Strong integrated support for pre-school children to identify and meet needs
- Good support for SENCo's via training and SENCo forums.
- 94% of EHC assessments completed within 20 week timescale
- All EHC plans include the child or young person's views and aspirations where they are able to provide them. The local outstanding special school, Addington, models practice on how to obtain these views effectively.

Areas for development include;

- Increasing even further the ability to participate, engage and consult with parents, children and carers across those with SEND needs.
- Improving data and triangulation of data to understand better the projected needs of children in the borough with SEND
- Supporting the school community and inclusion agenda to enable a greater number of children to be educated locally.

In conclusion Wokingham are on a journey with health, to develop an integrated 0-25 service for children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities. This will ensure;

- a seamless service for 0-25 year olds with SEND
- a single point of contact for all services for 0-25 year olds with SEND
- support for children in transition,
- an increased Local Offer of services to meet the range of Wokingham needs.

WBC is currently leading on the design and development of a 0-25 integrated service that offers a more stream-lined service, which reduces duplication, and barriers, and produces a high quality, efficient and effective service for all service users.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

*The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

### Cross-Council Implications

n/a

### List of Background Papers

None

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